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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord, You are in the midst of us and we are called Your children. We confess that we often fail to live worthy of Your great Name and generous mercies. We thank You for the opportunity to serve You as we strive to keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. Abide with our lawmakers. Be their companion as they labor to keep this Nation strong. Drive away all snares of the enemy and may no weapon formed against them be able to prosper. Make our Senators models of excellence and integrity for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader is recognized.

THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me quote from a letter I recently received from our colleagues across the aisle. Here is what they said:

We are writing to reiterate our interest in working cooperatively to facilitate the fiscal year 2017 appropriations process. As we see it—

Our Democratic friends said—

restoring the regular order promises not only a more open and transparent process, but a chance for Senators on both sides of the aisle to participate meaningfully in funding decisions. This is a win-win opportunity and we should seize it together.

That was a letter I received from all of our friends on the other side of the aisle. That is exactly what we have been doing—exactly. The appropriations process is off to a strong start, an ''excellent kickoff,'' in the words of the top Appropriations Committee Democrat, Senator MIKULSKI, with bills passing through the committee by unanimous bipartisan votes.

''If this is the way it is going to be to move appropriations,'' she said just a few days ago, ''then I think it is a good day.'' Senator MIKULSKI said: ''I think it is a good day.'' Democrats lauded the first bill on the floor and in press releases for helping promote American jobs and for addressing the cleanup of radioactive and hazardous contamination across our country.

They praised its key investments in research and water infrastructure. Then, what did they do? They filibustered—the very same people who wrote the letter, the very same people who praised the bill in press releases, the very same people who took credit for amendments in the bill, those same people.

It seems Democrats are more concerned with funding the acquisition of heavy water from Iran than funding water infrastructure in America. Let me say that again. It seems Democrats are more concerned with funding the acquisition of heavy water from Iran than funding water infrastructure right here in our own country.

As we all know, President Obama concluded a nuclear deal with Iran last year. Tehran is expected to reap approximately $100 billion, thanks to the deal, and the Obama administration itself has admitted the regime is likely to use that windfall to invest in its war economy, to defend its regime, and to strengthen the hand of the Revolutionary Guard, a group that has been accused of helping Shiite militias attack and kill American soldiers in Iraq.

Many of us, including myself, warned that this deal made little sense in terms of our regional strategy. We warned it would enhance Iran's capability and its power. Indeed, since signing President Obama's deal, Iran has tested ballistic missiles. It has deployed forces to Syria in support of the Assad regime. It has harassed American ships and those of our allies within the Persian Gulf.

So when the administration made an announcement over this past weekend that it would be purchasing so-called heavy water from Iran, a lot of us were concerned. That is right. Make sure everybody understands. U.S. funds would be sent to Iran. Nothing in the President's deal with Iran required the United States to make that purchase. It is likely it will effectively amount to even more money for Iran to invest in military modernization.

So Senator COTTON filed an amendment to prevent the money we are appropriating from being used for more of these purchases in the future—in the future. His amendment does not put the Secretary of Energy's current heavy water purchase agreement at risk. It simply tries to keep our Treasury from subsidizing the modernization of Iran's military or the procurement of ballistic missiles or air defenses that may be used against America or her allies.

I support his policy objective. I don't know why it would not be supported by every Member of the Senate, regardless of party, but apparently Democrats do not. They have filibustered the overall bill, a bill that passed committee with unanimous bipartisan support, remember, to prevent even the possibility—this amendment is not even pending—to prevent even the possibility of voting on this amendment. They could not wait a single week before throwing an

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

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obstructionist wrench into the appropriations process they claim to want.

Some of us remember that the Democrats did not want to vote when they were in the majority. They also don't seem to want to vote when they are in the minority. I hope they are not dusting off the old filibuster summer playbook, especially in light of the letter they just sent to me about win-win opportunities and restoring regular order. Perhaps the most galling thing about Democrats again trying to blow up the appropriations process is this: They filibustered this appropriations bill and then walked into a press conference about Zika funding. They filibustered this bill and then walked into a press conference about Zika funding.

The appropriations process is the path for that funding. That is the way you do it. Preventing the spread of Zika is something both parties agree is a priority. The administration currently has funds to address the issue but has requested additional funds by the end of next month. Both Republicans and Democrats have been looking at different approaches to properly address the situation.

The senior Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, recently characterized that bipartisanship collaborative process as moving forward ''in good faith.'' That is especially notable when you consider how difficult it is for the committee to move forward when the administration keeps it waiting month after month after month for information it needs, as has been the case with Zika, but progress is being made anyway. Then Democrats filibustered and upended the process. So how do we move forward now? I remember the second-ranking Democrat, Senator DURBIN, once shared some wisdom that seems particularly relevant. Here is what he said:

> If you don't want to fight fires, don't be a firefighter. If you don't want to come to Congress and vote on tough issues, get another job somewhere else.

So here is the message to our Democratic colleagues: Do your job. Do your job. There are other areas where both sides have been able to find common ground. We have seen the truth of that in many important solutions passed by this Republican-led Senate already: permanent tax relief for families and small businesses, groundbreaking education reform that empowers parents and prevents Washington from imposing Common Core, the first long-term transportation solution in years—a solution that will finally allow us to address crumbling roads and infrastructure.

Whether it is pay raises for our troops, help for our veterans, or hope for the victims of human trafficking, we got a lot done last year with hard work and with cooperation. We have gotten more done this year with hard work and cooperation too. In the past 3 months, we passed a comprehensive North Korea sanctions bill, a bill to permanently ban Internet access taxes, a measure to give the public more access to government records, a bill to help safeguard American intellectual property from theft, and critical legislation to help address our Nation's prescription opioid and heroin epidemic.

Just last week, we passed both the most pro-passenger, pro-security FAA reauthorization in years and the first major energy legislation since the Bush administration. So where are we? We now have a bipartisan opportunity to responsibly work through the individual funding bills. We now have a bipartisan opportunity to responsibly continue addressing funding issues like Zika.

What will it take? What it will take is for our Democratic colleagues to end this obstruction and work cooperatively across the aisle instead. That is not too much to ask. So let's take a step back and look at the bigger picture. I believe that when you give Senators and the people they represent more of a say in the legislative process, they are bound to take more of a stake in the legislative outcome, regardless of party.

That is why we have empowered committees and Members to take the lead in more areas. That is how we have gotten the Senate back to work in so many ways. I think Members in both parties have seen the benefits of it. So, yes, some may see a short-term political benefit in blowing up the appropriations process now, but I would also ask my friends to remember this: Restoring the appropriations process is something we all should want. Democrats have said it is what they want. Republicans have said it is what we want. It is what I have set out to do. I think it is the best way to give individual Senators in both parties more of a voice for their constituents in the funding process, to empower them to make smarter decisions about how taxpayer dollars are spent.

So we are going to give our colleagues an opportunity today to reconsider this filibuster. They don't have to block the appropriations process, which is the path for funding priorities such as Zika. I hope they will make the right choice. We have gotten so much done already with hard work and cooperation. I know there is much more we can accomplish for our country with a little more of each.

So let's keep striving to get more done for our country. The only way to do that is together.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate, I was so fortunate I was put on the Appropriations Committee that very first day I was here. I loved my assignment. For many years, I had the good fortune of either chairing or being the ranking member of that Energy and Water Subcommittee. So I know a lot about that subcommittee—many successful bills, never an unsuccessful bill did we bring to the floor. We did them quickly. I worked mostly with the Senator from New Mexico by the name of Domenici. We worked together and got a lot done for the country. So I know this Water and Energy bill. The Republican leader complains about what happened yesterday on the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

On the Democratic side, there is no one who is more liked, appreciated, and who is more imbued as a historic figure than DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California. She became involved in politics at an early age and was thrown into a maelstrom of violence when the mayor was murdered. She had to step in and take over that very difficult job.

As a Senator, she has been valiant, and she wants to get things done. No one can call her rank partisan, because she isn't. But like all of us over here, she was terribly disappointed yesterday and the day before when all of a sudden, the bill is finished—the bill is finished; the Energy and Water bill is finished—and out of nowhere at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday we get an amendment that really is something that is a poison pill if there ever were one.

The only thing holding up the bill is this poison pill amendment. We agreed to pass it yesterday. DIANNE FEINSTEIN agrees; pass it. She likes it the way it is. We like it the way it is.

So if they are as serious about doing their job as the Republican leader said, we are happy to vote on this bill now. But if Republicans continue to insist on these poison pill amendments—and there is no question that is what this is—we are going to have to continue as we have.

It takes a lot of gall for my friend the Republican leader to talk about filibusters. I repeat what I have said here before, but it is worth repeating. As soon as Obama was elected, the Republicans met in Washington, and they reported in a 2-day-long meeting—which had been reported on numerous times—that they came to two conclusions.

No. 1, Obama will not be re-elected. They failed at that miserably. He got more than 5 million votes than his opponent. But on the other thing they have succeeded in most instances, and that is to oppose everything President Obama wants. That continues to today.

As far as poison pill amendments, we are on record numerous times talking about why it is wrong to have these poison pill riders. For example, I said on the floor:

> True bipartisanship also requires both parties to resist the temptation to pursue poison pill riders that appeal to their own supporters, but that are so strongly opposed by the other party that their inclusion in appropriations bills would grind the process to a halt. No doubt there will be many opportunities next year for both sides to score political points. But the appropriations process is

not the place for that. And I hope members in both parties will agree that it's more important to fund the government than to play politics.

That is what I said when we started this Congress, and that is what the Senators who wrote this letter, which my friend the Republican leader talked about, want to do. We want to do appropriations bills, and we were on a rush to get the first one done. We were headed to victory, and then out of nowhere comes a poison pill rider. Everyone acknowledges that is what it is. There are many definitions of a poison pill rider but, of course, as the President has said, one is when you can't sign the bill.

So it would be to everyone's interest if we would simply step back, pass the bill that exists, and figure out some other way to try to embarrass the President. This is not the way to do it.

Finally, my friend the Republican leader comes to the floor and talks about what a great amount of work we have done in the Senate. We have done as much as we can. We have tried to support everything.

We are a responsible minority. We have not done to them what they have done to us. They opposed everything we tried to do—everything. We had to move to hundreds of motions to proceed.

We are pleased we got the energy legislation done. We tried for 5 years to get it done. We were filibustered every step of the way. We couldn't get it done. So it was brought up again. We cooperated, and we got it done. So virtually everything the Republican leader talked about were things that we tried to do before and they wouldn't let us.

Let's talk about what we haven't done. They talked about having passed opioid legislation. Oops, there is one problem. They didn't fund it. Flint, MI—oops, they did nothing. They ignored it for months and months and months.

There was a mistake. No one disagrees there was a mistake made—not by us but by the Republicans—in drafting a deal with renewable energy credits—not done.

There is the Zika virus. My friend says: Well, we are trying to get information. That is ridiculous. We will hear more about that in a few minutes.

There are no district court nominations, no hearings on the Supreme Court.

There is no need to go over what hasn't been done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3038

Mr. REID. Mr. President, imagine though, if you will, that this great country is facing a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus. It is nothing that was made up in the movies, nothing that is on a special TV show. It is actually a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus.

Imagine, mosquitoes are carrying a virus that affects pregnant women, a virus that causes birth defects in babies, not allowing their brains and skulls to develop. The skulls collapse on a number of them. Brains don't develop. It is a virus that can cause men and women to develop nervous system disorders that can result in paralysis. We don't know the full extent of this.

We had a briefing here a week ago today with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. We had the Secretary of Health and Human Services here. They are in a state of emergency. They need to do something. They need to develop a vaccine. This is on its way. It is here.

It is here in Puerto Rico. We have cases reported in the State of my friend, Florida. He is someone with whom I have served in the House and in the Senate. Senator NELSON of Florida is one of our very outstanding Members.

We already know there are cases in Florida. Thirty States are going to be affected with these mosquitoes as the weather warms. I have been told in the past that mosquitoes have never caused birth defects. They have caused all kinds of problems with malaria and other things, but not birth defects. Now they are here.

Imagine, after what I have just laid out to you, that those in control of Congress do nothing to address the imminent danger posed by this virus. It sounds like some science fiction novel; doesn't it? But it is not.

This is real life in America. This is the reality—the Republicans' refusal to respond to the threat of Zika. My friend mentioned that the senior Senator from Washington is involved in trying to come up with something for Zika. She said yesterday she hasn't heard a word from the Republicans in more than a week on this important issue.

This is real life. Zika is a scourge that is already affecting our country, as I have outlined. It is time we pass an emergency appropriations bill to take care of it, to fight it. Out of tradition, common sense, and precedent, a public health threat is an emergency, and it demands a response.

As I indicated, hundreds of people in Puerto Rico—quickly approaching a thousand—are infected. As the weather warms, as I have indicated, it is going to multiply throughout the continental United States. Thirty States will likely be affected with this mosquito—this killer mosquito.

More than 2 months ago my friend said: We need more from the administration. More than 2 months ago the administration—desperate as they were—sent a letter to Congress saying we need an emergency request of $1.9 billion—out of desperation.

What did the White House do? Two years ago we were fighting Ebola. It is still a serious worldwide problem and a problem for our country. They had to take money from vaccines they were working on for Ebola and other things and start doing Zika. Now we have a situation where both the mosquito-caused Zika and the Ebola scourge are underfunded now. Republicans have done a double whammy here. We need to give the money back to the agencies that are doing something to help Ebola and fund Zika.

They haven't lifted a finger that we are aware of. As I said yesterday, the senior Senator from Washington hasn't heard from the so-called negotiators in more than a week. They refuse to do anything, even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health are pleading for us to act. They have been very clear about the funding they need to fight Zika. They are not making up things. They have told us in line and verse.

My friend, the Republican leader said: We need more from the administration. It wasn't all that long ago that my friend the Republican leader was singing a much different song. This is what he said about funding the outbreak of Ebola 2 years ago, and it is a direct quote:

> I think they should have anything they want. . . . Whatever the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] thinks they need, we'll give it to them.

He said the same thing 7 years ago when we were faced with another real problem, swine flu. This is what he said then: ''So if [the Administration] needs anything additionally from Congress, I know we'll be happy to provide it on a totally bipartisan basis.''

Fast forward 7 years, and the Republicans now in the majority won't provide the requested funding for Zika. Why? We know why. They can't get it through over here. They can't get it done.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health know what they need. They have told us. They told anyone who will listen.

So why can't the Republicans give it to them. If they won't give the experts the resources they need to combat Zika, what do they propose? We could ask the Zika-carrying mosquitoes: Don't breed this year.

Remember, anyway, that it is in the last term of a two-term President. Maybe we shouldn't do it this year.

The Senate should not leave today without addressing this serious issue. We shouldn't be taking 10 days off as a dangerous virus threatens this Nation—and it is threatening us. The Republicans should do their job and pass a $1.9 billion emergency spending bill to help protect Americans from the Zika virus.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield before he makes the request?

Mr. REID. I am pleased to do that. I want the record to be spread with the fact that this good man—more than any other Senator, because of what he

is facing and will face in the very hot, humid, and sometimes tropical State of Florida—recognized this a long time ago. I admire him being ahead of this issue. He has been out there in the front and some of us have been trying to catch up with him.

I yield to the Senator.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding. I wish to add to his comments from this Senator's personal perspective.

The State of Florida presently has 94 infected cases that we know of, including 5 pregnant women whom we know of.

We also have a very mobile and sizeable population of Puerto Ricans who go to that island, where, lo and behold, it is estimated that up to 20 percent of the population could ultimately be infected. There are upwards of close to 100 cases—multiple hundreds—that we know of. I think the actual number is in the eighties of pregnant women whom we know of who are infected in the United States.

As the leader has already described, this has horrendous consequences, not only to the families but there is also the cost to society because of the deformed babies that result—and not necessarily at birth. These defects may come years later, but that is a huge cost to society, not even to speak of the human tragedy.

So is it any wonder that I join with the minority leader in begging for this emergency appropriations of $1.9 billion.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the amendment and a letter from the President detailing his request be printed in the RECORD.

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

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST TO FIGHT ZIKA—$1.9 BILLION (S. 2843)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)—$1.509 BILLION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—$743 million to support Zika prevention and response strategies, including: domestic response efforts to prevent, detect and respond to Zika; providing grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories; and international CDC response activities, including expanding field epidemiology resources and infectious disease surveillance.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—$246 million to support increasing the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 55 to 65 percent for one year in Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

National Institutes of Health—$277 million to support efforts to develop a vaccine for Zika, as well as to support basic research on Zika virus.

Food and Drug Administration—$10 million to support vaccine and diagnostic development review.

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)—$188 million to support vaccines and diagnostics development and procurement.

Health Resources and Services Administration—$20 million to support health centers, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant/Home Visiting, the National Health Service Corps, and the Countermeasures Injury Protection Program.

Other HHS activities—$25 million for urgent and emerging threats.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE—$41 MILLION

Supports U.S. citizens in affected countries, medical support for State Department employees in affected countries, public diplomacy, communications, and other operations activities. Also supports the World Health Organization and its regional arm, the Pan American Health Organization. These resources would support critical public health actions underway, including preparedness, surveillance, data collection, and risk communication. Activities would also include support for the UN Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Zika response efforts in Brazil, and support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to bolster diagnostic capabilities through deployment of equipment, and specialized training and to implement projects to suppress mosquito populations in affected areas.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT—$335 MILLION

Supports affected countries' ability to control mosquitoes and the transmission of the virus, support maternal health, expand public education on prevention and response, and to create new incentives for the development of vaccines and diagnostics.

The bill also replenishes Ebola money that was reprogrammed for Zika—$510 million on April 6, 2016, the Administration announced that it had to act to address the growing Zika emergency, so it identified $589 million—including $510 million of existing Ebola resources within HHS, State and USAID—to be redirected to immediate activities to fight Zika. The $1.9 billion will replenish the redirected Ebola funds: $215 for HHS Ebola balances and $295 for State/USAID Ebola balances.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, February 22, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Today, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request of approximately $1.9 billion to respond to the Zika virus both domestically and internationally. This funding would build upon ongoing preparedness efforts and provide resources for the Departments of Health and Human Services and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Funding would support immediate response activities to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus transmission; fortify domestic public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to Zika virus transmission; speed research, development, and procurement of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; provide emergency assistance to States and the U.S. Territories to combat the virus; provide additional Federal Medicaid funding in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. Territories for health services for pregnant women at risk of infection or diagnosed with Zika virus, and for children with microcephaly, and for other health care costs; and enhance the ability of Zika-affected countries to better combat mosquitoes, control transmission, and support affected populations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 50 laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus among U.S. travelers from December 2015–February 5, 2016. In addition, the Pan American Health Organization reports 26 countries and territories in the Americas with local Zika transmission. On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

My foremost priority is to protect the health and safety of Americans. This request supports the necessary steps to fortify our domestic health system, detect and respond to any potential Zika outbreaks at home, and to limit the spread in other countries.

The request includes approximately $1.9 billion to respond to Zika virus transmission across the United States and internationally. In addition, transfer authority is requested to allow for sufficient response and flexibility across the Federal Government to address changing circumstances and emerging needs related to the Zika virus.

My Administration requests that the funding described above be designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

Mr. REID. The record should reflect that the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 157, H.R. 3038; that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Nelson substitute amendment to enhance the Federal response and preparedness with respect to the Zika virus, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that there be up to 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Reserving the right to object, there is bipartisan support for doing what we need to do to address the Zika virus, which, as the Senator from Florida correctly pointed out, has dramatically affected the territory of Puerto Rico. Fortunately, according to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, there is no single case in the continental United States of a mosquito-borne infection in someone in the continental United States. But that is not to say this is not a serious matter. In fact, it is. That is why Republicans were glad to see the administration use the unexpended funds for the Ebola crisis—some $500 million—as a downpayment on what is going to be necessary to deal with this.

But the fact is, our friends across the aisle have requested a $1.9 billion blank check, and they haven't told us what the plan is for the use of the funds. In the bill filed by Senator NELSON, he said those funds will be spent until they are gone. And, of course, it is emergency spending, which is deficit spending and adds to the debt. But the

legislation completely lacks any sort of accountability that would only come through a regular appropriations process where we consider this in a deliberate sort of way. So I have a number of questions for the Senator that I would ask.

I would note that I have traveled to the Galveston National Laboratory, which has done some world-class research in this area and also on the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. Last Friday I was in Houston at the Texas Medical Center talking to the experts and trying to learn more about this so I can do my job as a Senator in a responsible sort of way.

We all agree that this is a serious matter and it should be negotiated on a bipartisan basis, but we should at least have a plan from the administration for how the money is going to be spent. There is no plan. It is a blank check. And until we get a plan and can sit down and avoid the histrionics and the gamesmanship and the partisanship on something that should be nonpartisan, we object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend the assistant Republican leader has a lot of nerve. There have been a lot of States affected with emergencies in the last decade, and Texas has had its share. We have been willing to help them on floods and fires and all the other problems they have had, some of them manmade, some of them not so. Those were emergencies; this is an emergency.

For the Republicans to come to this body this morning and say there is no plan—there is a plan. Of course there is a plan. There is $1.9 billion. Pay back the money for Ebola so we can continue that. That is $500 million right there. We also want to do something to help Puerto Rico, which needs to be done. That is approximately $200 million. We have some help—a minimum amount—for countries outside the United States where these mosquitoes are breeding. We want to try to do something about that. And, of course, most of the money here is for research to come up with vaccines and other programs to alleviate the disaster facing this country. The President has outlined that, and the Senator from Florida has outlined that.

To have the assistant majority leader say that we need to sit down and negotiate—we are not in the majority. They have an obligation to bring something to the floor. If there is bipartisan support to do something, why aren't the Republicans doing something? Wait and wait while we are home glad-handing people during the next week? We should be doing something here to address this emergency. It is an emergency.

Mr. NELSON. Will the Senator yield, Mr. President?

Mr. REID. Yes, I will.

Mr. NELSON. In answering directly the question of the Senator from Texas, before he objected, he wanted to ask this Senator a question as to what is the plan.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, has the Democratic leader yielded the floor, or is it for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader has yielded the floor for a question.

Mr. NELSON. All right, I will put it in the form of a question.

Does the Democratic leader believe that this Senator has spoken many times on the floor laying out the specifics of the request of $1.9 billion, which includes the replenishment of $589 million to the Ebola fund which had been advanced to fight this emergency? Does the Senator believe that? And does the Senator further believe that I have in my hand that breakdown that I have had printed in the RECORD?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, to my friend from Florida, yes. And where did he get that information in preparing this legislation? He got it from the administration. Everybody knows what is in this legislation. What my friend the assistant Republican leader said is nonsense.

If there is some bipartisan support—and I am confident they would come up with something—we would do our best to try to support it, but this is the legislation we need. This is a desperate situation, and it is going to become more desperate as each day goes by because the summer season is fast approaching.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me just suggest that, contrary to what the Democratic leader has said, the questions I have asked about where their plan is are not nonsense, and let me demonstrate the specific questions which I have and which I think other responsible Senators are going to want answers to before we write a blank check for $1.9 billion to the administration, particularly when they already have access, as the Senator from Florida said, to the $589 million, which are unexpended Ebola funds.

One of the questions I would like to get answers to—and I think we can then have a meaningful discussion and act responsibly—is, What specific activities are going to be funded by the $1.9 billion plan? For example, the bill from the Senator from Florida provides $743 million to the Centers for Disease Control. Is that for domestic activities? Is it focused on Puerto Rico? Is it for CDC international activities? And if so, where?

The second question I have is, What are the agency's priorities? Continuing with the CDC issue, will they focus on vector control activities, outreach, and education? As we know, this is a mosquito-borne disease. It is not the only mosquito-borne disease, but unfortunately this mosquito has not only been present in Central and South America but is now, as the Democratic leader says, present in some of the more tropical climates, the warmer climates, including my State of Texas. So I take this personally and seriously. But it also affects Florida, no doubt about it, Louisiana, and we don't know how it might spread or how this virus might morph over time.

Another question I have is, How long does the administration expect to use the funding? For example, we have an annual appropriations process, which has been filibustered by our Democratic colleagues, starting with the Energy and Water bill, and now they want us to fund an emergency appropriation for an unlimited period of time without any plan to spend the money. That is irresponsible.

The request from the Senator from Florida in his bill says the money will be spent ''until expended,'' until it runs out, and they have provided no further details on what will be funded this year and in future years.

The reason I mention the appropriations process is that we all know we are in the appropriations season now, and it would be appropriate for the Committee on Appropriations to process this request and to come up with a recommendation for the full Senate, but that has not yet happened. I am told the discussions are ongoing, which is a good thing, and that is where this ought to be resolved, not through grandstanding on the Senate floor in an effort to try to make this a partisan issue. This is not a partisan or political issue. It should not be. There is bipartisan concern and willingness to address this issue. But can they spend $1.9 billion before the end of the fiscal year, when the appropriations process will start up again? In other words, it doesn't take a lot of thought to realize this is a request for a blank check without regard for the accountability that comes from what we call the regular order here in the appropriations process in the Senate.

We know the administration transferred funding from unobligated Ebola funds 2 weeks ago. What is the administration using that $589 million for that is related to Zika? I think we should know the answer to that. And that also demonstrates what happens when Congress appropriates money on an emergency basis without knowing what the plan is, because obviously the Ebola crisis has abated to some extent. I am not saying it has gone away completely, particularly in countries like Africa, but there is a pot of money—$589 million—which suggests maybe we inadvertently appropriated more money on an emergency basis for the Ebola crisis than ultimately was necessary. I am not faulting anybody for that; I am just saying that is the way this works when you ask for the money first without a plan and there is no accountability for how the money is spent. You have these pots of money out there that are—fortunately in this case—available now to deal with the Zika issue.

In the Health and Human Services request contained in the bill from the

Senator from Florida, there are other issues. One, they ask for a government-wide contingency fund that Health and Human Services controls and can transfer funds elsewhere. So what they want to do is play a shell game with this money. They want to get the money, and if they do not need it to deal with Zika, they can transfer it for other purposes—again, without any transparency or any real political accountability.

I think responsible Members of the Senate—and I would expect all 100 of us would put ourselves in that category—would want to know where the transparency is, where the accountability is, where the plan is, so we can sit down and do this as mature adults in a nonpartisan way in order to solve the problem.

Here is another thing that sort of jumps out at me: When I look at the President's request for $1.9 billion, they actually talk about funding matters unrelated to Zika. They talk about funding things at the Environmental Protection Agency. And looking at the request to transfer funds government-wide, basically they are requesting money, it appears—unless there is some logical explanation as to why we should, which they have not yet made—on an emergency basis, to grant funds to the Environmental Protection Agency. That is a little hard to understand.

Finally, there is this: All of us are willing to deal with this in a responsible, nonpartisan way. That is the reason I have spent time at the Galveston National Laboratory and the Texas Medical Center trying to learn as much as I can about this, so I can do my job, just as I am sure every individual Senator wants to do their job in a responsible way. But to come in and ask for $1.9 billion in emergency funding, which means it is not paid for—it is borrowed money, which adds to the deficit and the debt—is a pretty serious matter, especially when our national debt is $19 trillion and has almost doubled under the Obama administration.

This is a very serious matter, and I treat it seriously, and I trust all 100 Senators believe this is something we ought to deal with responsibly and in a deliberate sort of way, and we will. But it is not by coming to the floor and grandstanding by asking for $1.9 billion blank checks without any plan to spend it in an appropriate sort of way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The Senator from Washington.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, there are already nearly 900 cases of the Zika virus in the United States and its 3 territories, including actually 2 confirmed cases in my home State of Washington. A recent survey showed that 40 percent of adults in our country see this virus as a reason to delay starting families. Those are disturbing statistics. They make it clear that the Zika virus is a public health emergency, and there is no good reason for the delay we are seeing from our Republican colleagues in addressing this.

Months ago, the administration put forward the strong proposal that Senator REID introduced today. Republicans refused at the time to even consider it, and I am disappointed again this morning that they weighed in on the side of further delay rather than acting on this. As a result, we are getting closer to the summer and to mosquito season, but we still here in this body have not moved on emergency supplemental funding that would put much needed resources into preventing and treating this frightening virus.

Too many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle still don't seem to see Zika as an emergency. Some Republicans are insisting we shouldn't give the administration a penny in additional funding to support the response we need to make. Others are saying that action on Zika can wait—wait for weeks or months. Republicans in Congress might be able to simply wait, but families across this country cannot.

Addressing this Zika virus shouldn't be controversial. With women's and children's health and well-being on the line, it certainly should not be a place for partisanship.

Democrats are at the table. We want to get this done as soon as possible. In fact, as recently as a few days ago I was hopeful Republicans were truly interested in working with us to get this done and to be able to find an actual path forward. We had some good conversations last week. But I am worried that in the last few days it has become clear once again that the extreme right, like the Heritage Foundation, is in control, and Republican leaders have been unable to demonstrate to this point a path on how we can get a bipartisan deal signed into law. This issue is far too important to have Republican infighting hold it up. So I urge my Republican colleagues to join us. We are ready to be at the table to work with them. We need to address this as an emergency.

Then I hope we can move on to work on the other really critical issues before us: the opioid epidemic that so many have been here to talk about; the families in Flint who are suffering; ensuring our Supreme Court nominee gets a fair consideration—a hearing, even. There is so much work to be done.

I am here to urge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to recognize this is an emergency. It cannot wait. Families are waiting for us to act. We need to get the research. We need to have an understanding of what this disease is. We certainly need to put into place prevention, and we certainly need to work on the important path forward in making sure we have the right kinds of education out there as well as a solution to this problem that is rapidly becoming an American problem.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if this isn't an emergency, then I don't know what is. Zika is a public health emergency. It defines a public health emergency, and we really have to act now to fund the administration's full $1.9 billion supplemental funding request.

I want to respond to the assistant majority leader's concerns that there is no plan. With due respect—and I know he is working hard on this as well—that is just not accurate. The legislation propounded by Senators NELSON and others has a very specific plan. I was fortunate enough to visit the headquarters for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. They have a very specific plan. It is vector controlled. It is developing the diagnostic tests necessary to figure out whether or not people are carriers of the Zika virus. It is working on a vaccine. They have a high degree of confidence that they are eventually going to get a vaccine. But this takes time, and this takes resources. It is public health outreach regarding mosquitos and how this is transmitted, and it is assurance regarding the safety of our blood supply. So they have a plan.

Let me be a little more specific: $743 million for CDC—this money would include grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories and help our domestic and international response activities; about $250 million for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, or CMS, to increase the Federal match rate to Puerto Rico where there have been 500 active transmission cases—and, unfortunately, that number continues to go up; several hundred million dollars for the National Institutes of Health and BARDA to invest in vaccine research and development. That is the end game, but in the meantime, we have to prevent the transmission as our country warms up and as the mosquitos become more prevalent across the country with $10 million to the FDA for a vaccine and diagnostics development review and $335 million to USAID's efforts abroad to support affected countries' public health efforts on mosquito-borne diseases.

I will make a couple of specific procedural points. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe it is really important that we are trying to move in the regular order on each individual Appropriations subcommittee.

We have been working on a bipartisan basis. So we are trying to move in the regular order, and that is good news. We are moving a little more quickly than I think has been done in many years. That is good news. But the practical fact of that also means that we are not in the middle of working on legislation that must be passed by today or must be passed by next week because whatever we do—whether it is the Energy and Water title, whether it is THUD coming next, maybe MILCON-VA after, whatever it may be—we are going to be waiting for the House to act, and we are going to be conferencing. It is not at all clear when we will actually move appropriations measures to the President's desk, but it is fair to say those things are not exactly legislatively on fire. We could wait 2 or 3 legislative days. We could wait 2 or 3 legislative weeks. We are ahead of the game. That is not to say we don't have our own challenges with each of these individual appropriations measures, but this defines an emergency. This defines an emergency. This is an actual public health emergency, which means the idea of a pay-for for this is antithetical to the way we ought to work. This is what government does.

Whatever your political persuasion, whatever your ideology is about the size and scope of the Federal Government, I think we can all agree that the most basic responsibility of the Federal Government is to keep us all safe. This is a real risk. This is not an imaginary risk, this is not a trumped-up risk, and this is not a partisan thing. If you talk to the CDC, if you talk to your local departments of health, vector controls, mosquito control areas—talk to them. They are very nervous, and it is increasing. The only reason this hasn't totally popped both epidemiologically and politically is that it is still cold in a lot of places and mosquitos aren't out. This is a real emergency. There is no reason we shouldn't be taking this up as the emergency starts to happen. There is no reason we can't take a couple legislative days to deal with that.

To address the senior Senator from Texas, the assistant majority leader's questions about whether the plan addresses his concerns about accountability, about the ability to move money from one account to the other, about backfilling the Ebola funding—fine. Those are all legitimate questions, and I think they can all be addressed.

But here is my question: Why not get on the bill? Why object to a UC request that we get on the bill? All of those questions can be addressed on the floor or in committee or in conversation. There are many ways to address those questions. But the refusal to even acknowledge that this matter is sufficiently urgent that it should be the thing we are dealing with right now, that THUD could wait a week, and that whatever we are planning to do next is not quite as urgent as the Zika virus—that is the point we are making today. Not that there isn't going to be some legislative wrangling and not that we are supposing that the President's request is exactly perfect, it is just that this is a real emergency, and we ought to get this thing onto the floor so we can take some action. That is what we have to do.

I know the Senator from Missouri is working very hard on this. I know others are too. We don't want this to be a partisan issue either. But to object to a request to get on this bill fails to acknowledge what a serious public health emergency the Zika virus is.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I came to the floor today to talk about another issue, and I will talk about the issue I had scheduled to talk about earlier this week. But in regard to the issue of Zika, it does need to be dealt with. It is being dealt with.

The good news is that there was substantial money various departments had that could be reprogrammed, and the fact that they have reprogrammed it indicates to me that there is a genuine belief in the administration, which I share, that this is an emergency. Over half a billion dollars has already been reprogrammed to deal with that emergency. I believe some of that reprogramming money needs to be restored, and some of it probably doesn't. The Ebola crisis is not what we thought it might be in Africa, but it is still in existence there. I think some of that money needs to go back into the accounts it had been reprogrammed out of.

But if anybody listening to this debate believes that nothing is happening, that is not accurate. I do appreciate my friend from Florida recognizing that a lot of discussions are going on. I was in several this week, and some yesterday with House Members and Senate Members.

The House could pass a bill first. That may or may not happen, but what really needs to happen is a bill that gets on the President's desk. I think there is almost no chance the Senate would pass a $1.9 billion bill as proposed. The best place to debate that could be the Senate floor for several days or it could be to work on a bill that could come to the floor quickly, go to the House, and be passed by the House. If there were a slim chance that the Senate could pass the bill we have been talking about—the bill as proposed that would spend $1.9 billion, in big hundred-million dollar chunks, which we talk about as if that is no money at all and is somehow a plan—that in all likelihood wouldn't pass the Senate, and I am absolutely sure it wouldn't pass the House. What would we have gained? This is something we need to work out. We can work it out. I believe we will work it out.

The goal is not for the Senate to pass a bill. The goal is for the Congress to pass a bill and the President of the United States to sign that bill. I believe that will happen. Many people, including me, are working to see that happens. The majority leader knows that, and others who have spoken today reflect the fact that they know those discussions are going on.

FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, what I came to talk about today is a bill we did pass a couple of weeks ago. As we get ready for police week early in May—I think the week of the 9th of May—there are people we want to recognize and do recognize and do appreciate. I am cochair, along with Senator COONS of Delaware, of the Law Enforcement Caucus. I want to speak today about something we have just done to honor our first responders.

I want to start by recognizing the first responders from my State of Missouri who lost their lives in the line of duty last year. In Missouri, four law enforcement officers died in the line of duty. Deputy Sheriff Steven Brett Hawkins of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Trooper James Matthew Bava of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Sergeant Peggy Marie Vassallo of the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department, and Officer Ronald Eugene Strittmatter of the Lakeshire Police Department lost their lives.

Deputy Sheriff Brett Hawkins of Bethany, MO, suffered a fatal heart attack on September 13 following an emergency response. He was 34 years old. Deputy Sheriff Hawkins suffered that attack after returning home from his shift, which included the search of a residence and surrounding property. He had served with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office for 3 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and three sons.

Trooper James Bava of Mexico, MO, was involved in a fatal vehicle crash while pursuing a motorcyclist for a traffic stop on August 28. Trooper Bava had served with the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 2 years. He was 25 years old the day he lost his life serving us. He is survived by his parents, a brother, three sisters, and his fiancee.

Sergeant Peggy Vassallo of Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department was struck and killed by a vehicle on August 24 while rendering aid to another driver after being involved in an accident en route to work. Sergeant Vassallo had served with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Police Department for 15 years and had previously served with the St. Louis County Police Department for over 13 years, almost 30 years' service. She is survived by her husband, son, and two grandchildren.

Officer Ronald Strittmatter suffered a heart attack after attempting to help an older person who had fallen. Officer Strittmatter had served in the Lakeshire Police Department for 4 years and had previously served in the

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 24 years. He is survived by his wife and a son.

In Missouri, we also lost five firefighters and first responders in the line of duty last year.

Battalion Chief Chris Tindall of Raymore, MO, died shortly after responding to an emergency incident in January 2015. He was a 19-year veteran of the South Metro Fire Department.

Larry Lawhorn, a volunteer firefighter with the Orchard Farm Fire Protection District, suffered a fatal medical emergency in May of last year while driving a first responder vehicle en route to a structure fire. He had been a volunteer with the department for 20 years and had previously served 15 years with the St. Charles County Fire District.

In October 2015, two firefighters were killed in Kansas City in the line of duty. Larry Leggio, a 17-year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department, and John Mesh, a 13-year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department, were able to save two residents from a burning apartment complex before a wall collapsed on them after they had evacuated other people from the building.

EMS pilot Ronald Rector of Linn, MO, was killed during a flight operation in March 2015. He was inbound to pick up additional crew members at St. Louis University Hospital in a medical helicopter when his helicopter crashed.

Early this month, I introduced the Fallen Heroes Flag Act, which creates a program to provide a flag flown over the Capitol to the family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty. I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing that bill last week. The House had already passed a similar measure introduced by Congressman PETER KING, and I hope to get a final bill on the President's desk in very short order.

Our Nation's first responders put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe, and we mourn the loss of all those who have given their lives in the line of duty. We can never in any way fully repay the debt we owe them and their families. These are people who go to work every day, with the greatest goal for their families being that they come home safely that day, and they have more reason to worry about that than most of us have. All we can offer instead is our gratitude. My hope is that each flag that is flown over the Capitol and provided to these families will be a lasting symbol of our appreciation and a fitting honor to those who embody the very best of what we stand for as a nation.

SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as I conclude, one other thing I want to mention is Silver Star Service Banner Day. I thank my colleagues for unanimously passing a resolution I submitted with Senator MCCASKILL last week to designate May 1 as Silver Star Service Banner Day. It is a day we honor our Nation's servicemembers who have been injured or become ill while serving, and we also honor their families on that day.

I am grateful to work for this cause and for the work the Silver Star Families of America do. This is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Clever, MO. In 2004, that group began its work to remember, to honor, and to assist members of the Armed Forces from every branch of the military and from every war. This organization assists veterans who have suffered physical or emotional trauma from war and distributes Silver Star flags and care packages to wounded veterans and their families.

Our military men and women put their lives on the line to defend our Nation, and many have done so in ways that result in tremendous personal cost for them and their families—from loss of life, to injury, to trauma of all kinds. On Silver Star Service Banner Day, I hope all Americans will take a moment to reflect on the countless sacrifices and appreciate the blessings of freedom their service has provided.

We salute our former and current servicemembers and encourage all Americans to do the same with the presence of a Silver Star service banner in the window or a Silver Star flag flying in the front yard. Those who serve deserve and should receive the gratitude of the Nation, whether they serve in the military or as first responders, and in the last few days the Congress was able to step forward and recognize those who serve in unique ways.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, the talk of the debt in our Nation has been diminishing. Unfortunately, debt itself has not also diminished. While the deficit has been reduced significantly over the last several years, the debt continues to grow. It is now crossing well over $19 trillion. It is my concern that we as a body continue to get distracted with other things and lose track of the looming debt issues we will still continue to face and we will be held to account for, and rightfully so.

The American people expect us to come here and solve a lot of issues—solve not only crisis issues such as Zika and other issues around the country, but also what we are going to do with national defense and security. There is an expectation that we will be able to do multiple things, but over all of that, there is an expectation that we will balance the Nation's checkbook and find a way to be able to solve these issues. I don't think that is an unreasonable request.

When we cross over $19 trillion, at what point do we as a body decide that this is enough and that we need to work together to solve the issues we face? The Congressional Budget Office continues to challenge us and to tell us that this is an unsustainable pace, and the Nation as whole continues to push back. I think we should pay attention to it.

I thank Gene Dodaro and the good folks from the Government Accountability Office for putting out their latest report on what they define as opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, duplication, and achieve other financial benefits. It is the report that GAO puts out every year that we often call a duplication report—here are the problems, here are the unresolved issues.

Last year, I asked Gene Dodaro and GAO specifically to break it up and to make it very clear—not just to say where it is in government but whose responsibility it is, who can actually fix this. They broke it up this year into two different sections basically saying: This is the administration and the agencies. They already have the authority to fix this, and these are the issues they face.

He also identified 63 areas that specifically only Congress can fix. It is a to-do list for us of things that we need to either vote on and discuss or we need to disagree with GAO and be able to push back on, but we shouldn't just ignore it and say we are going to do nothing on it.

We have dealt with this every single year for the last several years. We all face the duplication. We all hear the stories about it. My challenge is, How do we actually bring this to the floor, vote on it, solve it, and move forward from here? It will leave some things actually addressed.

Part of the issue we face every year with duplication is that duplication is buried into the governmental system, and it takes a GAO report to pull it out.

I have proposed a bill for several years now. I did it in the House and brought it over to the Senate. It is called the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act. The Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act already passed the House this year, and it has not yet cleared the Senate. The Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act is a very clear transparency piece. It says: Shouldn't we have a list of every program in the Federal Government, how much we spend on that program, how many staff are committed to it, what that program does, and, specifically, how it is evaluated? It is a very straightforward, transparent piece.

Everyone in this body continues to talk about duplication and says we should do something about it. GAO then highlights it for us, but the challenge is that you can't easily identify it until you do a very deep search on it. I think we should be able to have a level of transparency so we can see where the duplication is by comparing one program to another. That way we can all address it and talk about it.

Yesterday, at the Indian Affairs Committee hearing, we were doing a markup. The conversation in that markup was about several programs that seemed to be very good ideas to serve Indian Country. The problem is that many of them already exist in another agency, and they are not doing their job very well. The challenge is this: Can we get rid of it in another agency and not just start it in a second, third, or fourth agency?

We can't continue to say: It is not working over there. So let's just do it somewhere else. Every time I bring up the issue, they say: We don't know what agency it exists in. The Taxpayer's Right-to-Know Act provides a very simple list that should be searchable and public and that everyone would be able to see. It is currently being held up right now and going back and forth in this ongoing conversation about something as simple as: How many programs should we see?

OMB has pushed this issue back on us and said: We will have program transparency but only for the biggest programs.

We basically said: If you spend $1 million on this program, you should have transparency.

They said: No, let's do a much higher number. Let's do $10 million or more.

Yesterday, we asked Gene Dodaro: If we dropped this number from $10 million to $1 million, how many programs will suddenly go away?

He said: It is in the thousands. That just puts us in the same spot. We can't eliminate duplication we can't see. The famous philosopher Muhammad Ali said: ''Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, the hands can't hit what the eyes can't see.''

We, as a body, spend a lot of our time saying: I would love to get rid of duplication, but we can't see it. Let's actually expose it. Let's get it out there so everyone can see it and we can clear this issue. Let's just solve this very simple issue. Let's make it transparent, and then let's work together.

Senator TESTER and I had a great conversation after the Indian Affairs Committee hearing yesterday. We agreed that we would look for areas of duplication in Indian Country. We are not looking for more programs. We are looking for programs that actually work and accomplish what they should accomplish, and for things that don't work, we can eliminate them. We can take that money from one area and put it in another area where it actually does work. At the end of the day, we have to get back to balance. We can't keep funding duplicative programs that don't work, and we should be able to accomplish this together.

Last year, I put out a report called ''Federal Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Dropped the Ball.'' Two-thirds of that book identified duplication and waste in the government. We have made progress on some of those already this year. We have so much more to do. The key to it is that we actually need to get busy working on it instead of just talking about it.

Yesterday, Gene Dodaro, who is with GAO, also mentioned a bill that BEN SASSE is working on called the new hire database bill. I think it is a very good bill, and I am glad to be supportive of what he is trying to accomplish there. Senator SASSE wants to do one thing, and that is to be able to say that when we actually do means-tested programs, we should be able to see the employment records. That should be a very open process for those who are in the means-tested program, but right now GAO and other groups do not have access to the new hires database. So there is no way to see those in the means-tested program.

There are people who self-report their income, and there is no way to be able to verify that. Shouldn't we be able to verify that?

It is a straightforward solution in a day and time when they continue to bring up obvious things year after year, such as having the same person being eligible for disability and unemployment insurance at the same time. That person will actually receive unemployment and disability benefits simultaneously. Disability benefits, by definition, means you cannot work anywhere in the economy, and that is why you get disability benefits. Unemployment benefits, by definition, means you can work in the economy, but you are not currently employed. Why should you be eligible for both? GAO has brought that up to us. That is not a partisan issue. That should be a solvable issue, and it is costing taxpayers billions of dollars. It is one of the things that we have to be able to work on together so we can actually solve this problem. This is not too hard for us, and the American people expect us to get it done.

My only challenge is this: Let's actually get it done.

With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to address two different issues this morning, but I think both are timely and important.

The first issue I will address has to do with a telephone conversation I had a few minutes ago with Dr. Thomas Frieden. Dr. Frieden heads up the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Most Americans don't know much about the agency, but the title speaks for itself. The CDC, as we call it, is America's first line of defense in a public health crisis. When we think that Americans—individuals and families—are in danger or vulnerable, we call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ask them to analyze the challenge and then give us the right public health response to that challenge.

A few months ago, I went to their campus in Atlanta, GA. It is very impressive, not just for the buildings but also for the people who are there. We have some of the best health researchers in the world working for our Federal Government at CDC—most of them at financial sacrifice. They want to be part of solving problems and protecting America. Just as the folks in the Pentagon across the river believe in the protection of America, so do the people at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC is our first line of defense against public health attacks.

This morning I called Dr. Frieden to talk about the Zika virus. I have come to know him and have worked with him over the years. Most people have learned about it by now. We are learning more about it every single day. We have kind of traced its origin to South America, and now it is moving north. It is moving north into Puerto Rico in a big way, and Florida is likely to be the next State to witness the Zika virus being transmitted by mosquitoes. Then, frankly, the whole United States is vulnerable. Not only can this virus be transmitted to an individual if they are bit by a mosquito, but it can also be transmitted by the sexual contact of a person already infected by the virus. If you have the virus and a mosquito bites you and then bites your wife, you may have just transmitted the virus to her through that mosquito. We are learning.

The reason why this is more than just a mosquito bite and an irritation is that this virus can cause serious public health problems. We know that pregnant women with this virus run the risk of giving birth to babies with difficulties and serious problems, and so we are monitoring it very closely.

How many employees at CDC are working on the Zika virus threat to America? There are 1,000. When you think of all of the things that we need to worry about, they believe—and, I think, rightly so—that this is the imminent public health threat to our country. There are a lot of unanswered questions about the Zika virus, such as these: How long does it stay in an individual? How long can an individual who is infected with the virus transmit it to another person? For those who are carrying the virus, what impact does it have on their health? What impact does it have on a pregnant woman carrying this virus?

It turns out there are literally hundreds now in the United States who have been infected with the Zika virus. We expect some lull in the number of

cases, and then they are going to pick up in intensity and number this summer. We also know—and the announcement will be made soon—that there are pregnant women in the United States who have been infected by the Zika virus.

The obvious question is this: Are we doing everything we should be doing to protect America?

Sadly, the answer is no, we are not.

Two months ago, President Obama said to the Congress: I need a supplemental emergency appropriation to deal with this threat. He asked for $1.9 billion. They want to monitor the Zika virus and how it is traveling across the United States. They want to monitor those who have already been infected. They want to develop a vaccine that we can take that will protect us in the future.

From where I am standing, I can't think of a single public health challenge in America as great as this Zika virus at this moment. One would think that the Congress, now that they know the facts, would have moved instantly to provide the money to the President—this emergency supplemental appropriation of $1.9 billion. But the answer is they have done nothing. The leaders in the House and in the Senate have done nothing to provide emergency funds to this administration to deal with this public health emergency.

It is so bad that this week a Republican leader in the House announced publicly that he didn't see any emergency. He thinks we may get around to an appropriation for this in October. Well, I don't know what his lifestyle is like, but in the Midwest we have a tendency to get out on the patio and have barbecues and invite our friends and neighbors over. We worry about mosquitoes. It doesn't start in October. It starts now. I don't know if this Republican Congressman plans on sending a memo to the mosquitoes across America saying: no buzzing and biting until October when we get around to this. It won't work.

This has been declared an emergency by not only the President but by the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why aren't we acting? Why aren't we doing something? We should be doing something.

We are going to leave today. This afternoon we will vote and go home. We will be back in probably 10 or 11 days. Maybe then the Republican leadership in the House and Senate will decide this is an emergency that needs a response. The numbers will start coming in—the number of people across America who are facing this virus—and the concern among American families is going to grow. This is not just an irritation. This is a danger to many people and certainly to women who could be pregnant. This is something we ought to be taking extremely seriously. We have been waiting for 2 months for this Congress to respond with an emergency appropriation to do something.

I have called on the leadership in the Senate this week, and I will continue to do so today and when we return. There is no excuse. God forbid this gets worse and we look back and say: We waited too long; we didn't respond.

Let me add one other thing. The only suggestion we have heard from the Republican side is this: Let's take some of the money we set aside to fight Ebola in Africa and use it for this purpose.

I talked to Dr. Friedman about that. He said: It is true; there has been a real drop in the number of Ebola cases.

Ebola is a deadly disease in West Africa and other places, and we worried about it coming to the United States. He said that we are still learning about how this disease travels.

There was a man who was cured after being diagnosed with Ebola in Africa, and they just learned that a year after he was cured, he transmitted the disease by sexual contact to another person. Even when we think we have cured and solved it, there is still a danger.

Let's make sure that we treat all of these public health hazards for what they are—dangerous to the United States and dangerous to our families. God forbid that something terrible happen. I hope it doesn't. Let's do our job here on Capitol Hill. When the President says we need resources to fight this, we do. I hope we move on it very quickly when we return.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, immigration is an issue which divides America. You only have to tune into the Presidential debate to hear it. Most everyone would agree that the immigration system in America is broken. I believe it is. I was part of an effort with some colleagues to try to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform bill, which passed the Senate 3 years ago by a vote of 68 to 32. We worked long and hard on that bill. We brought this bipartisan bill to the Senate, and it passed with an overwhelming majority. The House refused to consider the measure. Speaker Boehner never called it to the floor. The bill we passed never ever got a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, and so here we sit today with the same broken immigration system.

Let me tell you that one part of that is very important to me and to many of my colleagues. Fifteen years ago I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The genesis of that bill—as I have said on the floor many times and will quickly repeat—began after we got a call in my Chicago office from a Korean American woman who had a daughter who was a musical prodigy. She was an amazing pianist and had been accepted at two of the best music schools in America. She was filling out her application and asked her mom: What do I put down for my nationality or citizenship. Her mom said: I don't know. When we brought you here, Tereza, you were 2 years old and came here on a visitor's visa. I never filed any more papers. So I don't know. The daughter said: What are we going to do? The mom said: We are going to call Durbin's office.

So they called our office and we said: Let us check the law.

The law was very clear. This 18-year-old girl, brought here at the age of 2, under American law had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in. Does that sound right? When she was 2 years old, she had no voice in the decision to come to America, no voice in the decision of filing papers. Yet our law basically told her to leave.

That is when I introduced the DREAM Act. It says that if you are brought here under the age of 16, complete high school, no serious criminal issues in your background, we will give you a chance. We will give you a path to become legal and ultimately become a citizen. That is what the DREAM Act is.

We haven't passed that bill. We have passed it maybe once in the Senate, once in the House but never brought it together to be sent to the President. This President, Barack Obama, was my fellow Senator from Illinois for 2 years and he cosponsored the DREAM Act.

So a few years ago, I joined in a letter to the President, with Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, and said to him: Help us protect these young people from being deported until we can finally pass comprehensive immigration reform or the DREAM Act. The President listened and did it. He created what is known as DACA. What DACA says is, if you are such a young person, you may step forward, register with the government, submit yourself to a criminal background check, pay a several-hundred-dollar filing fee, and then we will give you temporary protection from deportation. Then, 2 years later, 3 years later, you have to reapply—go through the same process—pay a fee and do it again.

As it turned out, 700,000 young people, who were in the same situation as the Korean girl I mentioned from Chicago, have applied for this DACA protection so they can stay here on a temporary basis and go to school, work, and be a part of the United States. There is no guarantee they will ever become permanently legal or citizens—I hope they will—but at least they are protected on a temporary basis.

Two years later, the President said: If you are in a family where one of the kids in the house is an American citizen or here legally in the United States as a permanent resident, we are going to give parents the same opportunity to register with the government, to go through a criminal background check, to pay their fee to the government, then to be given a temporary work permit to work in the United States. That is known as DAPA. So we have DACA and DAPA. It is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court.

I went over for the argument before the Supreme Court last week. The State of Texas and 25 other States have challenged this saying it will create benefits for these individuals under DACA and DAPA that will cost the States money. It turns out, the whole story is that once these people are working in the United States and paying taxes, the State of Texas and all the other States are going to make quite a bit more money off these workers when they actually are required to pay taxes, as they should. So this economic argument doesn't go too far.

The point I have tried to make to my colleagues in the Senate, as long as I have been here and as long as I have had this opportunity to talk about the DREAM Act, is that they ought to take a moment, stop listening to the Presidential debates, and just pay attention to the lives which are at stake in this conversation.

I have come to the floor quite a few times to talk about young people who would be helped if the DREAM Act became the law of the land. This morning I am going to introduce Cynthia Sanchez to those who are watching.

Cynthia Sanchez is another young person who is living in the United States and is undocumented. She was brought here at the age of 7 from Mexico. She grew up in Denver, CO. She was an excellent student. In high school, Cynthia was a member of the National Honor Society and made the President's honor roll every semester with a 4.0 grade point average. I wish I could say the same about my high school experience.

Cynthia was vice president and co-president of the Student Council. She volunteered as a peer mediator and volunteered at the local library. She went on to attend the University of Denver where she received lots of awards and scholarships and was an active volunteer.

For the record, undocumented young people like Cynthia receive no Federal assistance to go to college—no Pell grants, no government loans. They have to find a way to pay for it. They can't use any government benefits to move forward with their education.

She was a member of a student organization called the Pioneer Leadership Program. She helped to develop Denver University Senior Connect, an organization to help raise awareness about the needs of senior citizens.

As a member of the Volunteers in Partnership Program, Cynthia organized workshops at high schools and middle schools with low-income and minority student populations. She helped the students fill out their college applications and write scholarship essays, and she brought the students to visit her campus at the University of Denver.

She graduated in 2010 with a degree in cognitive neuroscience, which is a double major in psychology and biology, and she even minored in chemistry on top of that.

Because of her immigration status—and despite the fact that she had this amazing college experience and was academically successful and had this important degree—she couldn't find a job. She wasn't even able to volunteer at a local hospital because she lacked a Social Security number, being undocumented.

I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you.

Cynthia's dream to become a doctor was on hold because of her immigration status. Only nine schools told her she might be able to apply and be considered as an undocumented student. Two years after graduating, Cynthia was working as a nanny and questioning whether all the hard work and time in school was wasted.

Cynthia cried as President Obama made the announcement about creating DACA. She realized she was going to be given a chance. She applied for DACA immediately. She was approved in the summer of 2013. By September, Cynthia was working at Northwestern University in Chicago doing clinical research in the Department of Medicine's Division of Cardiology. Her research focuses on improving treatment options for patients facing heart failure.

She sent me a letter, and this is what she said:

> DACA has meant a new realm of opportunities for me, it has opened new doors for me, and it has allowed me to once again see my dream as a reality. I truly believe that if those opposed to DACA or the DREAM Act had the chance to sit down and meet undocumented students, their opinions might change. They would see capable, smart, hard-working individuals who are Americans in every sense of the word, love this country and want to contribute to its prosperity. After all, this is our home.

Cynthia and the other DREAMers have a lot to give to America. Like many Americans who have come to this country, they are willing to sacrifice. They are willing to go to the back of the line. All they are asking for is a chance.

I urge my colleagues—particularly my Republican colleagues—to join us in doing the right thing for these DREAMers, doing the right thing for Cynthia, and thousands of others who are just asking for a chance to make America a better nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, the fight against muscular dystrophy is a cause I have championed since my days in the House of Representatives. My fight against Duchenne muscular dystrophy began when a parent told me about his son's diagnosis with the disease.

This parent refused to accept that there was no hope. The House and Senate agreed with the MD-CARE Act and, since that time, the life expectancy of the average Duchenne muscular dystrophy patient has increased by a full decade. This is progress we have made on behalf of sick people whose lives were threatened, and this is an example of government at its best.

On Monday of this week, I saw the same devotion in the hundreds of Duchenne families who attended a meeting of the advisers of the Food and Drug Administration. The meeting's attendance broke records. I thank the FDA for making the appropriate accommodations to handle a crowd of this size. Some 11,000 people also tuned in remotely, watching the meeting via live stream.

Monday's gathering was about what could be the first disease-modifying therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. For more than 3 hours, the advisory committee heard from parents, doctors, and patients about the drug's impact on their lives. The stories were heartfelt and hopeful, reinforcing the importance of patient engagement in the drug approval process. The dedication of the Duchenne community continues to set an example for advocates of other rare diseases.

Patient voices should be part of the drug review process, and I am glad to see the FDA is implementing greater stakeholder involvement in this process. This was one of the goals of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, which Congress passed in 2012. It continues to be a goal of my Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act, introduced last year, which would require FDA to share how they use feedback from patients and advocates in the drug approval process.

Unfortunately, the advisory committee decided this week not to recommend the approval of the first Duchenne drug. This is disappointing news for me and for thousands of Duchenne families, even those who might not benefit directly from this drug but from other advancements that could stem from it.

Before a final decision is made next month, I hope the FDA will take into consideration the perspectives of Duchenne patients and parents. The individuals fighting the good fight every day are ''the real experts,'' to quote Austin Leclaire, who suffers from Duchenne and has experienced increased mobility because of the drug. People like Austin have a life-threatening disease now. They don't have much time.

No matter the outcome of the FDA's decision next month, I will continue to fight the good fight on behalf of those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In the 15 years since I introduced the MD-CARE, I have learned that small wins can lead to big victories.

MD-CARE was the first Federal law to focus on muscular dystrophy. It helped set in motion the research and

trials that have produced groundbreaking therapies. The life of muscular dystrophy patients now is an average of 12 years longer—I think I earlier said a decade; it is actually 12 years longer than it was in 2001—a wonderful achievement. There are more trial participants needed today than there are Duchenne patients.

Young adults with Duchenne were a population that did not exist when we first funded research for the disease. They never got to adulthood. Today they are getting to adulthood because Congress acted. Because of the MDCARE amendments that became law last Congress, research at the National Institutes of Health has been updated in ways that could help patients lead even longer, healthier lives. We want this research to continue. We want companies to continue to invest in drugs and therapies that could change the lives of those with rare diseases.

Duchenne is still a fatal disease, affecting 1 out of every 3,500 boys—mostly boys. Most young men with Duchenne live only to their mid to late twenties. We should take every opportunity to find a breakthrough. We should take every opportunity to improve quality of life. This is about the futures of young people who face this disease every day and the families who refuse to give up hope.

I look forward to the FDA's full and final decision on this matter next month, and I certainly am hoping for a positive answer from the FDA.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

REMEMBERING TERRY REDLIN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to display this Terry Redlin painting during my speech.

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

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Terry Redlin, a citizen of South Dakota who rose to fame in the 1970s as an artist known for his vivid and vibrant outdoor paintings.

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, Terry passed away at the age of 78 in Watertown, where he was born and raised. Our entire State was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Terry spent his life promoting South Dakota, and he shared his appreciation for our great State with the entire world through his paintings. He will be missed deeply, not only by his family and loved ones but by all who admired his work throughout his very distinguished career.

Growing up, Terry liked to draw. He didn't think he would become an artist, though. As an avid outdoorsman, he wanted to be a forest ranger so there would be plenty of opportunities to hunt and fish when he wasn't working. Then, tragically, at the age of 15, his life was changed forever. He was badly hurt in a motorcycle accident, and his leg had to be amputated. Becoming a forest ranger was now impossible for Terry, but Terry didn't let that stop him from pursuing greatness.

After graduating high school, Terry received a disability scholarship to help further his education. Using it, he earned a degree from the St. Paul School of Associated Arts and spent 25 successful years working in commercial art as a layout artist, graphic designer, illustrator, and art director. In his spare time, he enjoyed photography, particularly of the outdoors and wildlife. Then he started painting from his photographs and from his memories.

In 1977, at the age of 40, Redlin's painting ''Winter Snows'' appeared on the cover of The Farmer magazine. He quickly rose to prominence as an exceptional artist and started painting full time. From 1990 to 1998, each year's poll of national art galleries by U.S. Art Magazine selected Terry Redlin as ''America's Most Popular Artist.''

Over the years, many people have tried to describe the effect Terry's paintings had on them. People connect with his paintings. They inspire us to remember personal memories of past times, places, and experiences. Your heart is tugged when you look at them. There is peacefulness and warmth. Terry used to call it romantic realism, but mere words simply cannot describe it. As you can see from this Redlin painting beside me entitled ''America, America,'' which I brought with me from my front office where it normally hangs, the beauty of his paintings is truly indescribable.

His son convinced him to stop selling original paintings and just sell prints. Someday, he said, they would build a beautiful art gallery to display all of the originals. And they did. It could have been built in the Twin Cities, where he lived for a time, or a large metropolitan area, because Terry's paintings are loved everywhere. Terry chose his hometown of Watertown, SD, for the construction of the Redlin Art Center. It was a gift to his home State and hometown for that $1,500 scholarship he was given all those years ago, which created a wonderful life for him and his family.

Three million visitors came to the Redlin Art Center in the first 3 years and many more millions since then. Terry would sometimes walk into the galleries unannounced and visit with guests who would then ask the front desk: Who is that nice guy? When told it was Terry, they were shocked and delighted.

Once Terry was seen driving slowly through the parking lot. When asked what he was doing, he said he was looking at all the different license plates and what they were doing there. He said he was amazed that people would travel so far just to see his paintings.

Terry was also generous to the subjects of many of his creations. His paintings and prints have been used by various wildlife and conservation groups to raise more than $40 million to benefit their causes.

For those of us who were blessed with the opportunity to meet and know Terry Redlin, we always came away feeling like he was our friend—so wonderful, so kind, and so humble. For those who know him through his paintings, his spirit shone brightly in all of his work.

As we mourn his death and pray for his loved ones during this difficult time, may we find comfort knowing that the legacy which he leaves behind through his paintings will be enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come. He was a great painter but an even greater human being.

Terry once said that he wanted to paint forever, that he had to paint. Terry said it was like breathing to him. Unfortunately, illness forced him into retirement in 2007, and on Sunday, April 24, 2016, the Lord brought Terry up to Heaven. Now he can breathe again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Alexander/Feinstein amendment No. 3801, in the nature of a substitute.

Alexander amendment No. 3804 (to amendment No. 3801), to modify provisions relating to Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to start by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who are joining me on the floor today, and I thank them for all the work they do every day for women and their health care.

As of last week, the CDC reported nearly 900 cases of Zika here in the United States and three U.S. territories, including actually two confirmed in my home State of Washington.

A recent survey showed that 40 percent of adults in the United States see

the Zika virus as the reason to delay starting a family. Like so many of my colleagues, I am hearing from women across my State who are very frightened about this virus. They want to know how to travel safely in light of Zika. They want to know whether they should wait to start their families. Tragically, I am hearing from expectant mothers who are concerned about what this virus could mean for the babies they have on the way.

Women and families at home and abroad need Congress to take action against this virus, to help raise awareness about its impact, to expand access to contraception and family planning, to improve vector control, and to accelerate our efforts to find a vaccine. That is why for months Democrats have urged Republicans to come to the table and work with us on making sure we put the needed resources into this fight against Zika.

The administration has put forward a strong proposal, but Republicans refused to even consider it. While some in the Republican Party indicated last week they wanted to work with us on emergency supplemental funding, it has become pretty clear that unfortunately they have been beaten back by the extreme rightwing who do not want to do anything at all. These extreme conservatives do not recognize that Zika is an emergency. They don't want to give the administration a penny more. As a result of that delay, we are behind the eight ball as mosquito season comes this summer.

That is why we have come to the floor together today to send a very clear message to Republicans today: We need action now. Women simply cannot afford to wait, and they should not have to. Democrats are ready to get this done as soon as possible. And for families and communities who are looking to Congress for action, I hope Republicans join us now so that we can deliver what families are asking for in our country.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Senator HEITKAMP for pulling us in here today to talk about this emergency and Senator MURRAY for her strong voice on this and many others who will be speaking out today.

In 2014 Ebola broke out in West Africa. As it advanced, the international community came together to combat the outbreak. Doctors from around the world traveled to West Africa to set up emergency hospital units to help the sick and to attempt to contain the virus. President Obama deployed thousands of troops to support the effort.

With the media focused on the outbreak right in the middle of the 2014 election, Republican Senators and Republican candidates across the country seized on this global health crisis. No, they didn't swoop in to rescue; in fact, Republicans did nothing to support the actual Ebola response before the elections. Instead, they terrified the American people with totally made-up stories of Ebola-infected immigrants coming across our southern border. They loudly trumpeted a number of dangerous and irresponsible solutions, such as travel bans that would actually make dealing with the problem more difficult.

Ebola ravaged West Africa, but only four cases were ever diagnosed here in the United States. Republican politicians didn't care—they had found something to blame on President Obama and the Democrats, and they were happy to do it. They exploited the situation to help win an election. And it worked. Not all of the fearmongering candidates won, but most of them did, and they won in part because they promised to protect the American people from these horrible contagious diseases.

Today, Republicans run the Senate, and we face a terrible threat right here in America—the rapidly spreading Zika virus. So I come to the floor to ask a simple question: Why haven't Republicans lifted a single finger to stop it?

Unlike Ebola, Zika is not confined to one small region of the world; it has already spread through most of South America and through Mexico. Unlike Ebola, which can be transmitted only by direct contact with bodily fluids, Zika can spread rapidly across distances by transmission through mosquitoes. Unlike Ebola, our leaders at the NIH and CDC are raising the alarm that Zika is an imminent threat to Americans. Nearly 900 cases of Zika have already been reported on American soil.

Zika can be devastating. Most people who contract Zika show no symptoms or only very mild symptoms, but Zika infections can trigger Guillain-Barre syndrome, a condition in which the body attacks its own nervous system, which can cause permanent and severe damage, hospitalizing some people for weeks and killing others. In addition, babies born to mothers who were infected with Zika may suffer severe and permanent brain damage. The World Health Organization estimates that 4 million people could be infected with Zika by the end of the year.

The threat is real, but where are the Republicans? For weeks Senate Democrats have called for emergency supplemental funding to support public health efforts both in research and prevention. Republicans have done nothing. For weeks the President has called for emergency supplemental funding to protect the American people. Republicans have done nothing. For weeks leaders at the WHO, NIH, and CDC have begged Congress for resources to fight this disease. Republicans have done nothing. The President has been forced to divert funds intended for work on Ebola over to work on Zika. That is a very short-term strategy. Ebola has dropped out of the news, but the threat has not ended. We need funding for work on both, but still the Republicans have done nothing.

Now Senate Republicans are taking us on a week-long recess. Where is the Republican plan to fund the Zika response? Where is the Republican plan to replenish the Ebola funds? Apparently, when there is no immediate political benefit, the Republicans can't be bothered to act. Forget Ebola. Forget Zika. They want to go on vacation.

Well, I have news for my Republican colleagues: That is not good enough. They won the election by telling Americans they would protect them from scenarios just like this. Republicans run the Senate now, so it is time to govern. There is a public health crisis bearing down on this country. Babies will be born permanently disabled, and families will be devastated if Republicans keep blocking funding to deal with this problem. It is up to you to act.

This is what government is for—to help protect the people of the United States from serious threats, from real threats. The Republicans are failing the people of the United States.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, lest anyone think that they are immune or that this is only about the tropics, I don't think a lot of people in the United States of America would call the State of North Dakota the tropics. Today I hold up the first noted case of a pregnant woman who has been infected by Zika. She was traveling, probably bitten by a mosquito, and somehow contracted the Zika virus. She will now live in fear that the baby she is carrying will suffer the birth defects we know are associated with this potential pandemic.

Where is the answer for her? The answer that the North Dakota epidemiologist gave for her, which is good advice, is: Don't travel anywhere where we have Zika virus infections. I guess she is not leaving her house because the way this is spreading and the way this is moving, it will be everywhere in the United States of America.

Once it migrates, and once it moves, what is going to stop it? Who is going to stand on the floor of the Senate and take responsibility for the lack of action, for the lack of responding to this public health crisis? That is why we are coming here today. This is not about politics. This is not about a public health emergency. We need resources. We need answers. We need tests. We don't need to rob from other potential pandemics like Ebola to get this done.

There is not a citizen in the country who would not say this is an obligation of the government to protect their people. We anticipate in Puerto Rico, a territory of this country—a lot of people travel to and from Puerto Rico—

one in five people in Puerto Rico will be infected by the Zika virus. Do they know it? Probably not. Frequently no symptoms come with the infection. So now we have to respond. Now we have to do what is right.

People will say: We can take this in regular order. That is what I hear is happening over in the House. They want to take this in regular order. Well, if it is a regular problem, why has the State of Florida declared a state of emergency? In February—this is not new—it is estimated Florida will continue to be the next big place of infection as the Zika virus migrates.

What does that mean to Florida? Not only does it mean you have created huge insecurity for the families—particularly young women the age of our children who are now thinking about having babies you have created huge insecurity. If the answer is don't have babies, how many generations do we have to go? We don't know. That is the problem. We don't know. There is no test. There is no way to verify at this point—no rapid test.

So when we look at this and we look at the effect it is having not only on our families and on family decisions but look at the effect it is having on tourism—we all know the Caribbean depends on tourism dollars to have stable governments. We all know Florida is heavily dependent on tourism. People in my office have already canceled plans for Caribbean vacations. People I know have already canceled plans to go to Florida because they are afraid.

What happens when everybody is staying home because they are afraid? This is not something we can play politics with. This is something that should unite all of us. We should all be coming together. If you don't like the President's plan, tell us what is wrong with it. Tell us what you need to change. Tell us what your experts,—contrary to the experts at CDC who have arrived at this plan—tell us what your experts think needs to be changed and what level of accountability you need.

I understand this morning the argument is not that we should spend the money, the argument is there is no accountability. Tell us what accountability. Come together. Let's solve this problem. Let's rise to the occasion in the Senate. When confronted with this virus, let's come together. Let's show the people we can respond.

I don't think I am exaggerating the potential health care effects. The World Health Organization has declared it an emergency. A conservative Governor in Florida has declared it an emergency. Certainly for this young North Dakota woman, it is an emergency. She needs to know and her family needs to know exactly how this virus is transmitted and what she can expect going forward.

She is just one of, I think, the first cases. My great friend the Senator from Washington—not exactly the tropics in the State of Washington as well—also has one case. We don't know how many more. We don't know how many more.

So I am pleading, let's not wait. Let's treat this like the emergency it is. Let's do what we need to do to protect American families, particularly young women of child-bearing age who are going to be devastated if this happens in their families. So let's do the right thing. Let's come together. If there is a problem with the proposal, let's debate what that proposal should look like. Let's bring it to the floor. Offer amendments for accountability.

Why are we waiting? Someone needs to answer that question, not just to me but to American families and to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues because I share their very real concerns about the impact of the Zika virus on families in New Hampshire—also not a tropical State—the impact on people across the country here in the United States, and also on people around the world.

As has been pointed out, we have seen reports in regions with active mosquito-borne transmission of the virus, places such as Brazil, where they are about to host the Olympics. People will be traveling there from all over the United States, from all over the world. We have seen those stories of women who have had children with severe birth defects, with microcephaly, as a result of their exposure and contracting the virus during pregnancy.

We have also seen impacts on adults. The connection that seems to be there, and I think we are still waiting on definitive research, but the connection in adults between Guillain-Barre syndrome and the Zika virus is also very real. While fortunately in America in most cases that can be treated, the reality is, in a lot of places around the world and for some people, it causes severe paralysis and sometimes even death. So this is not just something that affects pregnant women, but there are also concerns about who else might be affected by this virus.

As we have heard from North Dakota, as we have heard from other States, as mosquito season arrives in this country, we can expect additional Zika cases, transmitted often by mosquitoes from tropical areas, that people contract when they are traveling. We know this mosquito is coming to America. In New Hampshire, where neither of the two known mosquito vectors currently live, we have already had three cases of Zika, with about 150 possible cases that are still being tested.

Two of those cases were acquired as a result of traveling to Zika-impacted regions, but the third was contracted because of sexual transmission of the disease from a partner who had been traveling. Last week I chaired a roundtable on Zika in Concord, NH, in our capital. We had representatives who are looking at what might happen with the virus and our planning for an outbreak, which we hope we can avoid.

We had doctors from the State, we had the State epidemiologist, we had the director of the State lab, and we had people who are working on mosquito control. They talked about how over the last several months they have been getting more and more questions about Zika, particularly from women who are planning to have children in the near future, and for pregnant women and their families or women and their partners who are beginning to think about starting a family.

As Senator HEITKAMP pointed out, the threat of Zika is very real. We had one of the doctors, an obstetrician, at that roundtable who reported that many of her family patients are canceling vacations they had planned and some of her patients whose husbands are in the military who are stationed in Zika-infected countries are concerned about how to protect themselves and what they need to do when they return.

We heard from folks at our New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services who talked about the importance of increased access to family planning and contraceptives and the Zika outbreak impact on the need for those services. It gives us a new lens on the importance of making sure women and families have access to this health care.

We need to make sure all women at risk or diagnosed with Zika have access to comprehensive, patient-centered contraceptives and preconception counseling. We also heard from the folks involved with mosquito control. What they told us is, there are two mosquitoes that can spread the Zika virus, that we know of at this time. One of those is a mosquito that is only in the tropics, that we are never going to see in northern New Hampshire and in northern New England.

The second mosquito, we have already found in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The mosquito control folks said that unlike the usual spraying for mosquitoes, which is in wetland areas and swampy areas in New Hampshire, this is a mosquito that, as Secretary Burwell has described it, ''can breed in as little as a capful of water.'' They are mosquitoes that bite people four times in order to get a meal, so they spread very fast.

What we heard from the mosquito control folks who were at this meeting was that they are encouraging people to look at places in their yards where water might collect in small spaces, in wheelbarrows, in paint cans, in places we would not normally think about mosquitoes growing.

They also encouraged people to think about protecting themselves. When you are going out, think about covering up, wearing long sleeves, wearing slacks, wearing socks when you are outside at a time when mosquitoes might be around.

The other concern about the Zika mosquito is that it also is active during the day. It is not like most of the mosquitoes we see in New Hampshire, which are active at night. This is a mosquito that is also active during the day. So we need to be taking action now. I listened to the head of the State lab in New Hampshire talking about the challenge of getting results from the lab for people who had been tested for Zika.

He said: Sometimes we have to send out to labs. We don't have the capacity in New Hampshire to do the analysis that is required. We are still looking for a test that can definitively determine if somebody has had Zika in the past. He said: Something as small as the ability to ferry the samples and the results back and forth to a lab is one of the things we need so we can get answers so we know how to act.

The folks who are trying to get information out to the public talked about the need to have support so they could get information out, both to the medical community and to individuals, about the importance of what individuals need to do to take action.

They said very directly to me, as I said that I appreciate this is something we need to work with you on in Washington, they said: We don't have the resources to respond to this in the way we need to in New Hampshire. For those people who would say: Don't worry. You are exaggerating. This is never going to come to New Hampshire, well, that is what they told us about the West Nile virus. That is what they told us about EEE. We have had deaths in New Hampshire in recent years from both of those viruses. So I think we need to act on this. I know there has been an agreement in the Appropriations Committee, among the appropriators on both sides of the aisle. It has been a bipartisan agreement to help get a supplemental funding bill to the floor to address this because in New Hampshire what I have heard is that we need help. We need Washington to help us. If we are concerned about the cost of this, just think about what our inaction will do? What if we have an outbreak and we have people who—we have thousands of women, as they do in Brazil, who have been infected and who have had babies with microcephaly. What are the health care costs to people who might have been infected by the Zika virus, with Guillain-Barre syndrome, with other birth defects as a result of being infected during pregnancy?

So this is a bill we can't afford to wait on. We need to address this. If folks are not willing to do it because it is the right thing to do, they ought to be willing to do it because it is the cost-effective thing to do. I hope we can come together. I know people on both sides of the aisle are concerned about this. We need to come together. We need to address this. It is a pending public health emergency. We have to respond.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues in raising awareness about the Zika virus and the need to pass the President's emergency appropriations request to get ahead of this crisis in the making.

Some question the need for this emergency appropriations request. Perhaps those who believe that funding the President's request is a waste feel that we are not at immediate risk, but you have heard my other colleagues talking about how this is an impending crisis. While Zika may not seem like a threat in the United States now because we have not hit peak mosquito season, this head-in-sand mentality is irresponsible. Zika is ravaging South America, which is having its summer right now. Zika is on the move. The mosquito that is the main Zika carrier is already in 13 States, and another mosquito also capable of spreading the Zika virus is in 30 States. As families travel this summer, they will be moving in and out of States and countries impacted by Zika.

To my colleagues who aren't worried about the spread of Zika right now, it is time for all of us to wake up. With summer comes mosquitoes—including, of course, the mosquito that carries Zika. We must do all we can to ensure that Zika does not gain a foothold in the United States. Let's act, not react, to this Zika threat. This means funding the President's $1.9 billion request for Zika.

Hawaii knows firsthand the impact of vector-borne diseases such as Zika and of the resources and effort it takes to contain an outbreak. Seven Hawaii residents have already been diagnosed with Zika. One infant born to a mother with Zika has been diagnosed with microcephaly, a devastating birth defect.

On top of that, Hawaii has been dealing with an outbreak of dengue fever, which is spread by the same mosquito that carries Zika. The dengue outbreak in Hawaii began in September, and only yesterday were we able to go 30 days without a new dengue case.

The unique location of Hawaii means it serves as transit location for many Pacific Island nations where Zika outbreaks have occurred in the recent past, places such as Yap and French Polynesia. We know that this disease can migrate and that it can migrate quickly. That is why we have to get ahead of it.

Having the administration shift Ebola funding around is not the answer. That is akin to robbing Peter to pay Paul. What will we do if Ebola has a resurgence this summer—shift money back from Zika?

The United States is in a strong position, compared to many other countries, to fight Zika. We have indevelopment vaccines, blood screenings, cleaning tools, and research that will be game changers.

When the President sent his $1.9 billion request to Congress, he laid out how the funding would be spent or used. It would go toward vector control, public education campaigns, and vaccine development. It would go toward the work of companies such as Hawaii Biotech, which is racing to complete work on a vaccine.

We must fund the emergency request so Federal agencies that stand on the battle lines of combating disease can do their work. We must also strengthen vector control programs and emergency preparedness programs. It is imperative that we give our communities the tools they need to fight Zika. Time is still on our side right now, but time is running out and we must act quickly. Let's come together to ensure that Zika does not become a full-blown public health emergency in the United States. Let's fund the President's request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss this urgent public health emergency. I am honored to be here with Senator MURRAY, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator HEITKAMP, and Senator HIRONO as we look at this serious crisis facing our Nation, and that is the Zika virus.

The World Health Organization has declared that Zika is spreading explosively and will affect nearly all countries in North America and South America. The virus has already infected nearly 400 Americans who have traveled abroad from 40 States, including my home State of Minnesota. Over 500 people in Puerto Rico have the disease. Nearly all of them contracted the virus locally. These numbers will only continue to grow as the warmer months bring more mosquitoes that transmit this disease. In fact, researchers calculate that 60 percent of the people in our country live in an area that will likely be affected.

Zika is a rapidly evolving mosquito-borne virus. Most infected patients develop mild flu-like symptoms that last for a week. However, the virus has devastating consequences for growing families. Researchers have now confirmed what many feared was true: A pregnant woman infected with Zika is at risk of giving birth to a child with microcephaly. This heartbreaking, lifelong condition results in newborns with abnormally small heads. These children will need increased access to health care and developmental services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. There is no known cure for this disease or even standard treatment for this condition.

It is crucial that physicians have the knowledge and tools essential to diagnose and care for pregnant women who may be infected with Zika. It is crucial that moms with Zika and children with microcephaly have access to the services they need. It is crucial that we

take steps now to ensure that our health care system and all levels of government are prepared for the imminent spread of the Zika virus.

We are here today to continue to stress the urgent need to ensure that our country is as prepared as possible to mitigate the spread of Zika and respond to outbreaks of this virus.

The administration submitted a request for nearly $2 billion in emergency funds to provide immediate support. This is about research. This is about a vaccine. This is about therapeutics and diagnostics. This is about a medical health crisis that primarily—but not only—affects women and children. That is why the women Democrats of the Senate have gathered on the floor today to speak out, to speak out and say this is a crisis that must be funded. This is a crisis that must be responded to.

Simply because it mainly affects women and children right now—and we have no idea what other effects it will have—is no reason to shirk our duties in the Congress and not fund this. Our foremost duty is to protect the health and safety of Americans. Zika is a rapidly evolving disease with severe public health implications. I ask my colleagues to support this effort. We cannot afford to delay action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to take the floor as the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee and urge that we adopt an urgent supplemental request to deal with the Zika threat.

This is real. It has been 2 months since the administration sent to Congress an emergency supplemental. We can't wait any longer. The mosquitoes are here. They are actually here. They are here in the United States of America.

I have said—first with wit and now with deep concern—that you can't build a wall to keep the mosquitoes out. The mosquitoes aren't going to pay for this. We need to act, and we need to act now.

This is a compelling public health crisis, and we can do something about it. We take an oath to defend all Americans against enemies foreign and domestic. This is about to be a self-inflicted wound on our own people because of our failure to act.

With no reliable, tested public health interventions on mosquito control—we have to take action to do this. Why? Because as of April 20, there have been close to 900 cases confirmed in the United States of America. We already know they are in three States. The CDC knows it is going to come to at least 30 States in our own country, and it will have incredible consequences, particularly to women.

Over the years, I have heard many eloquent, poignant, and even wrenching speeches about protecting the unborn. They have been deeply moving. We have always tried to find common ground on this. But if you are really for defending the unborn, you have to pass this supplemental.

There are women all over the United States—particularly in these three vulnerable States—there are women in Puerto Rico who are wondering, if they are already pregnant, what their situation is. There are young women and not-so-young women who are concerned about getting pregnant and at the same time being bitten by a mosquito, and there are sparse resources to do mosquito control.

We want to build fences to keep out illegal aliens. OK. We want to bomb the hell out of ISIS and terrorists. We should because we are worried that they are coming at us. But in many of those instances, those are problems that have been difficult to solve. This is not difficult to solve; this is about mosquito control.

I am very concerned that we are just sitting around and that when all is said and done, more is getting said than gets done. We are talking about an emergency supplemental.

The Appropriations Committee has a very clear set of criteria for what is an emergency. First, it has to be urgent. Well, the mosquito season is here. It has to be unforeseen. This was unforeseen and it is temporary. It is mosquito season. It is a confined season. We can do something about it, and we must do something about it. It will have a disproportionate impact on pregnant women and the unborn. There will be children born with the most horrendous, heartbreaking birth defects.

I am of the generation that was the polio generation. My mother wouldn't let my sisters and me go swimming until after June 20 because, somehow or another, in our faith, it was St. John's Day and we thought the water would be warmer. Maybe the saint blessed the water. God bless the saints. God bless people like Dr. Salk, and God bless America that funded the Salk vaccine. I remember children in iron lungs to be kept alive, children in braces who then walked with very difficult canes. Those who survive bear this the rest of their lives.

Look at what we are facing here, and we know it. This is not unknown, nor is it unmanageable. It will be a national disgrace if we don't act.

In my own home State, I have a Republican Governor, Governor Larry Hogan. Guess what. Governor Hogan is acting. This isn't about Democrats and Republicans. Governor Hogan acted. He declared April 24 to 30 Zika Awareness Week. He ordered his health department to coordinate educational events with local health departments. They also spent $130,000 of State money to develop 10,000 transmission kits to begin to deal with this. My Republican Governor has taken action.

Also, in Anne Arundel County—the county that is the home of the State capital, again headed up by a Republican county executive—they received 850 kits. They are going to have townhall meetings to talk with the agricultural officials about prevention and mosquito control. We have a Republican Governor and a Republican county executive who are acting.

Then there is Howard County, where the health department is planning to distribute 450 kits to obstetric and gynecological practices to protect pregnant women. Again, a Republican county executive working with his administration is taking action, spending local money when this is a national problem.

I am saying this because my own Governor and the county executives are acting.

In Baltimore City, which has a Democratic mayor—she listened to the warnings coming from the World Health Organization, the CDC, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and is taking action. Baltimore is now spraying, taking mosquito control action, and so on. They are spending over $500,000 of local money, of which we don't have a lot.

So, hello, Maryland is acting. We need to act. And I say this because we are spending local money to deal with a national and international problem. So please, let's now—whatever differences we have on other bills, please let's take up this urgent supplemental.

Madam President, I yield the floor, as I see the majority leader is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. today, the Senate agree to the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801, the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801, and the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801, upon reconsideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I have two topics I want to talk about today—actually, three—but I want to begin with the Zika virus.

A few weeks ago I went back to Florida on a Friday and I sat down and met with officials from the Department of Health from Florida. I met with leaders from Puerto Rico in the health sector. I met with doctors who live in Miami-Dade County and also officials in Miami-Dade County. They are freaked out about the Zika thing. I don't know any other term to use. If they are freaked out, then I am very concerned about it as well. That is why I do support fully and immediately funding this situation, and I have asked our colleagues to do so as quickly as possible.

I want to speak briefly about the Florida experience with this. There are two things that are deeply concerning,

and then I will speak to some of the things we should be doing.

First, the summer months are upon us. Anyone who has been in Florida, in the summer particularly, knows summer has basically already started in Florida if you go outside. The spread of mosquitoes as a threat virtually everywhere in the State is just massive. It is just a way of life. This very deadly disease is something we are still learning about, by the way. A few weeks ago, they said: Well, Zika impacts only a small population of people—a very significant population of people. We are learning this disease impacts whoever it touches. First of all, you don't have to be symptomatic to spread it. In Florida alone, we have had at least two cases of transmission sexually transmitted.

By the way, it is just a matter of time before someone in Florida gets bit by a mosquito. I am telling you, it is just a matter of days, weeks, hours before you will open up a newspaper or turn on the news and it will say that someone in the continental United States was bitten by a mosquito and they contracted Zika. When that happens, then everyone is going to be freaked out, not just me and not just the people who work for the health department in Florida. This is going to happen. There are just way too many mosquitoes to avoid it.

The second thing is that Miami-Dade County, in particular, but a lot of Florida, is a transit point for all of Latin America. So, for example, one of the places most impacted by Zika is Brazil. Well, this summer the Olympics are being held in Brazil, and there will be hundreds of thousands of people who cross through Florida to get to Brazil and back, on top of the normal number of travelers. It is just a matter of time. It is not a question of if, it is a question of when.

So I look at this from a Senate perspective and say: We are going to fund this. We are going to spend money on Zika in Washington, DC, No. 1, because we should. It is the obligation of the Federal Government to keep our people safe, and this is an imminent and real threat to the public safety and security of our Nation and our people. So the money is going to be spent. The question is: Do we do it now, before this has become a crisis or do we wait for it to become a crisis? Maybe that crisis happens in August, when everyone is back home doing their campaign stuff or maybe it happens on Monday, when everyone is back home doing whatever they do on recess. Then everyone will get pulled back to deal with this immediately, and I want to know what Members will say to those who say: Hey, this Zika thing has been in the news for months. Now there is a case.

It can be in any State in the country—any State in the country. You may hear: Oh, it is only in certain States that are warm. That is not true. It can be in any State in the country. I want to know what people are going to say when they are asked: What did you do about it? Are you going to say: Well, I had real problems. I wanted to make sure about this and that.

This is a serious thing. People's lives are at stake here. And by the way, this is now spreading into all sorts of other threats. Guillain-Barre was mentioned earlier. We know about the birth defects that are very significant. Do my colleagues realize what the cost will be of dealing with all of that? Are people aware of what Guillain-Barre is? It is a debilitating, often fatal, disease. The cost of treating someone that has it is extraordinary.

What about where the money is going to be spent? Look, it is possible at the end of the day that $1.9 billion will not even be enough. We don't know. But we have to start.

No. 1, we don't have a commercially available plan to test for Zika. You can't just go to Quest Diagnostics and get a Zika test. It doesn't exist. In Florida, if you want to get a Zika test, you have to go through the State department of health.

No. 2, a lot of people aren't being tested because they are not a pregnant woman so they do not think they have to be tested. False. If you have traveled anywhere at this point—I don't care who you are, how old you are, male or female—where there are mosquitoes in significant amounts, you probably should be tested. If you have traveled abroad into these danger zones, you can transmit this disease. You can be carrying it and not see manifestations of it for a while.

There is no commercially available plan. They talk about mosquito control. They have only been trying that for thousands of years, and mosquitoes have outlasted everything. It is important. It has to be a part of it. But one of the two mosquito species that spreads Zika is resistant to pesticides. It has become resistant to the pesticide, and that is why new technologies need to be developed.

There are some innovative ways out there to cut down on the mosquito population. There is an innovative program now, trying to start a pilot program in the Keys. That should be a part of this conversation. Researchers are pretty confident they can find a vaccine for this kind of disease, given its pathology. Maybe not next week, but they can find a vaccine for it. The government has a role to play in basic research that allows the private sector to commercialize that and make that possible.

I understand we want accountability for how this money will be spent. I believe that. I do. I think the administration should come forward and say: Here is our plan. Here is where every penny is going to be spent, and here is how we are going to spend it. We should hold them accountable, and if there are ways to improve on that, we should. But I think there should be a sense of urgency when dealing with this issue.

I honestly believe—I don't believe; I know—it is just a matter of time before there is a mosquito-borne transmission. By the way, does it really matter how you got it, whether it was from a mosquito or it was sexually transmitted? You have Zika. It acts the very same way once you have it. It is just a matter of time before there is a mosquito-borne transmission in the continental United States.

I also have heard—not that anyone here has said it—but I have heard others say there are no cases of Zika transmitted from a mosquito yet in the United States. That is false. Puerto Rico is in the United States. Puerto Ricans are American citizens. By the way, they travel in huge numbers to and from the United States. Many are moving here. Many work here during the week and travel back on the weekends. This is a catastrophe right now in Puerto Rico, which is a United States territory, and its people are American citizens. They are facing a catastrophe right now on this issue.

So I hope there is real urgency about dealing with this. I understand this is not a political issue. There is no such thing as a Republican position on Zika or a Democrat position on this issue because these mosquitoes bite everyone. They are not going to ask you what your party affiliation is or who you plan to vote for in November. This is a real threat, and it is not just in the tropical States. They may feel it first, but so can any State that has any significant travel, which is basically all 50 States in the Union. In a country where people travel extensively across the country and around the world, we are going to face a Zika problem in this country this summer and fall.

My advice to my colleagues is that we are going to deal with this, so I hope we deal with it at the front end. Not only is that better for our people, but that will be better for my colleagues. Otherwise, we will have to explain why it is that we sat around for weeks and did nothing on something of this magnitude.

The second topic I want to—

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, will the Senator yield for just one moment before he goes into his second topic?

Mr. RUBIO. I will yield to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I just want to thank the Senator from Florida for joining the women of the Senate here today to bring attention to such a critical issue and to extend our hands. We want to work with the Senator. We believe this is an emergency, and we want to deal with it quickly. We appreciate his comments and his support this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I appreciate the advocacy of the Senator from Washington, and I do look forward to working with the Senator on this as well. Hopefully, we can get a result on this.

There is going to be a recess now, and that means for 10 days people will be going back to their home States. So I hope when we come back a week from Monday, we will hear that we have a plan that we are going to be able to vote on and vote on it quickly.

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AND FDA ADVISORY PANEL

Madam President, on a separate topic, I want to call attention to a remarkable group of advocates who are bound together, not by a common race or religion or political ideology but by the common hope of one day ridding the world of a rare disease named Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Duchenne is one of multiple different forms of muscular dystrophy. It affects mostly boys, almost exclusively, at the rate of 1 per 3,600 individuals. Its primary symptom is the steady deterioration of muscle mass beginning early in childhood. By the age of 12, most boys with Duchenne have lost the ability to walk and eventually become paralyzed from the neck down. I am sad to say there is currently no cure for Duchenne, and the average life expectancy is around 25 years.

I am personally the parent of four children, including two boys, and I can only imagine—perhaps I can't imagine; that is how difficult it is—what it must be like to have a child receive this diagnosis. Few are called to do more for their child and to show greater courage in the face of the adversity that MD poses than a parent helping their child battle Duchenne.

I was recently inspired and humbled a few weeks ago to meet a young man struggling against this disease. His name is Austin, and his dad Joe is a hero in more ways than one. Joe helps Austin combat Duchenne, and he does it alone, as a single father. By the way, he also serves as an Active-Duty member of the United States Air Force.

Austin is 12 years old, and I was immediately impressed when I met him. I knew how difficult it must have been for him to travel all the way to Washington from his home in Tampa. This is the embodiment of courage that people living with this disease show every day.

Joe shared with me a few of the struggles they face. He told me how Austin is unable to attend school full time because he needs hours of daily physical therapy to stimulate his muscles. He told me how Austin is quickly losing the ability to walk and how he now needs help getting in and out of his wheelchair and other daily tasks. He needs help with eating.

Joe told me he spends hundreds of dollars each month on over-the-counter drugs that are not covered by insurance, and he spends hours every Friday attending doctors' appointments.

Joe shared the dreams he once had when Austin was born—dreams of being that proud father in the bleachers at little league games or cheering loudly and waving a big foam finger. With Duchenne, he tells me he has even more reasons to proudly cheer Austin on, though the reasons are different. He cheers when Austin is able to get out of bed without help or to walk to the restroom. These are moments of great pride for Joe, when he sees how resilient Austin is in the face of this disease.

Joe and Austin traveled to Washington as part of a coordinated effort to witness and participate in FDA action related to Duchenne. As advancements in medical science continue, targeted therapies to treat Duchenne are being developed and tested, and each one—even the ones that fail—is providing us greater insight into the way the disease operates and how it might ultimately be defeated.

The last couple of weeks in particular have brought about a display of extraordinary strength from Joe and Austin, and thousands of other parents, children, family, and friends who engage in activism on behalf of those with Duchenne. This Monday, scores of advocates from around the country attended a hearing of the FDA advisory committee, which welcomed them and spent almost an entire day listening to their testimony. What this committee was listening to was the result of a clinical study on a small group. Admittedly, this is a small group of people who have this disease, so any clinical trial will have a small number of people. It is not the same as you would have for another more common disease. So this FDA advisory panel was meeting to decide whether they were going to allow this testing to expand and this drug to be more available.

The panel should have reviewed this in the context of a law that was passed in 2012 called the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act; call it FDASIA for short. This act gave the FDA the authority to consider the perspectives of patients when evaluating whether to approve a drug. In essence, it gave the FDA the authority to listen to people who are taking the drug and decide whether it works or not—not just to look at the clinical study.

This also provides real flexibility when evaluating drugs for life-threatening illnesses, such as Duchenne. It included multiple provisions to address the challenges of the rare disease patient community, which is by definition small—meaning clinical trials have a more difficult time finding enough participants to meet the FDA's usual requirements. Usually, when it is a drug for cancer or something like that, you have tens of thousands of people you can do a trial for. When it is a rare disease, you have a harder time finding enough people to test it on the way you would for a normal drug. And on top of that—on top of the perspective of a lesser number of people—it is also a disease that is fatal. In the end, all of these cases with Duchenne end the same way, with death, in a very predictable pattern.

They had a chance to meet this week and review this in the committee. In the words of someone who was there, who has a lot of experience in interacting with government agencies and bureaucracies, the word they used was ''jarring.'' They said it was jarring. This is from someone who has a lot of experience interacting with government agencies and bureaucracies. They said it was jarring how it went.

I want to paint the picture of what that place looked like on Monday. There was an entire community of parents whose kids have Duchenne, who are taking this experimental drug, who are seeing their kids improve. They are seeing it. They know these kids better than any scientist, any doctor, or any panelist at the FDA, and they see these kids are doing better. They see this. They are begging the FDA panel: Please allow us to continue to give these kids medicine. And, by the way, make it available to other kids because, No. 1, there has not been a single documented case of harm; no one using this experimental medicine has been harmed by it. No. 2, we, the parents, are telling you it works because we see it in our kids. And, No. 3, if you take it away, we are desperate; there is nothing left. They are going to die. It is very predictable.

The committee ignored them. The committee ruled against them, and it did so because they basically applied the same standard to this drug as they did to a normal one: Oh, you didn't have enough people in the clinical trial. No, there aren't enough people to do a clinical trial with. It is a rare disease. The result is they had this ruling, and I think the vote was 7 to 3.

What is interesting is that one of the board members was quoted as saying: Based on all I heard, the drug definitely works, but the question was framed differently. What that means is the way the FDA posed the question to this committee was not just whether the drug worked, but the question was the process: Did this clinical trial have enough people? Was it conducted the normal way—the way other drug tests are conducted? Of course not, because it is not treating a normal condition. It is one with a very small population.

The committee spent almost the entire time focused on how the clinical study was designed and not on whether it works. By the way, had the FDA followed FDASIA, the law passed a few years ago, and taken that into account—the small patient population and likewise—they might have reached a different result. Instead, what is happening now is these patients and families are on the verge of losing not just access to the drug but to other families as well.

Put yourself in the position of one of these patients. Your son has Duchenne, your son is taking this experimental drug, and you see how he is improving—because you do not improve with Duchenne. It is not one of these things where you get better, worse, better, worse. You get worse and then worse and then worse. It is a steady, predictable decline. So imagine your child is

one of those impacted by this disease. You know what the outcome is. It is a predictable, guaranteed outcome. They are taking an experimental drug, and you know it is working because they are not declining. In fact, in many cases they are improving. You are begging the FDA: Please, allow us to continue to give our children this drug. They say: No, we reject it because the clinical trial was not conducted the way it is for normal drugs. Then you would understand the desperation of these parents.

There is one last chance. The senior leadership of the FDA has the ability to override this decision and allow this to move forward. I personally hope that is what they will do. In the end, the only thing to lose here is to do nothing.

The sad story here would be for these parents, who are already seeing the benefits, to lose access to this drug that they know is having an impact on their children. No one has been able to prove there is any threat that this drug poses to these children. This has been documented. CBS has done a report. Other entities have reported on it.

FDA senior leadership has the chance to overrule this committee, which didn't knock it down for purposes of safety or anything of that nature. They just said the clinical trials didn't meet their standard—and say these kids are going to die anyway if we don't do something.

Here is a drug that is showing improvement, and families who are using it are begging them to allow them to use it. Thousands of people do not fly in from around the country or watch online for something that isn't working. If this weren't working, these parents would not be so adamant about it. They see it is working. They know people it is working for. They are desperate to keep it or to reach it. Listen to them. They know what they are talking about. They know. They are the primary caregivers for their children, and they know improvement when they see it.

I hope the FDA will consider moving in a different direction. These parents deserve better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

(The remarks of Mr. TILLIS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2885 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. TILLIS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

PENSION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an issue that affects not only retirees in Ohio, but retirees all around the country.

Let me start by saying that if hundreds of thousands of retirees were getting the Social Security benefits they had worked for cut by as much as 70 percent, there would be a national uproar. People would consider it totally unacceptable. It would be the top news story every night. People would say: These retirees played by the rules; they did everything right. Yet they are seeing these big cuts. How could this happen?

Yet that is exactly what is happening to about 400,000 members of the Central States Pension Fund who are facing cuts of up to 70 percent as soon as July 1 of this year. Again, these are people who worked hard all their lives, put money into the pension system assuming it would be there, made their financial plans based on that, and now they are suddenly finding massive cuts—some 20 percent, some 40 percent, some as high as 70 percent. It is time for the Senate to address this potential crisis and to come up with a fair solution.

The Central States Pension Fund consists mostly of union truck drivers. They have seen its pension fund severely decline. That is why we are in this situation. The pension suffered big investment declines during the great recession, as did other pension funds. One difference is that they missed the market rebound because they had a large population of new retirees, and they had to withdraw large sums from their pension for those payouts.

One of the largest pension funds in America is in trouble. It is projected to go bankrupt in about a decade. That bankruptcy could be so large that it would have a very negative impact on the larger Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation that insures the fund. We don't want that to happen because that could, of course, leave hundreds of thousands of retirees with severely reduced or no pensions.

Something has to be done. Math is math. I understand that and, by the way, Central States retirees understand that. They know there is a problem. But the way Congress and the President have dealt with this is totally unacceptable. The House of Representatives worked on a proposal. It was crafted in the House, not in the Senate. It allowed the pension to possibly avert bankruptcy—and I say ''possibly'' because, as I will talk about later, even this proposal doesn't mean they are going to avert bankruptcy. But they did so by cutting the benefits of current retirees substantially, severely in some cases, again by as much as 70 percent.

They then took this proposal called the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act, or MPRA, and buried it inside a $1 trillion spending bill, which, frankly, nobody read. It was one of those last-minute bills, an end-of-the-year omnibus spending package, as they call it, and they sent it to the U.S. Senate. Members of the Senate were told: This is an up-or-down vote. There were no hearings in the Senate. There was no transparent process.

I remember when this happened about a year and a half ago, we were told that if the Senate didn't quickly pass these unprecedented reforms, with no hearings and no opportunities for amendments on the floor of the Senate, the spending bill would fail.

This is Washington at its worst: Bury something in a spending bill that has nothing to do with a spending bill—in this case, a pension cut—and then basically try to blackmail lawmakers to vote for it, saying: If you don't vote for this, the whole bill goes down.

I voted against it, as did other Members here in the Senate, but it passed. Of course, President Obama quickly signed it into law. Suddenly, these retirees were sent notices saying they have this big cut in their pension.

I agree that the status quo is not acceptable. I think over time it would lead to pension bankruptcy, and something has to be done. Difficult decisions are necessary. But the MPRA was an unfair remedy because it did not go through a fair and open and transparent process. Also, it didn't give the workers or retirees a sufficient voice in their own futures. They did not have a voice in crafting the reforms because of the way it was structured.

We probably have 47,000, 48,000 Ohioans affected by this. After months of meetings with Ohio workers, retirees, and stakeholders, including the administration, I introduced what is called the Pension Accountability Act. Basically, it gives workers and retirees a voice in this process. Right now, MPRA does allow there to be a vote by workers and retirees, but for these large plans, the vote is nonbinding. So there is a vote, but it doesn't count. Even if the participants vote 100 percent against the reforms, it wouldn't stop the cuts from going forward. That is crazy. That is certainly not democratic.

Additionally, the vote is designed unfairly. Here is how it works: If a retiree or a worker chooses not to take out a ballot and vote, it is automatically counted as a ''yes'' vote for the plan. Imagine how that would work in U.S. Presidential elections or other democratic processes. But that is not how this works. If you submit a ballot, it should be counted. If you don't submit a ballot, it shouldn't be counted.

So the Pension Accountability Act fixes these two problems: First, it makes the retiree and the worker vote binding. This will give workers and retirees a seat at the table, and a majority vote would be required for any pension cuts to go forward. Second, it makes the vote fair by counting the ballots as they should be counted, not returning the ballots as an automatic ''yes'' vote.

These commonsense reforms give the workers and the retirees more leverage. It gives them a fair say in the process because their vote is going to be heeded to implement changes. They are going to have a seat at the table to find the right balance.

Again, we know these pensions are in trouble, and some changes are necessary to prevent bankruptcy, which could leave some families with nothing. So let the process play out. If the

businesses, unions, workers, and retirees can craft a solution to win a majority vote, more power to them. But let's give everyone a seat at the table, and let these retirees have a vote.

The goal should not be to stop all pension reforms. If Central States continues on its road to bankruptcy, then, everybody loses. But the goal should be to give those affected a say in how these reforms are designed. It brings accountability. It opens the lines of communication on both sides of the bargaining table to come up with a fair solution.

There are some other proposals. I think the Pension Accountability Act has a much more realistic chance of enactment because I do not believe a massive tax increase is viable. It is the only reform proposal with bipartisan support. In fact, between my bill and the House companion legislation, we have nine Democrats and nine Republicans.

In the meantime, for the reasons I have discussed, the Department of the Treasury should not accept Central States' application. They should reject this proposal to cut benefits up to 70 percent for some of the retirees, as we have talked about. By the way, even if all the application's positive market assumptions play out, there is still a 50-percent chance the pension goes bankrupt anyway. This doesn't exactly inspire confidence in this plan. I think they should go back to the drawing board.

By the way, I am openminded to other solutions that would provide funding from inside the multiemployer pension system. There are different ideas out there, and we should talk about them.

Let me finish with a story about a guy I got to know through this process. His name was Butch Lewis, from Westchester, OH. Butch was a star baseball player in high school. He was drafted out of high school by the Pittsburgh Pirates. But instead of going on to a career in baseball, he heard the call of duty and he volunteered to join the U.S. Army and to serve in Vietnam. He became an Army Ranger. He was seriously injured while rescuing fellow soldiers. He was sent home with a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

When he came home, Butch reunited with his high school sweetheart Rita. He started a family, and he started working, despite his injuries. He spent 40 years as a truckdriver. The lack of shock absorbers in those old trucks hurt his knees a lot. His knees had been injured in Vietnam in battle. Ultimately, it required 37 surgeries. But he kept working and never complained. He sacrificed for his family and for their pension—to the point of foregoing pay raises, vacations, and other benefits in order to guarantee that he had a sufficient pension for retirement. They planned on it, like you would or anybody would.

Finally retired, a year ago Butch was surprised when he received a letter in the mail saying his pension would be cut by 40 percent—the pension that he was depending on. So after all those years of work and sacrifice, his pension would be deeply slashed. Butch felt betrayed, and I think that is understandable. He organized with his fellow retirees an effort to try to defend those pensions, and that is how I came to know him. He came to Washington, DC, to meet with me here. I also met with him in Ohio. I listened to his story. I listened to his wife Rita, who is very articulate, and we addressed different ways to try to save his pension. He is one of the reasons we came up with this legislation.

This past New Year's Eve, feeling the stress, Butch became ill, and he died of a massive heart take. He was 64 years old. His wife Rita is left to pick up the pieces. She has now lost her husband. Her own dad is battling Stage IV cancer. She is looking at a 40-percent cut to her survivor's benefit. She is preparing to sell the house that she and her husband Butch saved a lifetime for. She is wondering what her future is going to be. She is a very strong woman. She worked tirelessly to save for these pensions. Now she is fighting to make sure all the hard work her husband put in was not in vain.

This is who we are fighting for. Think about Butch Lewis when we think about what we should do. Think about Rita and 400,000 other members of the Central States Pension Fund. These are people who played by the rules. They worked hard, and yet, in their retirement years, they face possible financial ruin through no fault of their own.

This is why we need to pass the Pension Accountability Act. We have attempted to offer it as amendments in previous legislation here over the last couple of months. We are going to continue to do that. We are not going to give up. I would hope the Senate and the House would see that by giving people a voice, it gives them leverage, and we can come up with a better and a more fair solution for everybody.

I yield back my time.

I yield to the Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from North Carolina.

GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. As we remember all those who have lost their lives in the wave of terrorist violence sweeping the world, I call on my Senate colleagues to join the effort to make real the words ''never again'' by cosponsoring S. 2551, the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

Islamic extremists are waging religious war so severe that the Pope of the Catholic Church and the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church came together, stating:

> Whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated. Their churches are being barbarously ravaged and looted, their sacred objects profaned, their monuments destroyed. It is with pain that we call to mind the situation in Syria, Iraq and other countries of the Middle East, and the massive exodus of Christians from the land in which our faith was first disseminated and in which they have lived together with other religious communities since the time of the Apostles. We call upon the international community to act urgently in order to prevent the further expulsion of Christians from the Middle East. In raising our voice in defense of persecuted Christians, we wish to express our compassion for the suffering experienced by the faithful of other religious traditions who have also become victims of civil war, chaos, and terrorist violence.

On February 4, a nearly unanimous European Parliament passed a resolution declaring that ISIS ''is committing genocide against Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities.'' Sadly, the United States, in keeping with the President's desire to lead from behind, only recently decided to call it genocide in the face of the religious cleansing taking place in the heart of the Middle East. ISIS vows that they will break our crosses and enslave our women—they are speaking of Christians—and they will place a black flag at the top of St. Peter's Basilica. At the other end of the Middle East, we have Iran. Iran is launching test missiles with the words ''Death to Israel'' on the tips of the ballistic missiles, in Hebrew.

We would do well to remember the words of an Israeli Prime Minister who said: ''When someone tells you he wants to kill you, believe him.'' If you think it is a problem that is over there, think again. Terrorism reaches our shores. It has devastated some of the great cities of the world like London, Paris, Brussels, Madrid, and Bali. As a result of conflict, there are now a record 60 million displaced persons—men, women, and children. That is more than at the height of the displacement of World War II.

Responding to the dire needs of those fleeing violence has driven a 600-percent increase in global humanitarian aid over the past 10 years, from $3.5 billion in 2004 to $20 billion in 2015. I have actually seen the human cost in refugee camps along the Turkish-Syrian border. I was there a couple of weeks ago, less than 30 miles away from the Syrian border in Turkey. These were Muslims fleeing ISIS and a bloodthirsty dictator who unleashed chemical weapons on his own citizens.

In the 1980s, then-Ambassador to the United Nations Jeanne Kirkpatrick took up the cause of preventing genocide. With the memory of Chairman Mao's killing of 100 million still fresh in her mind, her attention was turned to Africa, where she saw the first stirrings of the genocide on the continent, and then to Cambodia, where Pol Pot murdered over one-third of his nation. She urged President Reagan to sign the convention on genocide, and President Reagan did just that.

President Reagan said:

We gather today to bear witness to the past and learn from its awful example, and to make sure that we're not condemned to relive its crimes. . . . the genocide convention [is a] howl of anguish and an effort to prevent and punish future acts of genocide.

I believe Congress has an important leadership role to play here. We can help ensure that America has the tools to combat genocide and atrocities and combat violent conflict. That is why I joined Senator CARDIN in introducing the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

As does the Senator from North Carolina, I also have a special reason for supporting this legislation that has the potential to fuse diplomacy, intelligence, and foreign aid, and in turn, prioritize government action to prevent future atrocities by working together.

It is important to me because my State, as I said earlier today, is at the tip of the sphere. When diplomacy fails, it is the 82nd Airborne and Special Forces from Fort Bragg or the U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune who are going to go resolve the conflict. We want to avoid those conflicts. We owe it to them to do better by putting partisanship aside and by taking up proactive steps to avoid sending our servicemembers into harm's way to confront a conflict that may be able to be prevented without firing a single shot.

Silence is the greatest enemy of freedom. Silence led to the devastation of Jews in Europe. But from the ashes of the Holocaust came the State of Israel and the vow ''never again.'' The first President Bush reminded us: ''The words 'never again' do not refer to the past; they refer to the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon with great regret, having to raise the issue of the pending nomination of the Secretary of the Army. Mr. Eric Fanning has been nominated to be the Secretary of the Army. We have held hearings in the Armed Services Committee, and his name has been on the calendar for confirmation. My friend from Kansas, who is on the floor with me—and he is my dear friend of many years, despite the branch in which he chose to serve in the military—has been objecting to the confirmation of Mr. Eric Fanning as the Secretary of the Army, which is his right.

Mr. Fanning had a distinguished career. He served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and White House Liaison. He served as Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy and Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Navy. The Senate confirmed him, and he served as Under Secretary of the Air Force, including 6 months as Acting Secretary of the Air Force. He served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ash Carter. Later, he served as Acting Under Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Army. In 2016, he served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

He comes from a military family. He has two uncles who graduated from West Point and were career Army officers. He has another uncle who is a career Air Force officer. He has a cousin who flew helicopters in the Marine Corps and another cousin who was an Army Ranger.

He has senior executive leadership experience in all three military departments and has pursued efficiencies and transformation in every part of the Department of Defense. His most recent experience as Acting Under Secretary and Secretary of the Army has given him a solid understanding of the challenges currently facing the Army and the need to sustain a ready Army that will, as he said at his confirmation hearing, deter enemies, assure allies, build partner capacity, and be ready to respond when the Nation calls.

One of the obligations—in some respects—that we as Senators have is the role of advice and consent, and that is an important role. As Senators, we also understand that elections have consequences, and therefore—although it is not written down anywhere—when a President is selected by the American people, then that President should be given the benefit of the doubt as to the person or persons the President wants on his or her team. I believe it is then our job to make the decision on whether to confirm or deny confirmation based on our view of the qualifications but with the presumption that we would confirm someone rather than the presumption that we wouldn't confirm someone. When the American people choose their leader—the President of the United States—then it seems to me it is our obligation, unless there is a reason not to do so, to ensure that the President has a team around him he has selected.

I am stating the obvious, and Mr. Fanning is clearly qualified. He has performed well in the hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. My friend from Kansas has objected to Mr. Fanning being confirmed by the Senate, and I will let him describe his reasons for objecting to the nomination, but as I understand it, the Senator from Kansas does not want the detainees from Guantanamo transferred to the State of Kansas.

I have assured my dear friend from Kansas that the Armed Services Committee will not approve the transfer of detainees to the United States of America unless there is a plan that will assure the American people the circumstances surrounding that transfer, if it should ever take place, will be appropriate. The administration, after 7½ years that I have been dealing with them, has no plan. I can assure the Senator from Kansas that the Defense authorization bill, which I assume will be made into law, will again prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to the United States of America until there is a plan that is approved by the Congress of the United States. That is our obligation and our role. Now, add to that that Mr. Fanning has no role to play. He has no role to play in this decisionmaking as to whether we transfer detainees from Guantanamo to the United States of America.

When we consider nominations, we should be considering the role, mission, and responsibilities of that nominee, and, frankly, I say to my dear friend from Kansas, he has no role to play in the whole scenario I described.

I urge my friend, in the strongest possible way I can, to work together with me, as we have over the last 7½ years on this issue of Guantanamo, and give the benefit of the Senator's expertise as we bring the Defense authorization bill to the floor during the last week in May, which is when it is scheduled, and talk about Guantanamo. I am totally confident and can assure the Senator from Kansas that the overwhelming majority of the Armed Services Committee and I am sure a majority in the Senate—I am totally confident that the Defense authorization bill will have a prohibition on the transfer of detainees to the United States of America unless there is a plan that is approved by the Congress of the United States.

Finally, I understand that the Senator from Kansas is very concerned about this issue and has been for a long time. No one understands better than he. He was a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps and is aware of the obligations to preserve the safety and security of this Nation.

All I can say is that the U.S. Army needs this man, Mr. Eric Fanning's leadership. It is not fair to the men and women of the U.S. Army to be without the leadership of a Secretary of the Army. Mr. Fanning is eminently qualified to assume the role of Secretary of the Army.

I urge my friend and colleague to not object to the unanimous consent request I am about to propound.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 477, the nomination of Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Army; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I want to make certain that my colleagues understand my position on this matter. My hold on Eric Fanning's nomination is not in relation to his capabilities, expertise, or character, and it is certainly not intended to bring undue stress to our U.S. Army. Rather, my hold on the nominee is to protect the security of

the United States and especially the people of Kansas.

I will be more than happy to vote for Mr. Fanning once the White House addresses my concerns regarding the President's efforts to move Guantanamo Bay terrorist detainees to the mainland, with Fort Leavenworth, KS, the intellectual center of the Army, very high on the list.

I have been clear, honest, and flexible with the White House. I am simply asking that they communicate to me what all those who have reviewed Fort Leavenworth already know; that Fort Leavenworth is not a suitable replacement for the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay. The White House has not reciprocated.

I have prepared lengthier remarks on my position in this matter. At this time, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Arizona, our distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee and my friend, has made a very impassioned plea for me to remove my hold on Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the U.S. Army. I want to be very clear that as a veteran and marine, I support the nominee for this post.

Kansas is the proud home to two Army posts, Fort Leavenworth, the intellectual center of the Army where the commandant staff school is located, and Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One—two proud posts with very rich histories.

I want the Army to have a highly qualified Secretary just as much as the distinguished Senator from Arizona, but it is due to my deep respect and concern for the men and women in uniform at Fort Leavenworth, and those who live and work in the region, that I am compelled to issue my hold on the President's nominee in the first place.

As I have publicly stated from the beginning, and personally to Mr. Fanning, former Army Secretary John McHugh, and Defense Secretary Ash Carter, my quarrel is not with the nominee but with the President.

President Obama continues to insist that he will close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility before he leaves office, transferring the remaining detainees to the U.S. mainland, with Fort Leavenworth under serious consideration. Quite frankly, this is a legacy item for the President. After much study and review, I can name countless reasons why this plan is wrong and it is also illegal. The President's own Cabinet has acknowledged this, and the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General have publicly stated that current law prohibits the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the mainland. Yet the President is undeterred. He continues to insist it will be done, even if he has to resort to Executive power in defiance of the law and the will of the Congress. As a result, I have been left with very little choice other than to do what I can as an individual Senator to block the transfer of detainees to Fort Leavenworth.

I understand and share the concerns of the distinguished Senator, but if there is any anger, concerns, or frustrations, it should be directed at a White House that intends to ignore laws written and introduced by the Senator from Arizona himself. We should be speaking today, not about my attempts to protect the people of my State and Fort Leavenworth, we should be speaking about a White House that ignores the National Defense Authorization Act and every appropriations bill passed in this Chamber since 2009. We should be angry at a White House that wants to bring this terrorist threat to our shores without so much as an intelligence assessment as to the risk and benefits of such an action to our citizens at home or to our men and women in uniform. An intelligence assessment regarding these concerns does not exist.

The administration is responsible for refusing to come forward with a real plan to relocate prisoners, instead of a weak and veiled attempt to honor a campaign promise, which is the only way to characterize the actions to date.

Just days ago, I received the most classified report from the Department of Defense on moving the detainees from Gitmo. This report—far from clearing up any reports—made it even more apparent to me that it is virtually impossible to safely relocate terrorists at Fort Leavenworth.

The assessment is there. All I am asking is for the White House to assure me that Fort Leavenworth is not a viable alternative. Cities and towns across America are holding their collective breath while we await the White House's judgment as to where to house these detainees.

For those of us in the crosshairs, we are left with very few options to fight a President who is willing to break the law. With this hold, I have used one of the tools—perhaps the only tool other than a filibuster—afforded to me as a U.S. Senator, and I will continue to do everything in my power to fulfill the obligations of the security of the United States. It is what Kansans expect and have demanded of me.

If the White House calls and assures me that terrorists held at Guantanamo will not come to the Fort Leavenworth, I will gradually release this hold immediately. As a matter of fact, we just had a conversation with the White House this morning in the hopes that this could be worked out, but the White House simply would not give me that assurance.

Make no mistake, I remain adamantly opposed to placing detainees anywhere on the mainland. The distinguished Senator from Arizona knows that, and I think he shares those views. However, if the plans and studies from the administration rule out Fort Leavenworth as an option, all they have to do is tell me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request by the Senator from Arizona?

Mr. ROBERTS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Mr. Fanning has nothing to do with the issue. We are shooting a hostage that has nothing to do with the decisionmaking process. If we inaugurate a practice here of holding nominees over an issue that is not related to those nominees, we are abusing our power and authority as U.S. Senators.

Secondly, the Senator from Kansas knows he cannot have the President call him. If he did that, he would then have to call 99 other Senators who would then hold up nominees because they have not been assured that detainees will not be relocated to their States according to any plan that the President may come up with.

What we are doing is telling a nominee who is totally and eminently qualified for the job that that person cannot fulfill those responsibilities and take on that very important leadership post because of an unrelated issue that has nothing to do with Mr. Fanning. That is not the appropriate use of senatorial privilege. What if we set this precedent and every Senator—100 Senators—adopts the practice of saying: I don't want the President to pursue a certain course of action, therefore I will hold his or her nominees hostage until they take a certain course of action. That is not the role of advice and consent. That is a distortion of advice and consent.

Let me say, I will be coming back to the floor on Mr. Fanning's nomination. It is not fair to him. He is an American citizen. He has served for years in the service of his country, at least since 2009 that I can see. He shouldn't be held hostage to a policy decision that—the full Senate will act to prevent that action.

I tell my colleague that the full Senate, as we have the last several years, will prohibit the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay until the President of the United States comes forward with a plan that is approved by the Senate. So if a plan came forward that contained movement of the detainees to Fort Leavenworth, as the Senator from Kansas is worried about, then the Senate would say no. We would say no.

So, unfortunately, we have seen the Senator from Kansas take a nominee who is fully qualified in every aspect—he passed through the Senate Armed Services Committee by voice vote—and hold him hostage to an action that the nominee has no ability to take, has no ability to determine, nor is it in his area of responsibility as Secretary of

the Army to determine a policy on Guantanamo.

So if we are going to set a precedent here, I say to my friend from Kansas, that if we don't like a certain policy or anticipated action by the President of the United States in some area, we will therefore hold up a nominee for an office which they are not in any way related to—that is not the way the Senate should behave.

Mr. ROBERTS. Will my friend from Arizona yield?

Mr. MCCAIN. Sure. I will be glad to yield to my friend.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, if this is a bad precedent and all that the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee has said it is with regard to my actions, I will remind him that there has been a precedent before this time. The year was 2009, and this issue came up. Obviously, it was a campaign promise by the President. There was a lot of concern, a lot of frustration, a lot of anger. I asked myself at that particular time what on Earth I could do to stop this effort to move detainees to Fort Leavenworth. Again, I would stress that it is the intellectual center of the Army. The commander staff school is there—think Pershing, think Eisenhower, think MacArthur, think Petraeus. Bad fit. Sixteen thousand people at Leavenworth have signed a petition saying no to the detainees.

Back then, in 2009, John McHugh—a wonderful Congressman, a great friend to me, and a great Secretary of the Army—was being nominated. I took the very same action, I would tell the distinguished Senator from Arizona, and put a hold on John.

I called him up. I said: John, I have some bad news and some good news.

He said: Well, give me the bad news.

I said: Somebody here in the Senate has put a hold on you.

He said: Who on Earth would do that?

I said: It is me.

He was a little stunned—I think a lot—and would probably make the same statement and speech the Senator from Arizona has given.

I said: Not to worry. All that has to happen is for the administration to give me assurance—it could be vocal; I don't expect him to write it down—that the detainees will not be moved to Fort Leavenworth.

John went to work to try to carry that message to the administration. I am not saying that Eric Fanning should do that, but John McHugh did. And it wasn't very long after that that the legal counsel from the White House—and I won't get into names here—called me and assured me that would be the case. I immediately lifted the hold.

So there is a precedent in 2009, and it worked.

Again, I really regret—my hold on Eric Fanning's nomination is not in relation to his capabilities, his expertise, his character, and certainly not intended to bring undue stress to the U.S. Army. I understand that. But when we are faced with a situation like this, and the situation could be further explained by a call that I just received prior to the distinguished Senator coming to the floor—the White House knows this—we had a very frank conversation. The conversation pretty well ended up: I can't give you that assurance, but we won't surprise you; i.e., if we have an Executive order and we are moving detainees into Fort Leavenworth, we will certainly tell you.

So I can't release this hold, as I did in 2009. I don't think the statute of limitations is here with regard to the previous assurance I got from the White House. If there is, maybe it is because that is—when the legal counsel left, all of a sudden we were back to where we are.

So the ball is in the court of the White House. All they have to do is give me another call and indicate that things will be fine. I am not telling them what language to use or anything else.

I might add that there are two other Senators who are very concerned about this—Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina and the distinguished Senator from Colorado, CORY GARDNER.

I thank the Senator for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, just quickly, facts are stubborn things, I say to my friend from Kansas. The reason there hasn't been movement of the detainees is because the action of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the authorization bill prohibited such a thing from happening. It has nothing to do with any hold or no hold that the Senator from Kansas has. Let's be very clear about that. And whether Eric Fanning is confirmed or not, it does not change the situation one iota—not one iota.

I have assured the Senator from Kansas that the Senate Armed Services Committee—I know enough about my own committee to know that they will be passing again, as we have for the last several years, a prohibition on the movement of detainees until there is a plan. And in 2009 or whenever it was, I am sure they had no plan at that time because they came to see me and I told them to come up with a plan.

So the Senator's actions have nothing to do with whether or not the President closes Guantanamo and transfers them, and the Senator's action right now has nothing to do with whether or not the President of the United States will decide to close Guantanamo by Executive order and move them to Leavenworth. There is nothing he is doing by withholding this nomination that would in any way inhibit the President from acting. The only thing that will inhibit the President from acting is the aye vote of Senator from Kansas on the Defense authorization bill which will be on the floor at the end of May and which will have a prohibition for the transfer of those detainees.

So I would hope my dear friend from Kansas would understand that what we need to do is get a defense authorization to the floor, get it in conference with the House, and get it to the President's desk. That is the best way he can keep any movement of detainees to Kansas and to Fort Leavenworth. And at the same time, the President of the United States, despite your hold on Mr. Fanning, may act by Executive order. Nothing you are doing by prohibiting Mr. Fanning from being confirmed to a post he is well qualified for—to lead the U.S. Army—will have any effect whatsoever on an Executive order by the President of the United States.

Mr. ROBERTS. Will the Senator yield again for one last comment?

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, every Senator listening to this—every person listening to this—should understand, with the summation the Senator has just given, what an outstanding chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee he has been and what a stalwart he has been for our men and women in uniform. I cannot think of a chairman—and there have been a lot of very great chairmen in the Senate Armed Services Committee, but none so well qualified as the Senator from Arizona. His remarks are right on point with regard to his point of view. His remarks sing, if you will, in behalf of our national defense. He is a great friend. He is a personal friend. I respect him more than he knows, and I appreciate him. I think he mentioned Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Navy. That might be an alternative. But at any rate, I want to thank him for his remarks.

But if this has no bearing on anything, why did the White House call me just before we came down here trying to work it out? And saying that in 2009—OK, they did let me know that Fort Leavenworth was not being considered. As I say again, there is no statute of limitations, I don't think, except just ''Oh well, by the way, we are going to change our mind'' and a couple of little campaign assurances by the President saying ''Well, we can always use an Executive order''—not to mention his Press Secretary. So if there is nothing to bear here—this doesn't have any relationship to the issue at hand—why did the White House call and say ''Well, we will make a decision down the road, but we won't surprise you''?

I shouldn't even be talking about this with regard to the communications this morning. So I just disagree with my good friend. I thank him for his leadership, and I thank him for his position. Were I in his position, I probably would be saying the same thing.

Mr. MCCAIN. May I just say, Mr. President, that I hope my dear friend from Kansas—we are about to go into a week-long recess—would do as he always does, and that is contemplate and

communicate, as he does with the people of Kansas, who have honored him for so much time here in the Congress of the United States. Maybe hopefully we could work this out with the certain knowledge and my assurance that I am 100 percent confident that the Senate Armed Services Committee will report a bill that will become law that prohibits the transfer of the detainees from Guantanamo to anywhere in the United States of America until there is a plan that is approved by Congress, and I want to give him that confidence.

His passion that he has displayed here is ample evidence for why the people of Kansas hold him with such affection and respect. He is fighting for what he believes is in the best interests of the people whom he represents so well and honorably.

I hope he will have the opportunity, as we go into recess next week, to talk with his constituents and think about this and think about my assurance that we will not—we will not—approve of a transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay unless it is in compliance with the law that we will pass.

I thank my colleague.

I know the Senator from Tennessee is waiting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, within a few minutes we will be voting on whether to cut off debate on the Energy and Water appropriations bill and move to finish the bill. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote yes.

This is a bill the Senator from California and I have worked on carefully with Members on both sides of the aisle. More than 80 Senators have made contributions to the bill. We considered 18 amendments on the floor. This is a bill which is about half national defense and about half essential services. These include dredging harbors and building locks and dams. These include our 17 National Laboratories and keeping us first in the world in supercomputing. It is within the Budget Control Act, and it is the part of the budget that is flat. In other words, it is a part of the budget that is reasonably under control, not the part that is not.

It is also the first time since 2009 that this Energy and Water appropriations bill has had the opportunity to go across the floor in the regular order. It is the earliest appropriations bill that has been considered by the Senate since 1974. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID picked this bill because they thought Senator FEINSTEIN and I could work with Members of the Senate to establish a model for how to deal with the remainder of the appropriations process, and we hope that proves to be true.

We have run into one issue, and that is an amendment by the Senator from Arkansas regarding Iran. That is a provocative amendment—I understand that—on both sides of the aisle, and the President cares about it as well. But I have worked hard to get Senators a right to offer germane amendments. Some Senators have chosen to withdraw their amendments in order to keep the bill moving along, but Senator COTTON has a right to offer his amendment on the bill, and I support him in doing that. He has been eminently reasonable. He has offered to modify it. He has offered to do it at another time. He has offered to vote it at 60 votes or to vote it by voice vote. So far, we have not had any agreement.

If we do not succeed, I am going to keep working with Senator FEINSTEIN, the Democratic and Republican leaders, and with Senator COTTON in the hopes that when we come back next Monday, we will have a suitable solution and we will vote still again on finishing the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 more minutes.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Over the last year and 5 months the White House has threatened 87 vetoes. That is about one every week and a half. If we shut down the Senate and stopped our work every time the President threatened a veto, we would be here about 3 or 4 hours every Monday afternoon.

When we say to the President: Your budget is dead on arrival, he sends us his budget anyway.

The way to handle a veto threat is the way we did it with the national defense act, which is to say: All right, Mr. President, if you want to veto it, you may. We sent it to him, and he did. It came back, and the offending provision was taken out. A better way to do it might be that the President says: I will veto the education bill. We worked with him, and we sent him a version that he could sign.

My plea with my friends on the Democratic side, as well as on the Republican side, is let's not let the White House lead us around by the nose and tell us we can't consider a bill just because there is a veto threat. We should consider the bill. We are a coequal branch of government. We should do what we think we ought to do—defeat it or pass it. Then, if the President chooses to veto it, that is his constitutional prerogative, and most of the time, if we know that is going to happen, the offending provision comes out.

I ask for a ''yes'' vote. I hope that it succeeds. If it doesn't, we will be having the same exact vote a week from next Monday when we come back, and I will do my best to help that succeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on amendment No. 3801 is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Roger F. Wicker, Mark Kirk, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3801, offered by the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, as amended, to H.R. 2028, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Ayotte	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heitkamp	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Sullivan
Corker	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Wicker
Donnelly	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heller	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sasse
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lee	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	McCaskill	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Cruz	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, upon reconsideration, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801.

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

The bill 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 Senate amendment No. 3801 to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Tim Scott, Marco Rubio, Michael B. Enzi, Daniel Coats, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Thad Cochran, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, David Vitter, Patrick J. Toomey, Rand Paul.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are a lot of divisions on Capitol Hill, and the press spends a lot of time reporting differences between Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate. I think that is one of the reasons the press conference I just left is noteworthy, because at this press conference, we had equal numbers of Democratic Senators and Republican Senators talking about a bill that we hope to move forward on the floor of the Senate. The bill relates to criminal justice reform.

I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are proud to have the support as well of Senator LEAHY and Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, who was one of the original authors of this bill 3 years ago when we both introduced it. We also have the support of the Republican whip, JOHN CORNYN of Texas; SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; and many others who have joined this effort.

What is it about this bill that could bring people together who are so different—liberals, conservatives, Democrats, Republicans? It is a common belief that we bring to this that at this moment in history, we need to take an honest look at the incarceration policy in America.

The United States of America has 5 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Over the last 35 years, we have increased the number of Federal prisoners by anywhere from 800 percent to 900 percent. We are building Federal prisons as fast as you can imagine, and they are dramatically overcrowded.

It raises the obvious question: Are we safer? If we spend $30,000 a year to incarcerate a person, take them off the streets and away from their family, are we safer because of it? In some cases, we clearly are. Our first obligation is public safety. If someone is a threatening, deadly, violent criminal, they ought to be taken off the streets as long as they are a menace or a danger to society. But the largest increase in the Federal prison population during the period I just described is for nonviolent offenders, people who have sold drugs in America.

The problem is made worse because we decided 25 or 30 years ago to create mandatory minimum sentences. What it meant was that when the judge sentenced someone, there was an absolute floor they couldn't go below regardless of the circumstances. Needless to say, that resulted in the miscarriage of justice in many cases.

Sadly, it isn't just a matter of longer sentences. We have seen some disparities and injustice that we have to be very honest about, as painful as it is to describe them. For instance, the majority of illegal drug users and drug dealers in America are White. Three-quarters of all the people incarcerated for drug offenses are African American and Latino, and the large majority of those who are being sentenced under mandatory minimum sentences are African American and Latino.

Let's be very honest about this. In my State of Illinois, I have to be because in the city of Chicago and other communities, we are going through a very candid and painful discussion about the issues of race and justice. We have to be honest. We are incarcerating minorities in this country at dramatically higher percentages than we should. The reason I say that goes back to the original point: The majority of illegal drug users and sellers in America are White; three-quarters of those in prison are not.

As a result of mandatory minimums, the families of nonviolent offenders are separated for years on end, and a disproportionate number of them are people of color. This is destroying communities, damaging and destroying families, and, sadly, eroding faith in our criminal justice system.

In 2010 I worked with Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama. He is a very conservative Republican but one of my colleagues and friends on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We passed the Fair Sentencing Act. You see, we had a disparity in sentencing so that those who were found guilty of selling and using crack cocaine were sentenced at 100 times the standard of powder cocaine. There was a reason for it, but it turned out not to be valid. Yet for years this was the standard. We were filling our prisons primarily with African Americans on crack offenses, and if they were repeat offenders—three times and you are out, three strikes and you are out—they could be sentenced for long periods of time.

Senator SESSIONS and I decided to change it. We reduced the disparity between crack and powder, and we have seen a dramatic downturn not only in those serving times for crack cocaine offenses and selling them but also the arrests that are being made today.

This bill we just announced in a press conference—the latest version and I think a good version—is another step forward. It will give judges more discretion in sentencing below the mandatory minimum on an individual case-by-case basis.

A young man whom I have come to know is Alton Mills. Alton is from Chicago, IL. In the year 1994 at the age of 24, Alton Mills was given a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for a low-level, nonviolent drug offense. This man had never served 1 day in prison in his life, and at age 24 he received a life acceptance. I appealed to President Obama to use his Executive authority to give Alton Mills another chance. Just before Christmas last year, the President commuted his sentence, and Alton Mills was released after 22 years in Federal prison.

He was there today in a meeting we had with his mom. She never gave up on him. She was the one who appealed to me initially to take a look at her son's case. His attorney, a dynamic African-American woman named MiAngel Cody, really closed the deal as she described this case in detail and how unfortunate it was that a 24-year-old man would receive a life sentence for low-level, nonviolent drug offenses.

He is not alone. There are hundreds more just like him serving mandatory life sentences for third-strike sentences. The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, which Senator GRASSLEY and I have introduced, would eliminate this mandatory life sentence. This change alone would change the sentencing for many who are currently serving in Federal prisons.

The bill was reported out of the Judiciary Committee in its original form by a vote of 15 to 5—a good, strong vote. We have picked up an additional number of Republican sponsors since we have made some other changes in the bill. I thank Senator LEE for joining me in initially introducing this bill.

There are so many people who are counting on this legislation, not just those families who have someone serving time in prison but many people across the board—Black, White, and

Brown—who want to see us restore faith in the system of criminal justice.

We had an amazing endorsement of our bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter of endorsement.

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

NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, Virginia, April 26, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER REID: On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the largest prosecutor organization representing 2500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States as well as 30,000 assistant district attorneys, I write in support of S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015. As a result of months of changes and good faith negotiations, our organization feels the latest version of the bill strikes the appropriate balance between targeting the highest level drug traffickers plaguing our communities, while simultaneously decreasing crime rates and addressing the burgeoning prison population.

America's federal, state, local and tribal prosecutors have as their primary responsibility the administration of justice. Everyday, prosecutors have to make tough judgment calls. Sometimes, that judgment call involves locking up individuals for a long period of time for a heinous crime that damaged a community. More often, we work hard to provide second chances and concerted efforts are made to rehabilitate an individual with the goal of reducing the chance that he or she will reoffend back into the system.

As we have seen from the cost curve published by the National Academy of Sciences, the current prison population is simply unsustainable and continues to have a greater and greater impact on broader funding and programming at the Department of Justice. Budget aside, communities across this country have shifted to embrace rehabilitation and the opinion that certain individuals in our federal prison system are serving sentences that are too long compared to the crime they committed. This legislation aims to strike the appropriate balance of time served and the relevant crime by modifying the three strikes rule for drug felonies, with a third strike now carrying a 25-year penalty as opposed to life, and second strike carrying a 15-year sentence instead of 20 years. Appropriately so, the bill expands the three strikes rule to apply to serious violent felonies, ensuring that we use prison for those we are afraid of, not those whom we are mad at based on their behavior.

One previous concern our members highlighted was the retroactive nature of many provisions in the original bill. The new version takes into account that concern by limiting the retroactivity where applicable if an individual's record contains any serious violent felony. We feel this filters out the truly dangerous individuals who should stay out of the community, while allowing lower level offenders a chance for redemption.

Our members also realize that as we see the same offenders reenter the criminal justice system time and time again, we must be creative and come up with innovative programs to reduce recidivism, including job training skills, addiction counseling and other productive activities. According to a report primarily authored by the National Center for State Courts, ''properly designed and operated recidivism-reduction programs can significantly reduce offender recidivism. Such programs are more effective, and more cost-effective, than incarceration in reducing crime rates.''

As part of the broader legislation, the Corrections Act requires the development of a risk assessment tool that will categorize inmates based on their risk of recidivism and subsequently determine which types of programming are most tailored to that individual's needs and risks. This is an important step in targeting at risk populations and providing the necessary resources to rehabilitate those individuals with the eventual goal of returning to our communities as productive citizens. At the same time, appropriate parameters are set for who is eligible to earn good time credit for completion of the recidivism reduction programming in order to keep the most dangerous and high-risk individuals from being eligible for early release to community supervision and off the streets.

We are especially appreciative of the provision in the legislation requiring an annual report by the Attorney General outlining how savings accrued from modifications to federal sentencing will be reinvested into efforts by federal, state and local prosecutors and law enforcement to go after drug traffickers and gangs, as well as provide the necessary training and tools needed to carry out investigations, keep officers safe, and ensure successful programming and initiatives are duplicated across communities in the form of best practices. Unfortunately, as the Bureau of Prison's (BOP) budget has continued to rise, funding for state and local law enforcement grants has been slashed to the bone negatively impacting innovative work in the field including diversion programs, updating of information sharing systems, and hot spot policing. This language is an acknowledgement that vital funding streams to prosecutors and law enforcement must be restored to protect the communities we serve.

The members of NDAA are acutely aware that our federal partners need to have the ability to allocate resources to state prosecutors to help combat human trafficking, domestic violence, the scourge of prescription drug addiction, and so many other ills that plague our communities. Absent meaningful sentencing reform, where the truly dangerous are locked up for an appropriate period of time and those with addiction or mental health issues have the chance for treatment and rehabilitation, those needed resources will not exist.

We applaud the bipartisan leadership of the Senators and staff who have spent considerable time working on this compromise legislation. Their tireless efforts have included open and transparent communication with our organization and members, which has not gone unnoticed. We look forward to working with both of you and other Senators and staff in the weeks ahead to move this bipartisan legislation forward.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK,
President, National District Attorneys Association.

Mr. DURBIN. The National District Attorneys Association, which is the largest group of criminal prosecutors in America, has endorsed our criminal justice reform bill. We have brought together an incredible coalition. I am proud to have not only the civil rights community, but we also have others from the conservative side, such as Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General. Everyone knows him to be a tough prosecutor. He endorses our bill. Others have come forward. They understand that it is time to step back and take an honest look at where we are today.

This criminal justice reform bill will bring some sanity to our corrections system, and it will save us money. Roughly one-fourth of the Department of Justice appropriations now goes into prisons. By the year 2030, it will be 30 percent. As Senator LEE said, we are spending more money on prisons than we are spending in the Department of Justice on the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration combined.

What if we could reduce that prison population in a responsible, sensible way that doesn't endanger public safety but gives us resources that could be used by the Department of Justice for law enforcement, for dealing with the heroin epidemic across America and making our neighborhoods truly safe? What if we could take part of that and invest it in the lives of young people before they turn to gangs, before they turn to drugs, and before they turn to guns? That could literally change the face of a great city such as Chicago and the great Nation we live in.

This is a historic bill—not just because Democrats and Republicans have come to support it; it is historic because we are tackling one of the toughest issues of our time. We are doing it in a thoughtful, careful, bipartisan, and respectful manner. I happen to believe that is what the Senate should be all about.

I look forward to encouraging my colleagues who have not signed on as cosponsors to do so as quickly as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today as the cochair of the Rare Disease Congressional Caucus in recognition of patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the loved ones who care for them.

Duchenne is a devastating, rare disease that primarily affects boys and young men. There is no cure. It is 100 percent fatal. There are no approved disease-modifying treatments at this time, but we want to give them hope. In 1999, there were no human clinical trials for Duchenne. Today, there are 22 observational trials currently underway. Life expectancy rates have increased by about 10 years in just the past decade. The FDA has more tools in its toolbox than ever to accelerate

approvals of safe and effective Duchenne therapies, but we would like more therapies to be approved in the future.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately 1 in every 3,500 male children. The disease results in the gradual loss of muscle strength, usually beginning before age 5. The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues related to the hearts and lungs. By age 14, over 80 percent of these boys are using wheelchairs.

My work on Duchenne muscular dystrophy began when I was elected to the Senate. It was an issue my dear friend and former Minnesota Senator, Paul Wellstone, championed. Paul was instrumental in getting the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance Research and Education Act—or as it is known, the MD-CARE Act—signed into law back in 2001.

The bill dramatically increased investment at the National Institutes of Health for muscular dystrophy research and included funding for the creation of six centers of excellence. In recognition of his work, all of the centers share Senator Paul Wellstone's name. The bill also supported public health policies designed to improve quality of life and boost life expectancy of children and adults diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

Since passage of the MD-CARE Act, $500 million has been leveraged for muscular dystrophy research and education programs, half of which is Duchenne-specific. I then led the reauthorization of the MD-CARE Act in 2008, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent. In 2014, Senator ROGER WICKER and I led the MD-CARE Amendments of 2014, which built upon the progress by ensuring that efforts are focused on the most critical needs of doctors, patients, and researchers. These are important accomplishments, but more needs to be done.

The Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 gave the FDA increased flexibility to grant accelerated approval for rare disease treatments that have proven to be beneficial. The bill also directed the FDA to use patient-focused drug development tools during the drug approval process. The idea is simple: Patient experience should be a factor when the FDA considers a drug for approval. This gives the FDA the opportunity to hear directly from patients, their families, and caregivers about the symptoms that matter most to them, the impact the disease has on patients' daily lives, and their experiences with treatments.

To build upon that progress, Senator WICKER and I introduced the Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act. The bill would help advocates understand how the FDA uses patient-focused drug development tools and how it engages patients, including those with rare diseases, such as Duchenne, as it reviews drugs and therapies. Last month this bipartisan bill unanimously passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, bringing us one step closer to ensuring strong patient engagement throughout the FDA review process.

At an FDA meeting on Monday, there was one example of patient involvement in the drug approval process. It was a meeting that broke records. According to advocates, it was the largest gathering of Duchenne families in history. More than 900 members of their community were there. In fact, turnout was so large the FDA changed the meeting location to accommodate everyone.

Many stories were shared during the daylong meeting—stories of hope, stories of progress. Even seemingly small improvements—such as the ability to open a bottle of water on their own or lift their arm a little higher—make a huge difference in the quality of these boys' lives. These small victories have a ripple effect across a lifetime.

Monday's historic event shows the strength of the Duchenne community, the passion of the families, and the hope that treatments are on the horizon. This particular treatment was not approved that day, but we continue to hold hope that change will be on the horizon.

The fight against muscular dystrophy will not be won overnight, but we have already seen incredible progress in the last few years. I am confident that by working together—by bringing families to the table with policymakers and health care experts—we can accomplish some truly remarkable things.

One of the reasons Senator WICKER and I fought so hard to have the FDA officials listen directly to the families is that when you know your child has a disease that is 100 percent fatal, you might take different risks. You might see different improvements in a different way than a medical professional who does not have this experience. We hope going forward this kind of experience and testimony and information will make for better decisions by the FDA.

We need to continue to ensure the FDA has the tools and flexibility it needs to increase the number of safe, effective, and affordable treatments that are available for people with rare diseases. I also thank Senator HATCH, who has done a lot of work with me on the rare disease issue, and we will continue to push for cures for people who have so little hope.

I thank the Chair, and 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. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ISAKSON. 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.

VETERANS FIRST ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this morning at 11 a.m., a big event happened in Washington, DC, on the third floor of this building when all members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Republican and Democrat alike, introduced what we call the Veterans First Act—a comprehensive overhaul of the Veterans' Administration to bring about accountability in services to our veterans by the Veterans' Administration. Every member of the committee, Republican and Democrat alike, came to that press conference.

I want to start by thanking Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, who is my ranking member on the committee, for his efforts and his work over the last 10 months to help make this a reality, and each and every member of the committee for the work they did. In the end, we adopted 148 provisions of the Senate to amend, reconstruct, and hold accountable the Veterans' Administration.

I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but every morning when I wake up in Washington, DC, and turn on the TV, whether it is CNN, FOX, or a local station, one of the lead stories is about a tragedy in the Veterans' Administration. This morning, in preparing for this press conference I didn't turn on the TV until after I read my notes. After I read my notes, I turned on the TV, and what, to my dismay, did I see? In Chicago, IL, at the Veterans' Administration hospital, they found cockroaches in the food of our veterans. What kind of accountability is that in the Veterans' Administration? For our veterans to be fed food with vermin in it is ridiculous and crazy.

We all know what happened in Arizona a few years ago when appointments were manipulated, so veterans missed their appointments, and three veterans died. We know what happened in Atlanta, where we had an outbreak of suicide by people who couldn't get to mental health services in time. We know what happened when cost overruns went awry in Denver, CO. When the costs of the hospital got out of line, the Veterans' Administration didn't know how to control it.

Every time we turn around, there is no accountability in the Veterans' Administration, so our committee decided it is our job to see to it that our veterans get what they deserve and what they fought for for us; that is, a Veterans' Administration that delivers on

the promise of good health care, good benefits, and the appreciation of a grateful country for the sacrifice each of them made.

To begin with, we want to make sure the Secretary of the VA can fire somebody and make it stick. A few months ago, the Merit Systems Protection Board overruled the firing of two Philadelphia employees of the Veterans' Administration and reinstated them with pay with no reason except they didn't like the way in which they were fired.

If we go around the country, we find out that the Veterans' Administration's best way to discipline somebody is to move them from one city to another, from one hospital to another, or from one location to another. Moving problems around doesn't solve problems. They just give the problem to somebody else. It is time that if somebody deserves to be fired for their lack of performance or their poor performance, we put our veterans first and make sure they are getting the attention they should get. If somebody is not willing to do their job or cannot do their job, then they are terminated.

We don't want to go through and take the rank-and-file, good employees of the Veterans' Administration and tell them ''We don't like you, we don't appreciate you, and we don't trust you,'' but we want to tell those who don't want to be held accountable, those who are not doing their job, that we are watching.

We are going to encourage whistleblowers to tell us where the problems are. We created an independent office in this act for whistleblower status within the VA, so the VA itself is soliciting input within its own organization to point out those who may not be doing a good job. We need the VA to have a culture of support for our veterans, not a corruption of our veterans. It is critical that we do that.

We took a lot of other issues that have been big problems in the United States of America for our veterans and we addressed them.

Opioids. We have a major section on opioids to try to get medicines to our veterans that counteract the addiction of opioids and don't treat pain with opioids but instead treat it with the appropriate type of medicine.

We did a great job in terms of caregivers. I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but I am a Vietnam-era guy. I remember Vietnam. I remember the sacrifice of our troops there and the 58,000 men whom we lost in Vietnam. A lot of our Vietnam veterans came home with multiple disabilities. In fact, 22,000 of them are living with disabilities today, but they have never been covered by caregivers. Our post-9/11 veterans have been covered by caregivers but not our Vietnam-era or Grenada veterans or our Panama veterans. This bill makes them eligible as well, so a family member—a loved one who is giving care at home to a veteran who fought and was injured for our country—can get the same type of stipend and benefit that someone who has fought in Iraq or Afghanistan gets. It is only fair to see to it that they get the same benefit and the same treatment.

It is also only fair to see to it that Secretary McDonald himself can be held accountable. Bob McDonald is a good Secretary. He has done a good job. He has tried his best, but he hasn't had the tools he needs. Well, we want to give him those tools. We want to give him the chance to have discipline. We want to give him the chance to find the people he needs to put in place. One of the provisions in this bill allows the Secretary to hire physicians, directors, and hospital administrators who are capable of doing the job and pay them what the market will bear. Why not have good people who can do the job rather than temporary people who don't want to do the job? Right now in the Veterans' Administration, fully a third of its leadership is temporary, not permanent. We need a permanent commitment to our veterans that they are going to get the services they deserve and the services they need.

I could go on and on about this legislation, but the important thing to understand is that we are finally putting our veterans first. We are telling the Veterans' Administration: We appreciate the good job you do, but we want to make sure it is 100 percent of the time, not just 85 or 90 or 95 percent of the time.

We want to make sure they are putting our veterans first. We want to make sure that somebody who makes a mental health call to a veterans hospital doesn't get a busy signal or a wrong number. We want to make sure that when somebody makes an appointment and then shows up, there is somebody there to meet them for that appointment. We want to make sure that the services veterans earned, fought for, and in many cases sacrificed for, are available to them.

I thank the members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank this Senate in advance for what I am sure it will do later this year: put our veterans first.

When we return from our break next week, I am going to do everything I can to get this bill before the Senate before Memorial Day, to see to it that we get it to the House of Representatives so we can conference. The House has passed their bill. They have passed a good bill, and we have passed a good bill. We need to find common ground to put those two together because one thing is for sure: What has happened in the VA for the last few years is inexcusable and indefensible, and I, for one, am not going to be a chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who did not try to make it right. I am going to use every strength that I have, every power that I have, and every ability that I have to bring people together to say: We owe our veterans everything.

The Presiding Officer wouldn't have his job, I wouldn't have mine, and our families wouldn't live in peace and security today in this country had millions of Americans not volunteered to fight and risk their lives so that we could be free, so that I could speak freely on the floor of the Senate about what I believe and the Presiding Officer could speak freely about what he believes and we could go home and assemble and gather together. All of those are guaranteed by our Constitution—a document which is preserved and memorialized not by the paper it is written on but by the veterans who sacrificed and risked their lives to see to it that it was preserved.

I am very proud to be chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am proud to have served with RICHARD BLUMENTHAL as ranking member and all the members of the committee whose contributions to this legislation have made it a great piece of legislation—one that we should pass. I hope we do so before Memorial Day, so on the day we honor those who have fought for us and sacrificed, we send them the signal: We have got your back and we are putting you first. We are putting America's veterans first.

I want to pause for a second at the end of my remarks and thank some people for all the efforts they have made over the past 10 months to make this a reality. As the Presiding Officer knows, legislation doesn't just happen. We Senators make a lot of speeches. We are full of a lot of hot air. But the hard work that goes on is done in the back rooms of the Capitol, in the committees, by the people who do the research to find the pay-fors, to make the decisions that have to be made to see to it that a piece of legislation works and is not just a hollow promise.

I thank Tom Bowman, my chief of staff on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, for the work he has done. I thank Amanda Meredith, Maureen O'Neill, Adam Reece, David Shearman, Gretchen Blum, Jillian Workman, Leslie Campbell, Lauren Gaydos, Tucker Zrebiec, Tommy Reynolds, and Chris Bennett. I thank the members of my staff: Jay Sulzmann, my chief of staff Joan Kirchner, Ryan Evans, and Amanda Maddox. I also thank everybody on RICHARD BLUMENTHAL's staff for all the contributions they made to make this happen.

Today we opened up a new day for the Veterans' Administration in America and a new day for America's veterans. We put America's veterans first today, and we are going to keep them first. They put us first when they sacrificed for us; it is time we did the same for them.

I urge each Member of the Senate during this break to get the information we send to your offices about the Veterans First Act, read and study it, and then come back and let's pass a bill that tells our veterans: We love you. We appreciate you. And never again will you have an appointment broken or not receive the services you need from the Veterans' Administration of the United States of America.

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

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, today's announcement by the Bureau of Economic Analysis that our economy grew, once again, an anemic rate of 0.5 percent during the first quarter of the year is more than discouraging but not surprising. Whether it is burdensome regulations, whether it is a broken Tax Code, or whether it is a continued plunge into national debt, the Obama administration's policies have been and will continue to be a deadweight on our economy.

The President continues to make big promises and insists his policies are effective, but the facts speak for themselves. Under President Obama, the median household income has decreased during his presidency and remains 6.5 percent below its prerecession level. If this were an average post-1960s recovery, individuals would have nearly $2,700 more in their wallets. Instead, they have received a decrease of $3,000 per year in their income. This is unacceptable.

While the President continues to say the economy is improving, it is clearly not reaching its potential or anywhere close to its potential. At some point, you have to acknowledge the policies aren't working. Here we are 8 years from the beginning of the recession, and the president in the White House insists that his policies are working: Hang in there with us, folks. Things are going to get better.

Then these statistics come out that things are not only not getting better, but are getting worse. We are not only not moving closer to the average level of recovery after a major recession, but we are moving further and further away from it.

Our current annual growth rate in this recovery is less than 2 percent. In 2016, with this quarter's report, we are off to a very weak start. But if this were an average recovery, we would be seeing an annual growth rate of somewhere around 3½ to 4 percent.

I served previously in Congress in the Reagan years, and the growth rate during the Reagan recovery was 4.5 percent, which is well more than double what it is today. I have seen firsthand how pro-growth policies turn a dismal economic situation around, but I haven't seen it here in Washington under President Obama. Where I have seen it is in my home State of Indiana.

In 2005, under the policies of a Democratic administration, which clearly weren't working, Indiana faced a $200 million deficit, and our State had not balanced its budget for 7 years, even though the State constitution requires that we do that.

Under the leadership of former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and current Governor Mike Pence, Indiana has reduced spending, cut taxes, and paid off its debt. As a result, instead of a $200 million deficit, we have a $2 billion surplus today. We enjoy a triple-A credit rating from all the credit rating agencies, and we have been listed in index after index as the State to go live thanks to our low taxes and because we are business friendly, family friendly, and tax friendly.

The contrast between this body and the State that I represent is dramatic because of the differences in our policies. By the numbers and indexes, it is clear that this Federal economy under the policies of this administration is simply not making any progress. I think we see that playing out in the upcoming election for the next President. It has become a major campaign issue, and we hear both parties talking about it.

Over the past 2 years, in Indiana, private employment has grown by nearly 130,000 jobs, reflecting the results and success of Indiana's pro-growth policy. Employers are taking notice of our healthy business climate and coming into the State to establish new businesses. I think the resurgence of growth is proof that sound economic policy works.

I have seen how it works in Indiana, and I am simply not willing to accept the stagnant rate of growth here without trying to do something about it. I don't think anything is going to change since there is no indication from the White House or even from our colleagues across the aisle here that they are willing to at least debate this issue and put the policies that bring about economic growth into place.

In order to boost economic growth, we need to reverse the failed policies of this administration by overhauling our Tax Code, strip away unnecessary government regulations, give employers the certainty they need in order to grow their businesses and create jobs, follow the lead of States like Indiana, Ohio, and others that have turned their economies around and bring the prosperity to the people of those States.

Congress can take action to encourage our economy to grow, but we need a partner in the White House willing to cut the redtape, willing to enact pro-growth reforms and put in place a real plan to reduce the debt.

I hope I don't have to come down here to discuss another quarter of anemic rate of growth. The American people simply pay the bills, pay the mortgage, send the kids to college, and put aside money for the future. That is not happening, and it needs to change. Hopefully, we can take a lesson from what we have learned on these quarterly reports—that the policies in place are simply not doing the job.

With that, 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. SULLIVAN. 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. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am glad to see that my good friend from Indiana was on the floor talking about an important issue that the administration certainly won't talk about. To be honest, not many Members of this body talk about it nearly enough. As my colleague from Indiana mentioned this morning, the U.S. Commerce Department came out with some big news. They said that the U.S. economy grew at 0.5 percent GDP growth the first quarter of 2016. That is one-half of 1 percent. That is a horrible number.

I am going to make a prediction. I don't think anybody in the media, if they are still up there, is going to talk about this issue. Nobody talks about this issue. In the old days, it didn't matter if there was a Republican or a Democratic administration. If the U.S. economy was growing at 0.5 percent GDP—which essentially means it is not growing but has instead stopped—then almost certainly the Secretary of the Treasury would come out and say: Don't worry, America. We have this; we have a plan.

We know that 0.5 percent GDP growth is horrible for everybody, especially working-class families. At the very least the Secretary of Commerce would have come out and said: We know you are hurting, America, but don't worry. We have a plan. In previous administrations, that is what would have happened, and it wouldn't matter if the President was a Democrat or a Republican.

But I don't think we heard a peep out of this administration this morning. We have not heard from the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Commerce Secretary. Nobody came out and spoke, and don't count on it. I don't think they will be talking about this number. They even seem to be satisfied with this number—0.5 percent GDP growth. They certainly don't want the American people talking about it because this is not a good number.

This is a really important issue for our country. This is an important issue for every single American, and yet we have an administration that doesn't want to talk about this issue because it is a big problem for them. It is a big problem for all of us. We can't grow the U.S. economy.

Some of my colleagues have come down to the Senate floor often to talk about what they view as moral imperatives. I respect everybody in this body, but there is a lot of talk about moral imperatives and nobody talks about this issue as a moral imperative. In my

view, growing the economy and providing opportunities for Americans has to be the No. 1 moral imperative of this body and of the Federal Government. We should be talking about it, but we are not, and one of the reasons we are not talking about it is because there is no doubt that the Federal Government—the Obama administration—is failing the American people in this regard by any serious measure. This is not a debatable topic.

The Obama administration's record on economic growth has been one of the worst in U.S. history. Let's take a look at this chart. Is it any wonder why the President or Secretary of the Treasury didn't come out and talk about these numbers this morning? The numbers are abysmal, and they are their numbers. Remarkably, when the President does talk about the economy, he has taken to bragging about the U.S. economy because we are doing better than Europe. Look at the press. When the President talks about the economy, he talks about how we are doing better than Europe. After today's news, he won't even be able to brag about that because 0.5 percent GDP growth is not better than Europe. If the President is actually comparing his record to another country, he needs to remember that the only country that matters is America. That is the only measure he should be looking at—not Europe, not Japan, and not Brazil. He should be looking at our country.

How has he done historically relative to every other President—Democrat or Republican? If we take a look at this chart, we can see the answer. These are facts. We are not debating anything. These are just the numbers. Real GDP growth, as I mentioned, is 0.5 percent growth this quarter. But if you look at some history here, from 1790 to 2014, the average real GDP growth for the United States has averaged about 3.7 percent. That includes Democrats and Republicans over 200-plus years. That is what made us great. Historically, we have had almost 4 percent GDP growth. That is what made the United States great.

I keep talking about GDP growth, but in essence, gross domestic product is an indicator of the economic health of our economy and how it is growing. It is an indicator that measures the opportunities that exist in the United States.

Like I said, we had almost 4 percent growth throughout American history. The President's numbers in the last 7½ years: 1.36 percent GDP growth. Here we see it on the chart. This is Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 41, Clinton, Bush 43, and President Obama.

The red line is important. That is 3 percent GDP growth. That is considered pretty good—not great but pretty good. Take a look. President Obama has never hit that. He has never actually hit that in one quarter, ever. By any measure, these numbers are abysmal.

So what are we looking at? The Obama era has been a lost decade of growth. Again, compared to any other period, even the Great Depression period, these numbers represent lost opportunity, stagnant wages, and middle-class families struggling. Yet the administration never talks about it.

If we can't grow our economy, who is hurt the most? It is the most vulnerable. It is the working poor. It is the elderly. It is the young people. It is our pages right here who want a positive future. These are the people who are hurt. Yet if we grow our economy—if we got to Reagan levels or Clinton levels or Johnson levels of 4, 4.5, 6—we could take care of so many of the challenges our country faces.

So what has happened is—and we know the media certainly helps the administration deal with this—we don't talk about it. The President might compare our economy to Europe. That is pretty weak. Instead, we define the problem down. Many people may have heard this term, ''the new normal.'' That is a term they are now using in Washington, ''the new normal.'' So what does that mean? It means we can't grow at 3 percent anymore. Look at the chart. We have never hit 3 percent, ever. So let's just define it now. We are not going to shoot for traditional levels of robust American growth like 4 percent. Again, the historic average is 3.7 percent, for 200 years, Democrats and Republicans. We are just going to say: Well, it is a new time in the history of our country—secular stagnation. This is the new normal.

If Americans believe this or accept this or our young people do, we are in big trouble.

So we talk about the new normal or we are silent, like what happened today. No one came out—not one person from the Obama administration explained how we are going to get out of this rut. They are silent because there is no way to sell 0.5 percent GDP growth—to anybody. The American people are smart, and they know they are being sold a clunker. The economy is a clunker right now, and it has been one for almost 8 years.

Again, it is important to understand just how bad this record is, in terms of U.S. history. Let me give a few more statistics. In 85 years, for which the Bureau of Economic Analysis has calculated the annual change in real GDP, there is only one 10-year stretch, and it is right here—the entire Obama administration—when the annual GDP growth never hit 3 percent. Even during the Great Depression, it was only a 4-year stretch. So 10 years, starting with the Bush-era recession. The President talks about the recession, but that was almost 8 years ago. We need to get over that and grow this economy.

During the last 10 years, real annual growth of GDP peaked in 2006 at 2.7 percent. It has never been that high again. In the 25 quarters since the recession ended, real GDP growth has totaled just 14.3 percent. So that is what we grew our economy by—the total growth of our economy. In comparison, other recoveries—again, Democrat, Republican—since 1960, that lasted much more than a year, real GDP growth for the whole economy grew on average of 27 percent. So we have 14 percent Obama, 27 percent over the comparable period for the average—Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan. If real GDP growth in the Obama years had grown at that average, our GDP would be $1.8 trillion higher. Think about that—$1.8 trillion, almost $2 trillion higher. Think about what families could do with that kind of money if we divided that by American families.

In the Reagan recovery, real GDP growth grew a total of 34 percent. The economy expanded by 34 percent. So, again, Obama, 14 percent; average, 27 percent; Reagan, 34 percent. He grew it at an average rate, and the economy grew at about 4.8 percent, so almost 5 percent GDP growth. Look at the comparison here. If the 8 years of President Obama grew at the rate that President Reagan's recovery took place, we would be seeing almost $3 trillion more in terms of the size of our economy, higher annual aftertax income of almost $5,000 per American, and of course millions and millions of more jobs.

The President talks about the unemployment rate going down, but what he doesn't talk about is the reason it is going down is because people are leaving the workforce. We have the highest rate since the mid-1970s of workforce participation. Why? Because we are not growing the economy.

I know I am throwing a lot of numbers out, but what this chart reveals is something much more important than numbers. This chart goes to what the American dream is all about; that is, progress. That is progress. When you are an American, you expect progress. You expect growth. You don't expect this. This is not progress. We are hearing it and we are seeing it.

The American dream was founded on progress. There is opportunity. You have the opportunity to take advantage and move up the ladder.

A recent poll came out and said 13 percent of Americans—13 percent—think their kids are going to have a better economic future than they had. That is the death of the American dream, and this chart explains why. The young people right here, through hard work—only 13 percent of Americans think you are going to have a better future than we had.

That is the essence of the American dream. We all used to think our kids would have a better future. Now 13 percent do. It shows that people are losing faith in the American dream because of these numbers.

It gets worse in terms of the unequal growth. I was talking about 1.36 percent is the average growth rate for the Obama administration. In actuality, about 20 percent of the population in

regions of the country—mostly on the east and west coasts—are doing pretty good. Twenty percent are growing at about 5 percent GDP growth. Eighty percent of America—the rest of the country—is not growing at all—zero growth.

I believe this is a surrender. I believe this body is not talking about it enough. The White House wants to ignore it. It is a surrender of America's greatness. It is a surrender of our future. It is a surrender of our kids' future.

We need to do something about it. If we stay at these levels of growth, issues like infrastructure, issues like military spending, issues like social spending, even social cohesion are going to be much harder to address, but if we grow—back to traditional levels of American growth—the future is going to be bright again like it has been for 200-plus years in the United States.

We don't have to continue down this path. We can make decisions in this body—the right decisions—in order to right this sinking ship of an economy, but the first step is to admit we have a problem. The first step is to recognize we have a big problem.

The President and his Cabinet will not do this. As a matter of fact, there was a recent New York Times article where the President was talking about how this is actually pretty good growth—again, dumbing down expectations, the new normal. Did they say anything today? No. But the American people know we have a huge problem. We see it reflected in polling and our politics with people losing work, stagnant wages, historic levels of failed businesses. More small businesses are failing now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we need to realize that what we are doing here is part of the problem. Look at this chart. We are overregulating every aspect of our economy. What we need to do is start focusing on ways that Washington can be a partner in opportunity, not the center of regulations that focus on small businesses.

Let me conclude by saying, although I have highlighted the challenges we have right now and the lack of focus by the administration, this is something all of us in this body—Democrats and Republicans—should be working on together. Nobody wants 1.36 percent GDP growth. Nobody wants 0.5 percent GDP growth. We need leadership now to tackle these challenges and to get America back on track. We have to grow this economy. We have to continue progress. We must do better for our children and restore the American dream, but first we need a White House that recognizes the problem. Unfortunately, today we saw that is not the case.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

OVERSEEING OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, 8 years ago, we suffered through the worst financial crisis in generations. Millions of people lost their homes, their jobs, and their savings. Although the economy has improved under President Obama's leadership, many of those families are still struggling to recover today.

Terrible subprime mortgages were at the heart of this crisis, but Wall Street invented other new financial devices, including exotic derivatives, that piled risks on top of risks in the financial market. The subprime mortgages were like hand grenades, but the derivatives packed them together and magnified the risks, turning them into giant bombs that blew up parts of the economy. The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission concluded that derivatives ''contributed significantly'' to the crisis, ''amplifying'' losses many times over and exposing institutions and investors throughout the system.

Do you remember the billions and billions of taxpayer dollars that Congress shoveled into AIG as part of the bailout? That was to cover the massive losses from risky derivatives that went south.

In response to the crisis and the bailout, Congress dedicated an entire title of the Dodd-Frank Act to the regulation of derivatives. Congress tried to make the derivatives market more transparent so that both investors and regulators could have at least a fighting chance to identify the risks and to address them. Congress also tried to reduce the risk to taxpayers by requiring banks to raise more capital as they increased their derivatives exposure and by forcing banks to push out that derivatives exposure from their depository banks—the parts that actually hold checking and savings accounts—and to put them into another entity that doesn't have access to taxpayer-backed insurance.

Over the past few years, the Dodd-Frank approach to derivatives has started to unravel. At the end of 2014, the swaps pushout was repealed. How? Because lobbyists for Citibank literally wrote the amendment and had a friendly Congressman slip it into the end-of-the-year spending bill—a bill that had to pass or the government would shut down. With the help of other big banks, including personal phone calls from the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, to his personal friends in Congress, the swaps repeal got rammed through Congress.

How big was the hole that this Wall Street amendment blew in Dodd-Frank? Well, Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS and I spent a year looking into it, and here's the takeaway: The FDIC now estimates that the repeal allows a few big banks to put taxpayers on the hook for risky swaps to the tune of nearly $10 trillion. And who is gobbling down most of this $10 trillion risk? Three huge banks—Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of America—three banks, nearly $10 trillion of risk.

These banks will happily suck down the profits when their high-stakes bets work out, and they will just as happily turn to the taxpayers to bail them out if there is a problem—all this because the Wall Street lobbyists persuaded Congress to do just one little favor for them.

Meanwhile, last year, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission finally issued a rule that it was required to write under Dodd-Frank. The rule was about margin, the amount of money that financial institutions have to put up when they enter into a derivative contract. Essentially, the CFTC rule was about making sure that financial institutions had enough money to pay off their derivative bets if they bet wrong. It is the kind of money that keeps the taxpayers from needing to bail them out.

The CFTC rule was exceedingly weak, far weaker than the one they had initially proposed. The changes in the rule came after months of intense lobbying from giant banks that were worried that a stronger margin rule might cut into their profits. As CFTC Commissioner Sharon Bowen wrote in her dissent to the rule:

> This action today seems to be a return to blindly trusting in large financial institutions' ability and willpower to manage their risks adequately. Are we really willing to make that bet again?

Well, I know that I am not, and that is why I think the recent Republican bill to weaken the CFTC is so dangerous. Rather than strengthening the agency and plugging the gaps in Dodd-Frank that have emerged in the last few years, the bill goes in the opposite direction, weakening or delaying other Dodd-Frank requirements and starving the agency of the resources it needs to oversee a $500 trillion derivatives market.

I applaud Senator STABENOW, the ranking Democratic member on the Agriculture Committee, for leading the unanimous Democratic opposition to the bill in Committee. Democrats should not be supporting a bill that weakens financial rules, period.

We need strong rules and strong Federal agencies to oversee our financial markets. We learned that lesson the hard way in 2008. While some lobbyists and their friends here in Washington may be trying to forget that lesson, I know that millions of American families remember it all too well, and they will be watching Congress to see who stands on their side and who stands on the side of the big banks.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today as a Senator and, as the Presiding Officer is, a doctor. I want to talk about a disease called Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Earlier today Senator RUBIO was on the floor talking about the disease, and I know earlier today Senator WICKER was on the floor talking about the disease. It is a topic that is, as an orthopedic surgeon, very personal to me.

I was introduced to Duchenne more than 30 years ago and, as an orthopedic surgery resident, worked at a muscle disease clinic with young people with muscle disease. One of those muscle diseases is called Duchenne. It is a disease that affects young boys. I met patients and I met their families in the fight against this disease. The experience has left a lasting lifelong impression on me, and it is something I continue to work with today.

I think the reasons we have gone into medicine are to help people and to make a contribution. One of the reasons I chose orthopedic surgery was that I really enjoyed seeing the relief—the care that I gave could help people, causing relief of their symptoms, relief of their pain, relief of problems they were living with from day to day. It is extremely rewarding to be able to work with a patient and tell that patient the surgery you performed was successful, and they are going to get better. They are going to get back to normal.

As a doctor, I was able to see patients go on to graduate from college, get married, have children of their own. When I was overseas visiting our troops, I met a young man, a commander—a pretty big guy—and he told me I had taken care of his broken leg. I looked at him and didn't really recognize him. I said: When was that? And he said: I was only 8 at the time.

We take care of patients and, as we do, we see people through their lives, and it is encouraging to see them go on and strive and get stronger and bigger and more productive. But for patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, that kind of treatment doesn't exist. It doesn't exist today with all the breakthroughs and research.

When I saw patients in the muscle disease clinic who suffered from this condition, I knew the day that I saw them was going to be their best day from there going forward. Many of them had brothers. It is a disease that affects young men. It is a disease that may be coming in their family to children who had not yet been born. In some families there were several brothers in the line who had the disease. As one was diagnosed, then another younger brother was diagnosed a couple of years later with the same disease because this does tend to run in families.

As a doctor, one wants to see somebody get better and stronger every day. Parents want to see their own child going from crawling to walking to running, getting stronger and bigger every day, but patients and families who live with this disease every day know too well the unrelenting force of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. What it does is cause degeneration of muscles and weakness.

The vast majority of people with this disease are boys, and they are usually diagnosed between the ages of 3 and 5. Typically, parents start to notice their son isn't meeting all of the developmental milestones they might expect. He might be a late walker, or he may appear less coordinated than other children his age. Most parents aren't worried; they are just cautious. They may mention it to the pediatrician, and the doctor may run a test or two. Once the diagnosis of Duchenne muscular dystrophy is made, patients pretty quickly and parents, specifically, very quickly find out that their son doesn't just have a developmental delay; they learn their son is typically going to lose the ability to walk by the time he is a teenager, graduate to a wheelchair, which then can make that young man prone to conditions like scoliosis, a curvature of the spine often requiring surgery to correct it. As the muscles continue to deteriorate—as they always do with Duchenne—that young man will lose lung function, which puts him at a higher risk of infection, pneumonia. Eventually, he will have to use a machine to breathe, to clear his lungs. The muscle deterioration doesn't just occur to the skeletal muscles—the muscles of the arms and legs—but also can occur to the heart, which is itself a muscle.

When a young man with Duchenne muscular dystrophy catches a cold, it can be life threatening. Even when the patients get the best medical care—and so many of them do get the best medical care—they usually lose their fight against Duchenne muscular dystrophy by the time they are in their 20s. That is the devastating reality of this disease, and we cannot allow it to continue.

Because of my experience with these patients, I have been working for years to actually help raise money for awareness for muscle disease and treatment for the disease. I served as a local host in Wyoming for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual Labor Day telethon.

Every year, I was amazed at the dedication and the generosity of people around the country who would call in pledges to pledge centers at the 200 so-called ''love networks'' in Casper, WY. People would call in. We would always raise over $100,000. People were very committed to finding a cure for muscle disease and to sending young people with the disease to summer camp, where they found a level of freedom and friendship that they did not often find throughout the rest of the year. It was a great time for the young people with the disease. It gave their parents a rest as well.

I think many of us in this body remember Jerry Lewis hosting the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, as it was called, for more than 40 years. He would always end the telethon by signing a song. The song was ''You'll Never Walk Alone.'' So I come to the floor today to make sure that these patients and these families know that today they are not alone. Congress is listening. We heard from Senator RUBIO earlier today and we heard from Senator WICKER. Those families and those patients know how critically important it is, and we know how critically important it is that we find a cure for this rare disease known as Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

In 2012, Congress passed the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. One of the key parts of this law gives the FDA more flexibility to approve treatments that have the potential to help people with rare diseases. It also allows the FDA to do followup studies to confirm the clinical benefits of the treatment.

Well, we want to give people real hope. It is not good to give people false hope. We are interested in giving patients and giving families a fighting chance. I believe the FDA needs to use the tools that Congress has given them so patients can come across and get access to potentially lifesaving drugs. So a couple of weeks ago I signed a letter that was written by Senators Wicker and Klobuchar—a bipartisan letter. It called on the FDA to take full advantage of this accelerated approval authority.

So we also asked the FDA to ensure that the prospective of patients is fully considered in this review process, when it comes down to the regulations. More than 20 Senators signed this letter because we know how important this issue is to patients as well as to their families.

Last Friday the Wall Street Journal ran an editorial entitled: ''The FDA vs. Austin Leclaire.'' This article talked about a young man named Austin Leclaire, 17, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and so does his younger brother Max. As we talked, I mentioned that this runs in families. Sometimes, there is the diagnosis of a son in a family in which there is a younger son who has not yet been diagnosed but likely will have the disease.

Well, back in 2011, Max was able to get an experimental drug to treat his disease. Now, Austin was not eligible to get the same drug. Remember, Austin is the older brother. So today Max is 14 and he is still able to walk. He can

still play sports, and he can still dress himself.

For most of us who have had healthy children, these are the things that people take for granted. So for a family where one of their sons has Duchenne, this kind of small victory can seem like a miracle. I can't even imagine how hard it must be when a mother has two or three children—two or three sons—with this disease, and especially when one of her children can get access to an experimental drug and the other cannot.

The family looks at it. One son is being helped, and the other is not being helped. They can see the difference in their sons. So how would any of us here in the Senate react if we were in that same situation? How much heartbreak should one family have to bear? Those are the challenges for families who live with muscle disease every day.

Well, the FDA, I believe, needs to work with patients like Austin and Max. We all know that this agency needs to make sure that treatments are safe and effective. That is not a question. We also know that people at the FDA are caring and careful professionals. The practice of medicine relies on hard science and on following data to understand and to treat illnesses.

As a doctor, I know that the practice of medicine requires an equal measure of compassion. I think the FDA needs to take into account the unique needs of this patient population. We talk about double-blind studies, where you give one patient the real treatment and one patient something else, a sugar pill, something else that is not really the real treatment, the real medication.

To really evaluate the impact of these medications, sometimes it involves doing muscle biopsies and putting people though painful tests. I think it is hard for a family living with a child with muscle disease to say: Well, we are going to participate in the experiment. We don't know. It is a 50–50 chance if our child is even going to get the real thing. But we still put them through all of these tests that can be painful, as they take muscle biopsies.

I think it is unrealistic to ask a family to make that decision. I think we need to make sure that the FDA—and the FDA needs to make sure, in their compassion—doesn't lose sight of these kids. These young people really don't have a moment to lose in terms of potential treatments. I think the FDA needs to hear the calls of patients and to give these young people, living with a devastating disease, a chance to beat Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

VOTE-BY-MAIL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to warn of a gathering threat to American's most fundamental constitutional right; that is, the right to vote. Fifty-one years ago, President Johnson urged the Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. In the face of implacable opposition from Southern States, President Johnson laid out the stakes. He said:

> Every American must have an equal right to vote. There is no excuse which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right.

Sadly, half a century after that law began to remove the most offensive obstacles to voting, Americans now face new barriers to exercising their fundamental right to vote. Across our land, there are stories of long lines, inexplicable purges of voter rolls, and new requirements that make it still harder for our people to vote. There is absolutely no excuse for accepting this sorry state of affairs.

There is no excuse for citizens in Arizona to wait 5 hours to cast their ballot. There is no excuse for citizens in Rhode Island to find two out of every three polling places have closed. There is no excuse whatsoever for poor communities and minority communities across America to see their polling places shuttered.

Seniors and disabled Americans should not have to wait in long lines or struggle to reach polling places in America. Working parents should not have to choose between going to work and going to vote. Voting should not be a test of endurance. It should not be a Kafkaesque experience in defeating bureaucracy and wading through redtape. Increasingly, too many voters show up at the polls on election day, only to find that their name—somehow, magically—has gone missing from the voter rolls or their ID does not meet some new, even more burdensome, even more restrictive requirement.

There is no excuse for our government to turn away citizens and to say their vote does not count because of a clerical error or an unjust technicality. These grossly unfair obstacles have sprouted like weeds across our country ever since the Supreme Court overturned large portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, just this year, 17 States have passed new laws or rules to make it harder for their citizens to vote.

Let me repeat that. Seventeen States in America, just this year, have passed new laws, new rules, and new hurdles for our people who want to vote. Thankfully, there is a solution. My home State of Oregon has led the country in making voting more accessible. In Oregon, every voter receives a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before election day. Ballots should be arriving in mailboxes across the State over the next few days. Every Oregonian has ample time to research candidates and issues.

Rather than waiting in long lines, Oregonians can mail their ballot back or drop it off at ballot collection sites, many of which are open 24/7. Nobody has to take time off from work just to exercise his or her constitutional right.

So let me repeat. In our State, we have made this work. Every voter gets a ballot 2 or 3 weeks before an election date. Now, vote-by-mail is not going to stop every State legislature in America from devising new ways to suppress voter turnout. Certainly, some State officials in our country have worked very hard to dream up new ways to limit the franchise.

But here is why the Oregon antidote is so important. If there is a problem, our State gives voters more time to fight back. When Americans have 2 or 3 weeks to vote, they will have more time to challenge registration problems. There is more time for citizens to defend their rights.

Oregon has been voting by mail since I was first elected to the Senate in 1996, and we went to all vote-by-mail in 2000. Since then, we have had consistently higher voter turnout rates than other parts of the country. We have consistently had voter turnout rates that are among the highest in the Nation.

Oregon voting rates are especially high among young people and in midterm elections. As an added benefit—this should appeal to all Senators—studies have shown that it saves money, to boot. So you have a system that voters like, gives them more time to reflect, is more efficient, and saves money, to boot. That is a pretty appealing trifecta, it seems to me, for democracy. So my proposition today is that the rest of the country ought to follow Oregon's lead, and all Americans, from one end of the country to another, ought to have the chance to vote by mail.

To me, this just is common sense. In fact, over the years, there were questions about who benefited from vote-by-mail? In fact, Oregonians put it on the ballot, because they said that everybody benefits from it. There was support all across the political spectrum. So today, I rolled out a new proposal for a national vote-by-mail. It is built on the Oregon system. The plan is simple. Every voter in a Federal election will receive a ballot in the mail.

The Federal Government, through the Postal Service, would assist States with the cost of mailing ballots to registered voters. States can keep their current polling practices if they wish. But those States that choose a full vote-by-mail system are going to see their election costs drop and drop significantly. My hope is that this proposal ignites a new campaign across the country to make it easier, not harder, for Americans to vote.

Vote-by-mail is a first step in fighting back against those who would disenfranchise their fellow citizens to gain a political edge.

For instance, in my view it also ought to be easier for Americans to register to vote. Again, my home State leads the way. Since January, every eligible voter is automatically registered to vote, eliminating extra trips to the

motor vehicles department or the county clerk's office. In my view our Governor, Gov. Kate Brown, deserves enormous credit for leading the effort to turn this particular idea, this particular reform, into law.

I know many of my colleagues and many voters are cynical about the chances of passing real reforms in this partisan day and age. My view is, voting rights are too important to abandon the field to special interests who would manipulate our government. That is why I mentioned that in Oregon there was some initial debate with respect to who might benefit, who might get a little bit of a partisan edge on the other side, and Oregon voters said: Nothing doing. We all think this is in our interests, making it easier to vote, making it easier to correct an error, and cheaper than the alternatives.

This afternoon I urge my colleagues and voters to take advantage of this opportunity to promote real reform, reform where we have hard evidence that shows it actually works, to make sure every citizen in America who wants to vote has that opportunity. Oregon once again paves the way to making sure there are real solutions to an enormous challenge.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after many months of discussion and debate, today we announced a bipartisan piece of legislation to reform our criminal justice system.

I have been in the Senate long enough to realize that even the best ideas that don't have bipartisan support go nowhere. The good news is, this is an issue that enjoys broad bipartisan support and actually represents the marriage of two distinct parts. The more I think about it, the more it represents a continuum in terms of the way we punish people who violate our criminal laws and how we treat them when they are in prison and how we prepare them—or not—for a life of reentry into civil society.

Even in the polarized political environment that our country represents today, it is an example of an opportunity to demonstrate that when enough people identify a problem and work together, we can actually come up with viable solutions.

In a previous life, I served 13 years as a State district court judge and then as attorney general. I have had an opportunity to witness some of the strengths and weaknesses of our justice system firsthand. Though we made some significant progress in reducing crime across the country—by the way, that ought to be the litmus test, the crime rate. If the crime rate is going down, to me, it indicates we are doing something right. If the crime rate goes up, that is pretty much a litmus test that we are doing something wrong.

The truth is, our criminal justice system has been plagued with inefficiencies, overcrowding, and failures that are ultimately detrimental to public safety. We spend too much of our criminal justice resources locking up low-level, nonviolent offenders and not enough targeting the most dangerous and violent criminals. The good news is, a number of States, including Texas, have seen the need and have implemented statewide criminal justice reforms with positive results.

As I said earlier, the longer I am here, the more things occur to me about how we do business, but the idea that somehow we can initiate reforms at the national level for 320 million people and then cram them down on a big and diverse country like the United States is pretty ludicrous.

Actually, the Federal Government is rarely competent to do that sort of thing. We saw this with the health care reforms, which have resulted in prices actually going up and most people dissatisfied with the health care reforms.

If we just tried things out at the local level, and if they were successful, then scale them up, I think we would have a much better chance for success. That is exactly what has happened in the criminal justice area.

I know most people think about Texas as a State tough on crime, and that is true, but in the middle of the first decade of this millennium, we saw the need to deal with overcrowding. We saw high recidivism or repeat offenders, and we were facing a major budget shortfall. In other words, we tried to keep building prisons to build our way out of the problem.

Instead of just spending more money to build more prisons and hoping the problems would go away, the major problem we overlooked before was—which we finally realized—that people in prison at some point will mostly get out of prison. The question is, Do they go back into prison after committing other crimes or can we help those who are willing to accept the help, turn their lives around, and become productive members of society?

We opted for a different approach. We traded in our construction plans for plans to help lower-risk offenders turn their lives around and become productive members of society. As I said, that is because most offenders will one day get out of prison.

Today Texas has improved and increased programs designed to help men and women behind bars take responsibility for their crimes and then prepare to reenter society as productive, law-abiding members of the community. I am not naive enough to say this is something we are going to be able to do for 100 percent of the people behind bars. That is just not true. I wish the world was the kind of place where once people made mistakes and ended up behind bars, they could transform their lives universally and then enter productive society. It is not true, but there are many who want to who need our help and can benefit from some of these programs.

This includes training that could impact a prisoner's life, somebody with a drug problem, somebody with a mental illness, or somebody who has been drinking, exacerbating their problems. Those sorts of issues can benefit from treatment and from rehabilitation.

Those who are educationally inadequately prepared to enter the workforce, we can help them through work programs and job training. Many of these programs have allowed local communities to get involved as well, by encouraging partnerships in Texas between prisons and faith-based organizations and people who believe in radical transformation of people's lives through their faith. They can focus on helping those prisoners who are willing and wanting to turn their lives around get the training and life skills they need in order to succeed.

I will never forget my visit just a few months back to the H.H. Coffield Unit maximum security prison in East Texas, where I saw firsthand how important some of these types of programs are. I went to one section of the prison and was introduced to the shop instructor. He told me some of the inmates in his shop class came to him unable to read a simple tape measure.

I think it is shocking. It was to me. I think it is shocking to most people that anybody can reach adulthood unable to do something so basic as to read a tape measure, but yet that was an example of the types of people who were in that prison.

It is a remarkable example of how much opportunity there is through education to actually help: drug-alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and to prepare people to reenter civil society.

I am pleased Texas—in addition to our well-earned reputation for being tough on crime—is now known as being smart on crime and a good example what we could do nationally.

We are not the only State. Other States have done things, too, but the results in Texas are remarkable. Between 2007 and 2012, our overall rate of incarceration fell by 9.4 percent. The crime rate dropped and—as I have said—that is the gold standard. It is not the rate of incarceration. It is not how many people are in prison. It is what is happening to the crime rate. Our crime rate dropped and, not insignificantly, we saved more than $2 billion of the taxpayer money. We were able to physically close three prison facilities. That is the first time that has ever happened in our State.

We are not the only ones. For example, Georgia reduced its crime rate by more than 10 percent with similar programs. South Carolina and Ohio reduced their crime rate by 14 percent. North Carolina and Texas have both reduced their crime rates by more than 20 percent.

These reforms make our communities safer, which again is the first objective of criminal justice reform, it is the second objective of criminal justice reform, and it is the third objective of criminal justice reform. Does it make our community safer? The answer, from the evidence, is yes.

I think there is no question but that we should consider some of these reforms at the Federal level. Let's take State successes and scale them up so the rest of the country can benefit where they are not otherwise already doing this and where we can do this in the Federal prison system and not just in the State system.

That is where the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act comes in. This bill includes legislation that I introduced last year that takes this Texas model and builds on it to help restore an important part of our criminal justice system that is too often forgotten; that is, rehabilitation.

When I went to law school more years ago than I wish to admit, we were told that the purpose of criminal law was punishment and deterrence, to deter others from committing similar acts. The third was we were told it was rehabilitation. We were going to help people change their lives if they made a mistake. Instead, over time our prisons have become warehouses where we just warehouse people and don't do enough to try to rehabilitate people, those who are willing to take the opportunity to deal with their problems in a constructive sort of way and turn their lives around.

I have introduced legislation, along with Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island. As anybody who follows the Senate knows, we agree on very little, but we agree on this. We were both former attorneys general. He was a former U.S. attorney, and he has seen a similar experience in his State.

So we introduced this portion of the legislation to encourage programs that would help inmates learn valuable skills they can transfer back home to their communities and help them turn from a life of crime. It is important to note that not only does reduced recidivism impact an individual life—which is reason enough to do what we can to help—but it also helps that individual's family because the collateral damage from somebody making a mistake and ending up in prison does not stop with them. It stops with their families, including their children, and their whole community, but it also makes financial sense too.

The Justice Department spends around 30 percent of its budget detaining Federal inmates. By reinvesting more of this money in recidivism reduction programs instead of building more Federal prisons, we have an opportunity to save tax dollars and plow more of the money back where it can have the best impact. Inmates can be rehabilitated, neighborhoods can be made safer, and tax dollars can be better put to use.

We have also made other changes in the legislation that represent the give-and-take that usually happens in the Senate. Legislating is a consensus-building process, and that is a good thing. Initially, when the corrections act was introduced, there was a separate piece of legislation called the Smarter Sentencing Act, which focused on, as the name would suggest, sentencing with a goal to reduce some of the mandatory minimum sentences which were a part of the 1990s effort to get tougher on crime. This is where we have actually benefited a lot from the input from those who initially were unpersuaded about the merits of that part of the legislation.

For example, we have categorically taken out, removed, any benefit of the Smarter Sentencing Act provisions for somebody who has committed a serious crime, as defined by Federal law. So somebody who is a violent offender, somebody who has committed a serious crime, cannot benefit from the Smarter Sentencing Act.

There is an area where I am afraid there is some misunderstanding by some folks, and some people are actively spreading disinformation, suggesting that as a result of the Smarter Sentencing Act provisions, there is a get-out-of-jail-free card; that we are automatically going to come in and cut prison sentences for people to get out on the street. That is just not true. They need to take another look at the legislation.

Under some circumstances, and only if you are a low-level, nonviolent offender, you can ask the court—the court in which you were actually convicted and before the judge who actually dispensed the sentence and before the prosecutor who actually put you in prison—for a reduction retroactively of long-term mandatory minimum sentences. For example, under some circumstances, back in the days of three strikes and you are out, you could get a life sentence for three relatively minor offenses. Now, where appropriate, the judge could say: Well, we are going to reduce that to 25 years. That is still a long time, particularly if you are talking about three relatively minor offenses. There is one other example where a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence could be reduced to 15 years. So if you haven't served 15 years, you are certainly not going to get out of prison.

But the whole point is that this is a negotiated piece of legislation for which we tried to garner as much support as we could, and I am pleased to announce today that we have five new cosponsors of this legislation. I believe there are now 37 Senators on a bipartisan basis who support this legislation as cosponsors.

Earlier this week, we got a very important endorsement from an organization for which I have tremendous respect. This is the largest organization of prosecutors in America. It is the National District Attorneys Association. They represent about 1,500 district attorneys and 30,000 assistant district attorneys across the country. They have endorsed this legislation.

Yesterday, at the Republican lunch and conference, we had people such as former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who served 20 years on the Federal bench in New York, talk about how he thought this was a well-balanced and worthwhile piece of legislation.

The bottom line is that we need to make sure that violent offenders and hardened criminals stay in prison and away from our communities. I am talking about the people who will not take advantage of the opportunity to turn their lives around, the people who must be separated from society because they have made a decision to pursue a life of crime.

At the same time, while we have focused on the hardened criminals and the most violent, we have to address our expanding prison system that too often perpetuates a life of crime. When I was a younger lawyer, I was told that often our prison system is an organization of higher education in crime because, of course, that is who is there—people who have committed crimes. And people who have committed rather low-level, nonviolent offenses, particularly when they are housed with people who have chosen a more violent life of crime, can suffer terrible detrimental impacts.

The idea is to focus on the hardened criminals, the violent criminals, and take a look at the low-level, nonviolent offenders and see if some will take advantage of the opportunity to turn their lives around. Local communities in conservative States—red States such as Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina—have already proven it is possible to do both. After months of discussion, I am confident we can bring this success to the rest of the country with this legislation.

Like every piece of legislation, though, we know there is an arduous path forward. While this bill was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it still needs to come to the floor of the Senate, where all 100 Senators will have an opportunity to help improve that product. And then there is the House of Representatives. Earlier today, Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I met with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, about our ideas together and how we can move this legislation forward. And I know the President is anxious to sign a criminal justice reform bill. This could actually be a good bipartisan accomplishment of the 114th Congress.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort on all sides to work constructively toward a bill that can win broad bipartisan support. For those who don't like parts of the bill, bring your ideas to us. That is the way this process is supposed to work. Let's make it better. Let's build bipartisan support and consensus.

Let me just say in closing that I particularly want to thank the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman GRASSLEY, for his stewardship of this legislation through the process. As an experienced Member of the Senate, somebody who has been at this a while, he knows better than most how to shepherd legislation—particularly potentially controversial legislation—through this process. He has been masterful in bringing us this far.

I think we owe it to our constituents and to the country to take the lessons we have learned at the State and local level and bring those to benefit the rest of the country. Let's make our criminal justice system, as the name suggests, more just and at the same time more effective. And let's save taxpayers a buck or two in the process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

CENTRAL STATES PENSION FUND

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, across the United States, hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees are scared. They are scared for the future, they are scared for their families, and they are scared for themselves. These workers and retirees did everything right. They played by the rules. They worked for years, if not decades, often in labor-intensive jobs, and they responsibly planned for the future by putting money into their pensions, only to have their retirement security ripped away.

This is a story happening across North Dakota and across America. Harsh and senseless proposed cuts to Central States Pension Fund—a multiemployer pension fund—could rip away the retirement of workers and retirees in the trucking, UPS package and delivery, and grocery supply industries. These cuts could impact more than 2,000 North Dakota families and 400,000 retirees across the country who could see their pensions slashed up to 60 percent. Many of these workers have been forced to retire because of decades of lifting packages over 100 pounds every day. These jobs took hard tolls on their bodies, but they were able to earn a living, support their families, and put food on the table each night. They knew that because they were saving for retirement through their pensions, they would be taken care of in later years, they would be able to enjoy their later years hunting and fishing with their grandchildren, and they would be able to enjoy their later years by taking care of their family and their loved ones. Unfortunately, that security is evaporating.

I recently met with Teamsters and union workers and retirees in Bismark and Fargo. Quite honestly, their stories were heartbreaking. They couldn't understand how, if they did everything right, their retirement could be taken away from them. They can't live in a country that just enables these workers and retirees to be left behind. They can't understand who was fighting for them.

They and we must stand up and say: This is wrong. We must stand up for hard work, and we must protect their pensions and make sure all North Dakotans have a secure retirement.

I want to tell just a few of their stories today. I will start with Dennis Gainsforth from Jamestown. He worked for UPS for 31 years. He needs surgery on one of his knees because of working decades as a night mechanic. Dennis is also helping financially take care of his son, who had a stroke, and his wife, who needs back surgery. Under the proposed cuts, his pension would be slashed by 50 percent. As a result, Dennis, who is 72 years old, is now back at work driving a public bus in Jamestown.

Tina Kramer from Mandan was a member of the Teamsters. She worked as a secretary for the local union for 25 years, throughout which time she earned a pension. Her husband was a member of the steelworkers union and worked for Bobcat for about 30 years as a forklift driver. He also earned a pension. Several years ago, both of them retired, and soon after, Tina's husband suddenly passed away. Tina lost her husband's pension and now has to rely solely on her pension. Under these proposed cuts, Tina's pension would be cut by almost 60 percent. Tina has just a little bit of savings, which she has already had to dip into every month to pay her bills and for groceries and to pay her property taxes. Under the proposed pension cuts, it could only get worse for Tina.

Bob Berg, from just north of Fargo, worked at UPS for over 30 years delivering packages, many of which could weigh up to 150 pounds. Because of the hard labor of his job, he had surgery on both knees, his hands, five hernia operations, and back problems, forcing him into early retirement. Now his medical bills are skyrocketing. He receives $2,200 a month under the pension plan, but with the cuts, he would receive just $1,150, which is a 50-percent reduction.

Mark Rothschiller from Mandan worked as a UPS driver for 28 years delivering packages to rural communities in North Dakota. Because of the intensity of his job, he had five back surgeries and two rotator cuff surgeries. After the last surgery, Mark's doctor told him to stop working or he might lose his ability to walk. He now walks with a cane. He relies on his pension—the pension that he earned—to help pay his medical bills. Under the proposed cuts, Mark's pension would be cut by more than 50 percent.

You hear these stories about men and women who worked hard all their lives and who did the right thing. They bargained for a pension because they knew the work they did was not work you could do your entire life, and they knew they wanted time in retirement to enjoy their golden years. Yet, today, the benefit they earned and that security is threatened.

I had a man approach me after one of the meetings where I asked people to tell me what the impacts were from the cuts, and many were able to give public testimonials. This man came up to me afterward, and I won't use his name because quite privately he wanted to tell me that he was going to lose his house, that he was going to lose all the security he had in the world, and that he was a grandfather helping to take care of his grandchildren because his daughter couldn't afford daycare.

These pension cuts don't affect just the worker, they affect the worker's family, they affect the extended family, and, quite honestly, they affect our communities. But more than that, they affect our general sense of security, our general sense that you ought to be able to rely on the goodness of your hard work and on the rewards of your hard work. Today, all of that is being threatened.

Some might say: Well, that is just the way it is. Pension funds are in trouble.

I want everyone to remember that many of these workers were basically prevented from managing their pension fund. In fact, the Federal Government took it away, took that pension fund away and gave it to private investment firms that squandered and wasted the principal. These workers wonder why in the world, in a country where we would bail out Wall Street bankers who made bad decisions, they never get listened to.

We cannot let this happen. I have been pressing Treasury Secretary Lew about this issue, and I recently met with Ken Feinberg, the Treasury official overseeing the reconstruction of this pension fund. We have to reinforce this point. We had a good conversation, and I hope the Treasury Department does the right thing by rejecting this devastating proposal and seeking a fairer option. We can and must find a solution that doesn't jeopardize retirement security or present long-term insolvency issues to the Central States Pension Fund.

This deal has threatened the livelihood of so many of my fellow North Dakotans, people who work hard for a living, the kind of people we brag about on floor of the Senate, whom we are here to represent—the hard-working, good Americas who build our country. Yet when this happens, they wonder who is listening to them. Who do we really represent here?

This deal has to be rejected. We have to create an opportunity that enables all North Dakotan and American families to have the secure retirement they have earned. Dennis, Tina, Bob, Mark, and so many other North Dakotans whom I have met deserve as much. They deserve the same kind of consideration and interest that we gave to AIG and all of the organizations we bailed out during the 2008 crisis at a time when we saw record bonuses for Wall Street executives. We wonder all the time why people are mad. We don't

need to look any further than this example to know that sometimes the priorities are just plain wrong.

I urge all of my colleagues to become aware of this problem, to become invested in this problem, and to work with us to solve this problem. The first and most significant and important step we can take is to urge the Department of Treasury to reject the current plan and take this back to the drawing board.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONGRESS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, of the words the American people frequently use to describe Congress today—at least one of the words that is appropriate to repeat on the Senate floor—one of the most common and accurate is ''unaccountable.''

Year after year, hard-working men and women across this great country bristle under dysfunctional, costly, and burdensome laws made right here in Washington, DC, and day after day, many of them do what Americans have always done when faced with an out-of-touch government. They contact their elected lawmakers to voice their concerns about those laws and to push for change of those laws and the process by which they are made.

Ask anyone who has ever called, written, or emailed their Member of Congress what happens next. It is consistent. It is predictable. Blame is shifted; fingers are pointed; scapegoats of every variety imaginable are brought forth to defend those who are charged with making the laws from the consequences of their own handiwork. This is the very definition of unaccountability, and it pervades the culture of Washington, DC, because Congress has allowed it to infect our laws and our institutions—the very institutions by which those laws are made.

Many Americans assume that they are being lied to when their elected lawmakers blame someone else for the laws that are raising the cost of living, eating away at their paychecks, and generally making it harder for individual Americans and families to realize the American dream. But the truth is actually even more troubling than that. Most of the items on the Federal Government's interminable list of do's and don'ts governing nearly every activity of human life are not in fact written, debated, discussed, and passed by Congress; rather, they are imposed unilaterally by unelected bureaucrats in one of the executive branch's administrative agencies. This is true even for what are called major rules, which are regulations that cost the American people more than $100 million each year in compliance costs.

For instance, look at the Department of Energy, whose appropriations we are currently considering. In a single year, 2015, the costs of the regulations issued by the Department of Energy exceeded $15 billion—$15 billion. In 1 year, it cost the American people $15 billion to comply with the regulations issued by this single bureaucratic agency—by this single Federal Department, the U.S. Department of Energy.

Even if we were to agree with every cent of that very onerous regulatory burden, we should all be able to recognize the danger of allowing one group of people, consisting of individuals who never have had to stand for election, to squeeze $15 billion out of the pocketbooks of the American people. That is why I have submitted this amendment, No. 3856, which would restrict the Department of Energy from spending any funds to implement or enforce regulations whose compliance costs exceed $100 million, unless specifically approved by Congress.

Unfortunately, regrettably, tragically, this amendment was blocked from consideration by one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for reasons that appear to be completely unrelated to the merits of this amendment.

Nevertheless, I would like to take a moment to explain how my amendment works. This amendment would have provided immediate, much needed financial relief to the budgets of hard-working families and businesses all across the country. It would protect them from the costs of two major rules recently proposed by the Department of Energy—rules that impose new energy-efficiency standards on ceiling fans and commercial packaged boilers.

Just like the Department of Energy's ban on incandescent light bulbs, under these rules, Americans would no longer be able to buy ceiling fans or commercial boilers that do not adhere to the government's strict new standards. Proponents of the rules think this is a good thing. As former Energy Secretary Steven Chu said about the light bulb ban back in 2011, ''We are taking away a choice that continues to let people waste their own money.''

This government-knows-best approach to regulation is not only arrogant—it is not only off-puttingly paternalistic—it is detached from the economic realities of American life today. Most Americans may buy less energy-efficient ceiling fans than most Washington bureaucrats, not because they are less intelligent or less concerned about saving energy or less concerned about protecting the environment but because it is what they can afford. The additional costs of these energy-efficiency standards are not insignificant. In fact, it is estimated that these two rules would cost American families and businesses more than $3 billion.

Today, the Department of Energy has the power to impose these rules on the public, and there is very little Congress can do about it. But under my amendment, the two rules would not go into effect unless and until Congress voted to approve them—unless and until Congress affirmatively enacted them into law and allowed them to be signed into law by the President. This simple, commonsense reform is modeled on the REINS Act, a bill that requires congressional approval for all major rules issued by all executive agencies across the entire Federal Government.

Last July, the House of Representatives passed the REINS Act by a strong vote of 243 to 165, and it currently has 37 cosponsors in the Senate. Support for the legislation is growing because it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the moral and material problems of hiding the regulatory process in the nameless, faceless bureaucracy. Everyone here knows the regulatory burden in America has become untenable. Every single day, each of us hears from our constituents about how stifling government regulations have become.

The data tell the same story. Just today we saw that the first quarter of 2016 was the third in a row in which private domestic investment has shrunk. This is disappointing, but it is not surprising.

According to a recent study by the Mercatus Center, in 2012, ''the economy was $4 trillion smaller than it would have been in the absence of regulatory growth since 1980.'' That works out to about $13,000 of lost earnings for every man, woman, and child in America.

Some of my colleagues may think the costs of our regulatory system are defensible. I certainly don't. But I know there are different opinions out there, and that is exactly the point of the REINS Act. That is exactly the point of this amendment—this amendment which has been improperly blocked.

Under the broken status quo, Members of Congress can claim innocence—and they regularly do—when an executive agency imposes a costly and controversial regulations on the country. In fact, many Members of Congress not only claim innocence, but they claim almost victim status. They behave almost as if we were a victim, as if we were someone being acted upon. We don't even have to debate it. It just kicks into law by itself. It is self-executing. This may be convenient for those of us in Washington, but it is fundamentally and unacceptably unfair to the American people. We don't make the law this way in this country, but that is now how our system is set up. It is time that we change it.

If Congress is ever going to win back the trust of the American people, we must prove that we are in fact trustworthy—trustworthy to do what we are supposed to do and trustworthy to make law—because that is why we exist as a part of our government. The best way to do that is to make ourselves once again accountable for making the laws, passing the laws, and standing accountable for the laws of this country. This amendment would be a significant step toward making Congress accountable again.

I regret—I deeply regret—that it was blocked, but I look forward to advancing similar reforms in the future because the idea of making Congress accountable isn't just a good idea; it is burned deeply, indelibly within our constitutional system.

It is no accident that the very first clause of the first section of the first article of the Constitution says, ''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.'' All legislative powers—that means all Federal law in this system is vested in a Congress of the United States. We are not supposed to delegate that to someone else.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

GENOCIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in many places around the world, April is a month where we celebrate rebirth and renewal. But April has too often been, in T. S. Eliot's words, ''the cruelest month,'' a month where some of the world's darkest moments have cast shadows over our humanity.

It was in April 1915 when the Ottoman government began rounding up and murdering leading Armenian politicians, businessmen, and intellectuals, a step that led to the extermination of more than 1 million Armenians.

It was April 1933 that the Nazis issued a decree paving a way for the ''final solution,'' the annihilation of 6 million Jews of Europe.

It was April 1975 that the Khmer Rouge entered Cambodia's capital city, launching a 4-year wave of violence, killing 2 million people.

In April 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began in Bosnia, the longest siege in modern history, where more than 10,000 people perished, including 1,500 children.

It was in April 1994 that the plane carrying the President of Rwanda crashed, triggering the beginning of a genocide that killed more than 800,000 people in 100 days. When we talk about what happened in Rwanda, it is easy to begin to think of genocide as a single, undifferentiated act of barbarism. In reality, it was made of many individual atrocities that took place over 100 days.

In April 2003, innocent civilians in Sudan's Darfur region were attacked, killing more than 400,000 and displacing 2.5 million in a conflict that continues to this day.

This past month, the State Department announced that the United States has determined that ISIS's action against the Yazidis, Shiite Muslims, and Christians in Iraq and Syria constitutes genocide. Specifically, Secretary Kerry noted that in 2014, ISIS trapped Yazidis, killed them, enslaved thousands of Yazidi women and girls, ''selling them at auction, raping them at will and destroying the communities for which they lived for countless generations.''

I rise here today, in April, not only to commemorate International Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month and pay respect to the innocents who were slaughtered but also to speak about what the United States can and must do to prevent atrocities and genocide.

The commitment to prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities has been a centerpiece of policy by consecutive administrations of the U.S. Government. The United States was the first country in the world to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, signed in Paris on December 9, 1948, and President Ronald Reagan signed implementing legislation, allowing the United States to become a party to the convention on November 25, 1988.

In the 2006 ''National Security Strategy,'' President George W. Bush highlighted the ''moral imperative that states take against to prevent and punish genocide.''

I firmly believe that U.S. leadership can make a difference in preventing future genocides and mass atrocities. U.S. leadership can save lives by bringing the power and resources of the United States to bear on atrocity prevention, accountability, and justice.

On April 10, 2014, I introduced the Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act in this Chamber. Three days earlier, the world had marked the 20th anniversary of the genocide of Rwanda, one of the most horrific events in modern history, which unfolded as the world stood back and watched.

At that time, I noted:

> Unfortunately, we have not learned the lessons of the past. We must do better to not only see that sort of atrocities never again occur under our watch.

That statement was not only a reflection of my beliefs but a promise to keep the issue of atrocity prevention in front of the Senate and the American people.

So today, under the heavy cloud of atrocities occurring in Syria, South Sudan, and elsewhere, I come to address this body again. I am here today not to look backward about actions not taken. I am here today to stress that our job, our responsibility, is to make sure the United States has the tools—diplomatic, political, economic, and legal—to take effective action before atrocities occur. Essential to this is authorizing the Atrocities Prevention Board and ensuring that the U.S. Government has structures in place and the mechanisms at hand to better prevent and respond to potential atrocities.

President Obama, when he established the Atrocities Prevention Board in 2012, said that ''preventing genocide [is] an 'achievable goal' but one that require[s] a degree of governmental organization that matches the kind of methodical organization that accomplish mass killings.''

Earlier this year, I introduced the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2016 to ensure that we do just that. I am joined in this effort by Senators TILLIS, MURPHY, MENENDEZ, SHAHEEN, BROWN, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, COONS, MIKULSKI, MARKEY, MERKLEY, BOXER, CASEY, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, MURKOWSKI, BURR, and BENNET. This bill authorizes the Board, which is a transparent, accountable, high-level, interagency board that includes representatives at the assistant secretary level or higher from departments and agencies across U.S. Government.

The board will meet monthly to oversee the development and implementation of atrocity prevention and response policy, and, additionally, address over the horizon potential atrocities through the use of a wide variety of tools so that we can take effective action to prevent atrocities from occurring.

This bill gives our Foreign Service officers the training they need to recognize patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential atrocities and conflict. With this training, we will, over time, build atrocity prevention into the core skill set of our people on the ground. They will be equipped to see the warning signs, analyze the events, and engage early.

The bill also codifies the Complex Crises Fund, which has been a critical tool in our ability to quickly respond to an emerging crises overseas, including potential mass atrocities and conflict. We used the Complex Crises Fund in Tunisia during the Arab Spring and in Sri Lanka after its civil war. We have used it to respond quickly in Kenya and in other countries, where we helped save lives. Importantly, this bill builds greater transparency and accountability into the structure of the Atrocities Prevention Board. Civil society will have a say, and Congress will have a greater oversight role to make sure we are getting this done right.

This is a good bill. It does good things and places the United States on a solid moral ground. But the moral argument alone is not enough. We must also remember that America's security and that of our allies is affected when civilians are slaughtered. Our security is impacted when desperate refugees stream across borders. Our security is affected when perpetrators of extraordinary violence wreak havoc on regional stability, destroying communities, families, and livelihoods.

We have seen groups such as ISIS systematically targeting communities on the basis of their ethnicity or religious beliefs and practices. After 60 years, we still do not have a comprehensive framework to prevent and respond to mass atrocities in genocide.

Let this bill act as a framework and also as our call to action so that when

we use the phrase ''never again,'' we know that we are taking meaningful action to make that a reality.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FREDDIE GRAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the death of Freddie Gray was a national tragedy deserving of a national conversation. A year after the death of Freddie Gray, the glare of television cameras covering the ensuing unrest has faded in Baltimore but the hurt and the continuing effort to heal remain.

In the 12 months since Freddie Gray's death, Americans have had long overdue conversations about racially biased policing, poverty in cities across America, the lack of access to quality education, and the scarcity of safe and affordable housing. These conversations have been translated into meaningful actions by Baltimore City residents, community leaders, and lawmakers at every level. Faith groups, community organizations, the business community, and many other groups who love and understand the limitless potential of our city have stood up and articulated their vision on how to build a stronger Baltimore.

The death of Freddie Gray was yet another painful reminder of the problems we have in our criminal justice system. I am a strong supporter of the independence of our judicial branch of government and the grand jury system, but I think all of us understand the frustration when there were no criminal indictments brought in the Trayvon Martin case, the Michael Brown case, the Eric Garner case, and far too many examples across America.

I have been working for years to address problems in our criminal justice system. In the days following the death of Freddie Gray and the ensuing unrest, I called on the Justice Department to open Federal criminal and civil rights investigations into Freddie Gray's death. On April 21, 2015, I was joined by Representative JOHN CONYERS in reintroducing legislation, the End Racial Profiling Act, which I originally introduced before the tragic death of Trayvon Martin.

As Baltimore emerged from the unrest, I met with community leaders to discuss legislative responses to help heal Baltimore's physical wounds and how to address many of the core problems that underpinned the unrest.

I met with a pharmacy owner whose store had been looted. I visited a senior center that was damaged. I spoke with residents in east and west Baltimore. I visited Freddie Gray's elementary school to hear from teachers and community leaders about what tools they required for the Federal Government to better meet the needs of students.

In the weeks following the unrest, I went back and forth from Baltimore City to the Senate and the White House, relaying the needs of Baltimoreans to my colleagues and to top Obama administration officials. I was joined by the Maryland congressional delegation, my colleague and friend Senator MIKULSKI—one of the great leaders on this issue—and members of our city delegation—Congressman CUMMINGS, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER, and Congressman SARBANES.

Congress and the Federal Government responded and continues to respond. I welcomed the announcement that the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division will open a Federal ''pattern or practice'' investigation of the Baltimore Police Department. This was just one way to help restore the eroded trust between communities and police. To further this effort, I introduced the BALTIMORE Act. The BALTIMORE Act is comprised of four titles.

Title I deals with law enforcement reform. The BALTIMORE Act places bans on racial profiling by State and local law enforcement, mandatory data collection and reporting, and available grants.

It requires local law enforcement officials receiving funds from the Byrne/JAG and COPS Hiring Programs to submit officer training information to the Department of Justice, including how their officers are trained in the use of force, countering racial and ethnic bias, deescalating conflicts, and constructive engagement with the public.

It requires the Department of Justice to report on a plan to assist State and local law enforcement agencies to improve training in the use of force, identifying racial and ethnic bias, and conflict resolution through the course of officers' careers.

The Department of Justice shall develop Field Training Program policies and examine ways to partner with national law enforcement organizations to promote consistent standards for high quality training and assessment. The Department shall also provide a report that contains best practices, model policies, and training toolkits. The Department of Justice will derive action plans for helping law enforcement agencies upgrade their IT systems to submit arrest and officer-involved shooting data.

Lastly, Title I establishes a pilot program to assist local law enforcement in purchasing or leasing body-worn cameras, which requires privacy study.

We have a comprehensive section that deals with law enforcement.

Title II deals with voting rights and civil rights restoration. The BALTIMORE Act restores the right to vote for all citizens after a prison sentence is served, returning citizens the right to vote. It also restores eligibility to sit on Federal juries after a prison sentence has been served.

Title III deals with sentencing law reform, which many colleagues in this Chamber have been championing. It reclassifies specific low-level, nonviolent drug possession felonies as misdemeanors, eliminating the distinction between crack and powder cocaine for sentencing, and requires fair weight for food products.

Title IV deals with reentry and employment law reform. It is critically important that people have an opportunity once they come out of incarceration. I don't think there is a Member of this Chamber who hasn't had a second chance. This allows nonprofits to apply for Second Chance Act grants.

It authorizes $200 million annually for the Labor Department's Reentry Employment Opportunities Program. It is a sense of the Congress that the administration should ''ban the box'' for hiring of Federal contractors.

Baltimore's congressional delegation has been fighting to ensure Federal resources are made available to help the city residents prosper. In the days following the unrest, the Small Business Administration established disaster loan outreach centers in Baltimore to help local owners who have been impacted by the unrest.

The Justice Department has also provided assistance in the form of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to help defray the cost of policing during the unrest and to help local law enforcement better safeguard communities from violent crime.

The Department of Education's Project SERV, or School Emergency Response to Violence, has given resources to Baltimore City Public Schools to help students recover from trauma associated with the unrest.

The Environmental Protection Agency pledged funding to help convert vacant lots into gardens that foster a sense of community and increase public and environmental health.

Other Obama administration initiatives such as My Brother's Keeper continue to give communities the tools they need to foster long-term positive change. These are only a small portion of the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to the people of Baltimore City.

I am proud of the Federal Government stepping up to help Baltimore so that Baltimore can reach its full potential. Baltimore is my home. Following the death of Freddie Gray was one of the most difficult days in the city's history. One year later, Baltimore is transforming with the help of ordinary citizens, the business community, and a slew of nonprofits making a measurable impact. I have always been honored to represent the people of Baltimore. As long as I still have that honor, I will continue to make sure the Federal Government is an active partner in empowering Baltimore City to reach its full potential.

In the year since the death of Freddie Gray, we have made progress in building a more just America by investing in Baltimore. Let us continue to build upon that progress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

REMEMBERING HARRY WU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, the world lost a courageous activist for international workers' rights, Harry Wu. Harry Wu spent 19 years in one of China's ''laogai'' prison labor camps. That word is pretty much unknown in English—L-A-O-G-A-I. It is a word that the Chinese made famous, at least in their part of the world, as the terribly brutal labor camps where they sent political prisoners.

Mr. Wu was imprisoned in 1960 at age 23 because he spoke out against Communist China's ally in 1960, the Soviet Union, after its invasion of Hungary. Over those 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Mr. Wu was brutalized. He was sent to work on farms, mines, and prison camps. He was beaten and forced into concrete cases. As he has written and told us, he survived on food he foraged in rats' nests.

After his release, following Mao's death, Harry Wu dedicated the rest of his life to exposing the horrors that his homeland leaders inflicted on their own citizens. He risked his life to return to China under cover and gathered secret footage of the abuses in China's laogai, China's prison camps. He wouldn't let the world ignore Chinese atrocities. He wouldn't let us forget that opening our doors to China—demanded by U.S. corporations with few strings attached—came at a steep price. Through the footage he collected, he helped show the world that products like cheap wrenches and artificial flowers sold in the United States were made with forced labor. Think about what this was about. U.S. companies would shut down their production in Mansfield, my hometown, or maybe in Baton Rouge or Cleveland, and move their production to China and sell those products back to the United States. The U.S. companies that moved to China never addressed the moral issue of what that move did to our communities. They never addressed the moral issue of, in some cases, using Chinese forced labor to make their products. These companies could also sell their products a little bit cheaper in the United States, and as a result, these companies could reap much bigger profits. The moral question of U.S. trade relations with China has rarely been touched in this body. It is just inconvenient for us to think about. Well, Mr. Wu never let it be inconvenient.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of China's entry into the World Trade Organization this year and review China's nonmarket economy status, we should not forget the lessons of Harry Wu. Over the past decade, we have seen that prosperity in China does not lead to more political freedom.

I knew Harry Wu. He testified before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China when I was chairman. He had testified several times.

As recently as 2012, Mr. Wu warned Congress:

> The Laogai—
>
> The forced labor camp—
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> system [is] deeply rooted into [China's] economic structure. . . . China's working class is different from that of the modern democratic countries. It includes not only ''workers'' in the ordinary sense, but also ''workers'' of the prison enterprises.

These would be slaves. He warned that ''prisoners in Laogai, more like state slaves than enterprise workers, provide the state with an endless source of cheap or payless labor force.''

This system is an egregious human rights abuse against hundreds of thousands of Chinese people. It hurts American workers who are then forced to compete.

This system they have set up is one of the reasons that people are really upset about what is happening in this country. Companies in my State of Ohio shut down production in Lima, Zanesville, and Chillicothe, then moved overseas to China in order to get a tax break, hired Chinese workers—some of them were slave laborers for some of the component manufacturing; some of them were just low-paid labor—to make these products in a totalitarian system and sell them back in the United States. American companies never talk about the moral dimension of that.

I wrote a book a dozen or so years ago called the ''Myths of Free Trade.'' I interviewed Harry Wu about this book. He told me: ''Capitalism must never be equated with democracy.'' Because our country believes in capitalism and democracy, we think they always go together. Well, they don't. According to Harry Wu:

> Capitalism must never be equated with democracy. . . . Don't believe it about China. My homeland is mired in thousands of years of rule by one bully at a time, whether you call him emperor or chairman. Don't be fooled by electronics or air conditioning.

Before his death, I think Mr. Wu would have said: Yes, the United States has been fooled. Maybe we choose to be fooled; maybe we choose to not know how the products that we hold in our hands are made—by an oppressive government using forced labor workers.

We have been on a continuous march toward more trade with China and demanded far little in return. We have turned a blind eye to China's labor practices for too long. When you hear Presidential candidates and others complaining about China, it is always about putting American workers out of work, which it should be, but the other part of that moral question is about how we are using slave laborers in China to undercut American workers. How could an American worker or company possibly compete with slave labor in China? Obviously we can't, but we leave that moral question because U.S. corporations don't want to acknowledge and want to turn a blind eye toward slave labor. It reminds me of something from a few years ago when an American drug company was making a blood thinner—much of the production of that blood thinner came from China—with contaminated ingredients, and a number of people in Toledo, OH, died. The drug company didn't know where these products came from. They knew they came from China, but they didn't know where their supply ingredients came from. Think about that. They should be liable for that—at least you would think they should—but they just didn't think about the moral question there.

A year and a half ago I gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, warning that before we sign any bilateral investment treaty with China, we need to demand that China comply with existing international obligations in domestic law. We have given China chance after chance, pushing for increased engagement, even though we know that China will play by its own rules. In the past year and a half, nothing has changed. We need to make clear the international obligations we expect China to meet on cyber security, human rights, forced labor, slaves making products that American children use, international trade, workers' rights, and other issues. We need to demand that China meet these standards now.

Increased engagement by the United States may have led to more agreements on paper, and that is fine, but in reality the only thing it has achieved is our ongoing tolerance of Chinese transgressions. It may be tolerance, it may be ignoring, it may be shrugging our shoulders, it may be burying our heads in the sand, but I don't think we want to think much about slave labor in China. I don't think when we buy these products at Walmart—specializing in Chinese products—that we want to think much about where these products were made. We often know they were made in China, but we don't really want to think about how those workers produced these products.

Harry Wu's passing is a reminder that this needs to end. His legacy includes the Laogai Museum here in Washington. I encourage my colleagues to visit the museum and pay their respects to Harry Wu. The best way they can pay their respects to Harry Wu is by changing our policies. The thousands upon thousands of other nameless prisoners who suffered in these Chinese prison camps should be honored equally. We can't forget this tragic legacy, and we can't forget the human rights abuses that continue to this day as they continue to make these same products in these same working conditions with these same slave laborers. It is shameful. It should not continue.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

GREG KING

Mr. CARPER. Good afternoon, Mr. President. For more than a year now, as the Presiding Officer knows since he has had the good fortune—or bad fortune of drawing the short straw—of sitting there when I come to the Senate floor just about every month to highlight the extraordinary work that is being done by the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security—I am here to do that again today. The agency has so many talented folks, and they do incredibly important work, so there is no shortage of material.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department of Homeland Security is made up of 22 component agencies and employs over 200,000 people. These men and women work around the clock, and the work they do is designed to protect all of us—protect our families and protect our country. Last month we were reminded of just how crucial the work they do is when terrorists attacked a train station and airport check-in area in Brussels, Belgium, setting off bombs that killed 32 people and wounded hundreds more. Our thoughts and prayers have been and remain with the families, loved ones, and victims of these horrible attacks.

Just 6 days before these tragic attacks, I spoke on the floor about the difficult but critical work performed by the 59,000 employees of the Transportation Security Administration, affectionately known as TSA. These men and women work every day. They do so to ensure that all of us—Americans and tourists who visit—may travel around our country and around the world safe from harm.

The attack in Brussels shows us once again just how important these efforts—performed by the men and women at TSA—are to every single American and to our visitors. It also reminds us how important it is that TSA has the tools and resources needed to effectively carry out their mission.

To help ensure that the TSA is well equipped to protect the public, I worked with a number of our Senate colleagues last week—Democrats and Republicans alike—to include amendments to a bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Our amendments will help make airports and transit hubs across our country safer for travelers by doubling the number of teams—called VIPR teams—of Federal agents and bomb-sniffing dogs that patrol our airports and subways to deter and identify potential attackers.

These amendments will also make security improvements to public areas in airports and train stations and ensure that the men and women patrolling those areas can effectively respond to the types of active shooter incidents we have unfortunately seen more frequently in recent months.

These commonsense amendments are just one of the many ways we can support the men and women at TSA and throughout the Department of Homeland Security who work on the frontlines every day screening passengers, guarding our ports of entry, and patrolling our transit hubs.

One part of the support we need to extend to these brave public servants is world-class training and education. By expanding and improving training opportunities for our law enforcement personnel, we can make sure they have the knowledge and make sure they have the capability to respond to every situation that may arise. That is why one of the best tools in our homeland security arsenal is the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

As my staff knows, I don't like acronyms very much, but this is a pretty good one. It is called the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. It is located in Glynco, GA. It goes by the acronym F-L-E-T-C, and we affectionately call it FLETC. I am not crazy about acronyms, but that is a pretty good one. We call it FLETC.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is tasked with teaching the men and women we deploy to the frontlines how to best utilize the technologies and techniques needed to protect Americans here at home and around the world. They provide training to literally dozens of Federal agencies, State law enforcement personnel from across our country, and our international partners, who travel from all over the world to learn from the best right here in America. From active shooter trainings, to advanced forensic techniques, to methods to counter human trafficking, FLETC instructors provide training in nearly 100 courses. They host the training academies for a number of other agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recently, TSA announced that they would be establishing a new, permanent academy for transportation security officers at FLETC's main facility in Glynco, GA. Having their training centralized at FLETC will allow TSA to better ensure uniform training for all of their officers and better collaborate with other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Providing world-class training and instruction to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers each year requires bringing together some of the most highly qualified professional instructors from across our country. The more than 1,000 men and women from across law enforcement who serve at FLETC utilize their personal experience in the field to create and to lead effective trainings that help law enforcement professionals keep us—Americans and our guests—safe and secure each day.

One of FLETC's world-class instructors is Greg King, pictured right here to my left. For nearly 10 years, Mr. King has been an instructor at FLETC, utilizing his own experience to train Federal officers deployed around the world.

Before coming to FLETC, Greg served his hometown of Cleveland, OH, working for the Cleveland Police Department for 28 years. If he is listening, I would just suggest that I have been thinking that Greg may have started when he was about 10. He looks pretty good for a guy who has been doing that for this long. He has a career spanning nearly three decades. Greg did everything from working undercover as a street crimes unit detective, to investigating financial crimes, murders, and crimes against children. For those 28 years, Greg has dedicated his life to protecting the community of Cleveland and giving back to the town in which he grew up.

Today, Greg serves as a senior instructor at FLETC, working as program coordinator for the Case Organization and Presentation Training Program, the Internet Investigations Training Program, and as assistant program coordinator for the Intelligence Analyst Training Program. Greg has a wealth of knowledge in these areas. His colleagues call him—this is a quote, their words, not mine—a real ''subject matter expert'' with the kind of expertise that can only come from real-world experience. Through the lesson plans and course materials he develops, Greg strives to impart the firsthand knowledge he gained on the force to his students so that when they leave his class, they are able to effectively build cases, conduct investigations, analyze information, and ultimately catch the bad guys.

At FLETC, Greg's colleagues also refer to him as an ''Energizer bunny.'' Some of my colleagues have referred to me in those same terms. I think it is a compliment—I hope so—and in his case, I am sure it is. His energy and his passion for his work inspire other instructors and keep his students engaged.

Given his dedication to his students and to the FLETC mission, Greg has earned the respect of his peers and FLETC leadership alike. It is no wonder, then, that Greg King was named FLETC instructor of the year for 2015. Think about that—instructor of the year for the entire school. It is clearly a well-deserved honor.

When Greg isn't training law enforcement professionals, he spends time with his family—his wife Shelley, their two daughters Lela and Shayla; and their son Rayshawn. I want to give my special thanks to Greg's wife Shelley and to their two daughters and their son for sharing him with us—with the people of Cleveland and now the people of the United States—for not just 28 years but 38 years in all. He has dedicated countless hours, I am told as

well, to his community and to his country in addition to that.

In his 10 years at FLETC, Greg King has helped train countless law enforcement officers, who have used the valuable lessons from his courses every single day to arrest criminals, to protect our fellow citizens, and to help keep Americans safe around the world.

FLETC has four core values that the agency and their employees attempt to abide by, and I am going to mention those today: No. 1, respect; No. 2, integrity—one of our former colleagues, Alan Simpson, the Senator from Wyoming, used to say about integrity: If you have it, nothing else matters. If you don't have it, nothing else matters. Integrity is the second value I want to mention for FLETC. So respect, integrity, service, and excellence.

I like to say that one of the things we need to focus on is to have excellence in everything we do as a country, here in the Senate and across the country. If it isn't perfect, make it better. And that is one of the core values for FLETC.

Respect, integrity, service, and excellence. I have mentioned that those values actually look a little bit like some of the values we embrace in the office from the State that I am privileged to represent. Greg has lived this one, using his own experience, to make the next generation of law enforcement officers and our country even better prepared to face the threats of tomorrow.

Greg is just one shining example of the critical work being done by more than 1,000 instructors at FLETC. These instructors make it their own mission to ensure that law enforcement personnel across our country are well prepared for whatever they might face on the job.

So to Greg, to all of the men and women at FLETC, and to everyone at the Department of Homeland Security, I thank you for your hard work day in and day out, I thank you for your service to the people of our country, and I urge you to keep up the good work.

Some of us travel on trains. Some of us travel on buses. Some of us travel on airplanes and helicopters, in our own cars, trucks, and vans. I do a combination of those, but I do a fair amount of travel in the air. I was a naval flight officer for many years. I am a retired Navy captain. I spent a lot of time in Navy airplanes. I love the Navy. I loved serving in the Navy. But now they don't let me—they let me ride in a commercial plane. Sometimes we get to fly in military planes, too, which is a kick. But when you fly commercial aviation, at the airport you generally go through a security check, and they want to make sure you are not carrying anything in your luggage or anything on your person that is inappropriate or illegal. And you have to be confronted by usually a series of TSA officers. I just want to remind us all that they are there to protect us. That is their job, to make sure the planes we get on, whether they are going 200, 300, 400 miles or 2,000 or 3,000 miles to go from one side of our country to the other side or one side of the world to the other side—the job of the TSA officers is to protect us. They have a very tough job, and there is actually a tension in the job that exists because of the work they do.

On the one hand, every day there are tens of thousands of travelers, maybe hundreds of thousands of travelers, pulsing through our airports, trying to get from a terminal, from a gate, onto a plane in time to catch their flights. In some cases, they have had to recheck their bags. They have had to go through maybe unloading their suitcases and showing that what they have in their suitcases is not inappropriate or illegal. There is a rush to get through to try to catch their flights. TSA is there. In some cases, they slow down that traffic, that flow, and they slow down that flow of traffic in order to make sure that what all of us passengers every day are carrying in our suitcases or briefcases or purses or on our bodies is not inappropriate and is not illegal. They do it to protect all of us. Sometimes the TSA folks get a little bit frazzled. I would say we would, too, if we had to do the work they do.

A lot of times, when I fly commercial and when I go through the check-in, after they check my ID or whatever, I take it upon myself to say to the TSA officers—I tell them who I am, that I am a senior Democrat on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and I thank them for what they do. I say: We value your work and we appreciate it, and I just wanted you to know that. I can't tell you how many times a TSA officer has said to me: Nobody has ever thanked me before. Nobody has ever thanked me before.

Sometimes we can't pay people enough for the work they do, and they work hard for their money.

I would ask others, when you see somebody, especially TSA officers who go out of their way in spite of all of the hustle and bustle and pressure on them—they manage to still be polite, courteous, and helpful—thank them. It might be the first time. You may become the first person who has ever said ''thank you'' to them.

At the end of the day, one of the things that means a lot to me is whenever people thank me for my service to our country, whether it was in uniform or as Governor, Senator, or here today. So I urge you to do that. When I do that, it makes me feel better and it makes them feel better too.

Mr. President, I am looking around the Senate Chamber, looking for Democrats or Republicans who are rushing to get to the podium to say something. I don't see anybody rushing.

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

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

COMMEMORATING THE BUILDING OF THE SSN 791 SUBMARINE ''USS DELAWARE''

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, just a short note. I think it is important, especially for those who are privileged to live in the First State—the first State to ratify the Constitution.

Delaware ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787, before any other State did so. For 1 week, Delaware was the entire United States of America, and then we opened it up to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Louisiana, and others. It turned out pretty well. It was a great week.

I think that because our State is remarkable in starting the whole country, we have a lot of ships—submarines or aircraft carriers—named after it. It has been decades since there has been any naval vessel named after the First State.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, and I joined Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to announce that work would begin in a few years from that point—work would begin building a fast attack nuclear submarine. It would be called the USS *Delaware*, and the number of the ship would be SSN 791.

This Saturday in Newport News, VA, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, who is officially the sponsor of the submarine, will be there to join Secretary Ray Mabus. I will have the good fortune of joining them for the keeling, which is the first step in the construction of a brandnew vessel, the USS *Delaware*, SSN 791.

These submarines are not built in a day. This is a project that will take a couple of years, but a very good thing for our State and I hope for our country is about to begin; that is, the adventure of building a submarine that will help defend our country, help keep the sea lanes open, and better ensure that we remain a nation that is brave and free.

I mentioned earlier in my brief remarks that I spent some years of my life in the Navy—5 years in a hot war in Southeast Asia as a P–3 aircraft mission commander, and toward the end of those 5 years as a P–3 aircraft mission commander I was a naval flight officer. Then, for another 18 years, I was a P–3 aircraft mission commander in the Reserves, chasing Soviet subs all over the world.

We would train with American submarines, and we would track fast attack boats. It is a fast attack boat that will be built and named after Delaware. We would track ballistic missile submarines, American submarines. We would also track those from other

countries, especially those from the Soviet Union. It wasn't that hard to find them, to track them, to know the location of Soviet nuclear submarines that were on deployment. They weren't easy to find, to locate and track, but they were a whole lot easier than tracking our own. ''Run Silent, Run Deep,'' and that is exactly what our submarines did and still do. We have the best submarine force in the world. I am very proud of all of them, and they are delighted to be joined by SSN 791 in a couple of years, and we get to kick it off in 2 days in Newport News, VA.

I wish everybody a good recess. The pages are going to be in charge until we get back in about 8 or 9 days, and I am sure they will do a good job. Thank you so much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR OIL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a well-respected American company: the Sinclair Oil Corporation. This May marks 100 years since Harry Ford Sinclair founded the corporation after purchasing petroleum assets from 11 smaller companies. In its centennial year, Sinclair Oil continues to thrive as one of the oldest continuously operated brands in the petroleum business and the seventh largest fuel company in the United States. Today I wish to congratulate the company on its 100th anniversary.

Most people know Sinclair Oil for its iconic green Apatosaurus, but behind the character is a company fueled by two real American legends: Harry Ford Sinclair and Earl Holding.

Harry Ford Sinclair experienced his fair share of setbacks before becoming a successful businessman. In fact, Sinclair was just 25 years old when a speculative investment went south, and he lost his father's drugstore, but the bad investment turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the brash and brilliant young man, who was never cut out for the quiet, meticulous life of a druggist in the first place.

After losing his family's drugstore, Sinclair found work selling lumber for oil derricks. Soon, he was buying and selling small oil leases on the side, and his ''side'' business did well enough to attract investors. Sinclair's successes snowballed as he rolled small profits into bigger ventures, eventually leading to a payout in Oklahoma's Glenn Pool oil field that made him a millionaire by age 30. In 1916, he founded the Sinclair Oil and Refining Corporation. Three years later, the company had grown to four times its original size.

In the 1920s, Sinclair introduced America to the first modern service stations. These early retail gasoline outlets offered oil changes, minor mechanical repairs, and, for the first time, public restrooms that motorists could use while an attendant pumped gas into their vehicles. The convenient amenities of these service stations enabled the creation of a uniquely American experience: the long road trip.

Sinclair's success continued through tough times. During the Great Depression, the company bought up dying competitors, saving hundreds of American jobs. And during World War II, Sinclair supported the Allies with high-octane fuel, tankers, and more.

In 1948, Harry Ford Sinclair officially retired, but 28 years later, Earl Holding, another American business icon, acquired the company, leading Sinclair Oil into a new era of prosperity and growth. Earl had grown up with nothing during the Great Depression, but like Harry Sinclair, he turned a willingness to work into success. Before purchasing Sinclair Oil, Earl and his wife, Carol, built the Little America chain of hotels and gas stations. In fact, the Little America chain became Sinclair's biggest customer before the Holdings bought the oil company.

Earl was well known for his brilliance, but he was equally regarded for his steadiness and warmth. These personal qualities enabled him to make Harry Sinclair's empire somehow feel like a mom-and-pop business. No task at the company was beneath Earl, whether it was serving coffee or digging ditches. He even hosted annual conferences and parties so he could personally meet partners and employees from around the country.

Today Sinclair Oil continues to succeed under the leadership of CEO Ross Matthews. Family values hold the company together, while innovation drives it forward. As the company celebrates its centennial, the spirit created by Harry Sinclair and Earl Holding lives on, as does Dino, the familiar green dinosaur that is the beloved mascot of Sinclair Oil.

In closing, I would like to offer just a few words in memory of the company's late CEO, Earl Holding. I knew Earl personally and considered him a dear friend. He inspired his employees through genuine kindness and humble leadership. Earl was a master of commerce, but more importantly, he was a good and honorable man of uncompromising character and integrity. Although Earl left us only 3 years ago, his legacy is alive and well. Today I wish his beautiful wife and children the very best.

REMEMBERING WARD CORRELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a good friend and a distinguished Kentuckian who has sadly passed away after a resoundingly successful life and career of many decades. Ward Correll, a native Kentuckian renowned across the Commonwealth, died on April 21 of this year. He was 88 years old.

My wife, Elaine, and I are deeply saddened by Ward's death. Ward rose from humble beginnings to great business success, and he also generously and charitably shared the fruits of his success with others in his hometown of Somerset and throughout Kentucky. Many have benefitted from his philanthropy, and he will be terribly missed.

Ward was a household name in Kentucky. A self-made man, he created a business empire, including an oil distributorship and many property, business, and financial holdings. He was a major stockholder in First Southern National Bank.

Ward believed strongly in giving back to the community that he loved so much. He was a financial benefactor to dozens of charities, churches, sports teams, and other organizations, including Somerset Christian School—which honors his family's contribution with a monument on the school campus—and the University of the Cumberlands, where the science complex is named in his and his late wife's honor. The Ward Correll Sports Complex, a popular destination in Somerset, is thanks to his efforts.

For all his success in life, Ward graduated high school with less than $3 in his pocket. He hitchhiked to Detroit, where he worked odd jobs. After serving his country in the U.S. Army in an intelligence unit during the Korean war, he returned home to Somerset and married his wife, Regina.

Ward and Regina's first business was selling bananas. From that, he built himself into the titan of business and philanthropy whom we mourn today.

Ward received the 2002 Kentuckian Award from the A.B. Chandler Foundation. He was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Bluegrass Chapter in 2003. In that same year, he received the Business of the Year Award as an Entrepreneurial Success from the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce. And he received the Somerset-Pulaski County Distinguished Community Service Award in 2014.

The people of Pulaski County were accustomed to seeing full-page ads in the local paper bought by Ward Correll, each one sharing some bit of wisdom or personal philosophy from Ward that he wished to pass on to others. He ended each ad with the signature line, ''Hooray, cheers! Ward Correll.''

I want to send my deepest condolences and prayers to Ward's family at their time of loss. Now is the time to wish one final hooray and cheers to the man who leaves behind a powerful legacy. Kentucky honors Ward Correll for his life and his lifetime of service, and we mourn his passing.

The Lexington Herald-Leader published an article detailing Ward Correll's life and career. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Apr. 23, 2016]

SOMERSET BUSINESSMAN WARD CORRELL, KNOWN FOR PHILANTHROPY, DEAD AT AGE 88

(By Bill Estep)

Somerset businessman Ward F. Correll, recognized for millions of dollars' worth of philanthropy in support of various causes, died Thursday at University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. He was 88.

Correll had been hospitalized since suffering what police said were accidental gunshot wounds at his home early March 9.

Correll had business interests in a shopping center, an oil and gas distributorship and a life insurance company, and he was a founder of First Southern National Bank.

Correll had given millions to causes and projects including land for a water park and youth baseball field in Somerset; land and financial support for Somerset Christian School; money to renovate an auditorium at Somerset High School; and $1 million for a classroom building at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg. The building was named for Correll and his late wife, Regina.

He also made smaller donations, reportedly giving away $30 worth of gas from his stations to active-duty military personnel in 2009, for instance.

Observers said Correll's philanthropy had touched countless lives.

''It has built the community up from every aspect,'' said Carolyn Mounce, head of the Somerset-Pulaski County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, a Somerset Republican, said Correll's impact will last for generations.

''His generosity was as vast as his business ingenuity, and he routinely used both to inspire and encourage everyone around him,'' Rogers said. ''Ultimately, Ward loved his God, his family, his community and his country, and spent a lifetime faithfully serving each one with great passion and enthusiasm.''

Correll was born in Wayne County, one of 13 children, and grew up in Pulaski County in modest circumstances.

He told the story of leaving home after high school with $2.67 and hitchhiking to Detroit for work, returning home several months later with a bit more money in his pocket.

He eventually developed a shopping center in the 1960s on what was then a sparsely built stretch of U.S. 27 in Somerset, now crowded with hundreds of businesses.

Correll frequently bought full-page advertisements in the Commonwealth-Journal newspaper in Somerset to publish inspirational quotes.

Correll, a Korean War veteran, is survived by six children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, according to Lake Cumberland Funeral Home.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYS TOWN NEVADA IN THE 12TH ANNUAL JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 25th anniversary of Boys Town Nevada. Serving southern Nevada's most vulnerable children, Boys Town Nevada helps to support and educate children and families in need.

Boys Town opened its doors in Nevada in 1991. Since then, they have promoted valuable skills for boys and girl and their families in the Las Vegas area. The organization has developed family-based services in the home by aiding in the process of reunifying families. Boys Town strives to provide the necessary skills to create and maintain a stable household for all members of the family.

For more than a century, Boys Town has followed Father Edward Flanagan's mission to save children and heal families through the power of love, family, and faith. Because of their positive impact in Nevada, they have been able to improve the lives of nearly 15,000 children over the last two decades. Their dedication and their hard work resembles Nevada's values to sustain healthy relationships and minimize problems that affect the mental health of each family.

As part of the 12th annual Journey of Hope gala, I would like to honor Diana Bennet and Scott Menke for being the 2016 Hope Awards recipients. These philanthropy icons exemplify the generosity and commitment to dedicate their lives to impact the lives of children, families, and all Nevada communities.

I applaud executive director Denise Biden and her team for her strong leadership in one of the most important organizations for children in the State of Nevada. Her dedication though the past 15 years has positively impacted more than 3,000 children each year. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 10th anniversary of Project Real. Project Real will formally celebrate over 10 years of teaching Nevada students the importance of the law and giving them the tools they need to prevent crime.

Since 2005, Project Real has met the challenge of teaching Nevada students from kindergarten through high school about the principles of democracy, law, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The organization is working to bring law and civic education back into Nevada's classrooms by providing programs that give students of all ages the opportunity to learn about our judicial system. Project Real takes pride in ensuring that students are positive contributors to the communities in which they reside.

Since its inception, the organization has also been a strong supporter of academic programs that allow children to gain a better understanding of our judicial system. Working closely with the State bar of Nevada, Project Real prepares Nevada's children to become involved, participating citizens who understand their responsibilities and rights. These programs not only encourage students to act with integrity, but also foster connections between students and legal professionals.

I applaud executive director Tom Kovach and his team for strong leadership in an important organization for children throughout the State. I am pleased that through your and other's selfless efforts, incalculable numbers of students and communities have been positively affected by Project Real. I would like to recognize Irwin Molasky and Sam Lionel, as well. It was because of their vision for children in Nevada to become responsible citizens that they founded Project Real. This organization is an invaluable part of communities throughout the State, and I would like to extend my best wishes for continued success.

REMEMBERING LAURA CHA-YU LIU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I share the news that Judge Laura Cha-Yu Liu passed away last week. A longtime resident of Chicago, Judge Liu was only 49 years old. Although her time with us was far too short, her accomplishments were many. Judge Liu broke barriers. She was the first Chinese American woman to become judge in Illinois, the first Chinese American elected to public office in Cook County. And in 2014, Judge Liu became the first Asian American to serve on the Illinois appellate court.

Her story is the story of the American dream. Born in Carbondale, IL, her parents were immigrants fleeing a dire political situation and the terrors of war. They came to this country as foreign exchange students in the hopes of providing a better life for their children. Liu's first language was Mandarin, and she started school speaking very little English. She overcame the language barrier and graduated as her high school's valedictorian. In 1987, she received a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1991.

As the daughter of immigrants, Judge Liu took extraordinary pride in her work on the Illinois Supreme Court's Access to Justice program, aimed at making the system more accessible to immigrants and non-English speakers. She helped draft requirements that courts provide qualified interpreters for parties and witnesses. Throughout her career, Judge Liu was a staunch defender of individuals' rights, especially the most vulnerable in our community. It wasn't uncommon for Judge Liu to delay court proceedings when people struggled to understand, saying: ''We're going to wait for an interpreter.'' And no one did more to ensure that language barriers would not stand in the way of justice for all at Daley Center.

Five years ago, Judge Liu was diagnosed with breast cancer, but that didn't slow her down. She continued working, running for election in 2012

and, 2 years later, winning her appointment to the appellate court. She never complained; she just kept going. During chemotherapy, she said, ''I put on my wig, put on my eyebrows, lots of blush, happy face, get out of bed and went to work.'' That is courage.

Judge Liu was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Here are just a few: the Asian Pacific American Community Service Award; the Chinese American Bar Association of Greater Chicago's Sandra Otaka Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Illinois' Judges Foundation's ''the Leader Who Shares Experience Leaves a Legacy of Success'' Award; Asian American Bar Association's 2014 Vanguard Award for her work to make ''the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at large''; Illinois Secretary of State's Distinguished Leadership Award—and the honors go on and on. Judge Liu was also a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, and Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

She was an extraordinarily accomplished professional, but Judge Liu's proudest accomplishment was being a mother to her 7-year-old daughter, Sophie, and a wife to the love of her life, Michael Kasper. Despite her busy schedule, she always put family first. She made time to teach Sophie Mandarin and the piano. She even took Sophie to Paris, in the midst of dealing with an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. But she simply said, ''I'll sleep it off on the plane.'' And she did. She also could frequently be found on the sidelines of Sophie's soccer matches cheering her on.

Judge Liu was a force of nature. She authored nearly 150 judicial opinions in her 2 years on the Illinois appellate court. In her final days, while working from home, Judge Liu filed her final opinion before she passed. What commitment and what an inspiration. To the very end, Judge Liu understood that these issues and her opinions affected people's lives, and cancer wasn't going to keep her from doing her job.

She once said, ''I wanted to fit in more than I wanted to be a trailblazer. I didn't want to be an Asian-American on the rise.'' Well, she didn't get that wish. In fact, she accomplished just the opposite. Her career was groundbreaking and she became a role model for countless Chinese American kids—and an inspiration to the rest of us—especially her friends and family. Judge Liu will be sorely missed.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AND VERMONT ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, the Small Business Administration sets aside the first week of May to acknowledge small businesses that are doing extraordinary work and recognizes them during Small Business Week. In March, the SBA announced the slate of 2016 Vermont small business award winners, which included three tremendous businesses from Lamoille County. The award winners included the Small Business Person of the Year, Tom Stearns of High Mowing Seeds; Woman-Owned Business of the Year, Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering; and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Caleb Magoon, of Power Play Sports.

In Vermont, we place a high value on small businesses. They make up the backbone of our economy and the heart and soul of our communities. I am incredibly proud of the three Lamoille County businesses being recognized both because of their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit, but also because they represent a true cross section of the Vermont economy.

Vermonters share an inherent bond with our State's natural resources. Our State prides itself on our strong agricultural history and the renaissance we are seeing in diversified agriculture and value added food production. For many farmers, this connection starts with their soil and the seeds they plant in the ground. What started as a hobby for Tom Stearns 20 years ago has grown into a dynamic business that is one of the top organic seed companies in the country, now supplying those farmers and home gardeners across the country with the seeds that become the food we feed our families. Part of what sets Vermont businesses apart is their ability to innovate and help define or create new markets. High Mowing has done just this in the seed market—by ensuring that all of their 700 varieties of seeds are both organic and GMO-free—and are among the gold standard in the market. Now they are branching out to experiment with new varieties that will bring new specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers to the market.

When imagining a startup business, it is common to think of someone working out of their garage. Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering is precisely one of those entrepreneurs. Debbie founded her business in 2001 in her home garage, and since then, her products have received great acclaim and attention. Sweet Crunch baked goods are made from scratch, with no preservatives. It comes as no surprise to this Vermonter that their maple cookies are one of their best selling products. In fact, Sweet Crunch's maple cookies were featured on the Food Network, and Sweet Crunch products can be found in locations across New England and, in fact, the country. I will take a moment of personal pride to note that Debbie's delicious products will be a featured part of the annual Taste of Vermont celebration happening in Washington in a few weeks.

The mountains and valleys that played such a significant role in determining the settlement of Vermont continue to be a significant force in the lives of Vermonters. These resources attract skiers, riders, bikers, paddlers, and many other adventurers to our State both to live and to visit. Naturally all of these outdoor enthusiasts need some place to be outfitted. Power Play Sports has been a staple of the local sporting goods scene for more than 20 years, but was recently purchased by Caleb Magoon. Caleb first worked at Power Play as a teenager and returned to manage the store after living in Boston for a number of years. He has demonstrated a great entrepreneurial vision, consolidating his other business under one roof and opening a new store in Waterbury, VT. This type of passion and growth are qualities we want to encourage in Vermont and deserve recognition.

I want to congratulate these three businesses and all the Vermont businesses who were recognized by the SBA for a job well done. I look forward to their future successes. At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the following article written by Kayla Friedrich of the Stowe Reporter recognizing Tom, Debbie, and Caleb for their awards be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Stowe Reporter]

STEARNS, BURRITT, MAGOON WIN BUSINESS AWARDS

(By Kayla Friedrich)

Tom Stearns, founder and owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, has been named Vermont Small Business Person of the Year by the federal Small Business Administration.

In addition, two other Lamoille County businesses won major awards:

Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering Co. in Hyde Park, Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Caleb Magoon of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports, Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

For more than 50 years, the federal agency has honored small businesses for their contributions in their communities and to the economy.

Stearns was recognized for expanding his company, increasing sales, hiring more employees and contributing to the local community.

High Mowing is a farm-based company that produces and distributes vegetable, flower and herb seeds throughout the U.S. and Canada. It began in 1996 with just 28 varieties, produced in Stearns' backyard and packaged in his shed.

First-year sales were $2,000, but what started as a hobby soon expanded beyond his backyard. By 2001, his business had grown to the point where Stearns began contracting with other local farms to grow his seeds, in addition to continuing to produce on High Mowing's 5 acres.

High Mowing was the first organic company to guarantee all its seeds are not genetically modified, and 20 years later, his company is one of the top organic seed companies in the U.S., with more than 60 employees.

''It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of all the work done by our team for the last 20 years since this hobby was born,'' Stearns said. ''It has been a joy to see it grow and to know that we are just getting started. I get to do what I love every day and the work is diverse, challenging and creative.

''There is nothing more rewarding than bringing an idea to life in a way that serves health in the world, and it means a lot to me to have the work of our team recognized in this way.''

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

In Morrisville, the next town over, a very different business also won an award from the Small Business Administration.

Caleb Magoon, 32, owner of PowerPlay Sports in Morrisville, was named 2015 young entrepreneur of the year.

The annual award is presented to business owners under 35 who have had success in sales, profits, increasing jobs, having innovative business methods and demonstrating entrepreneurial potential necessary for economic growth.

PowerPlay Sports was founded in 1995 by John Connell and Rob Maynard. After bouncing around several downtown locations, the store eventually landed at 35 Portland St.

Magoon began working at the store at 17. After graduating from Boston University, where he studied theater design, Magoon and a few friends established a theater company in Boston, produced shows, and won the Elliot Norton Awards for best production three years in a row.

However, as a native of Hyde Park, who grew up hiking, biking and skiing in the Green Mountains, his passion for sports led him back to Vermont in 2010. He managed PowerPlay for a year, then bought the business from Maynard.

Magoon said working in theater helped him learn how to run a business. He and his friends each worked on different aspects within their theater company, including advertising, producing and financing, and learned from each other.

''If you can do that, business is easy. We learned to be business people,'' Magoon said.

Last year, Magoon moved his embroidery and screen-printing business—which was in an adjacent building—into the same location as his sports gear. He also opened a new store, Waterbury Sports, with two business partners in Waterbury.

WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

A Hyde Park business also received an award from the Small Business Administration.

Chef Debbie Burritt, owner and founder of Sweet Crunch Bakery and Catering Co., was selected as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

The bakeshop portion of the company provides desserts and wedding cakes to restaurants, resorts and the public. For catering, the company's goal is making every event unique and unforgettable.

Burritt has a staff to assist with all the details of event planning, and will customize menus to meet the individual needs of clients.

Burritt completed her culinary degree at Newbury College in Brookline, Mass., in 1987, and worked in Boston and Virginia before moving back to her native state, Vermont. After working at Stoweflake Resort and Trapp Family Lodge, both in Stowe, Burritt decided to venture out on her own in 2001.

RECOGNIZING BORDER AIR LTD.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, you don't have to look too far in Vermont to find any number of unique businesses. One such business is Border Air Ltd., led by its owner Cliff Coy. Cliff is the airport manager and unofficial ''aviation ambassador'' at the Franklin County State Airport in Swanton, VT. He also owns and runs Border Air Ltd., a maintenance and restoration company. He purchased Border Air Ltd. in 2007 from his father, George, who founded the company in 1989. Border Air specializes in restoring Soviet-era aircraft and is one of only five companies in the country with the qualifications to sell, maintain, and inspect them.

In addition to providing many services for the aviation enthusiasts who call Franklin County home, Border Air imports and exports planes to and from former Soviet nations, a practice that began after the senior Mr. Coy took a trip to Lithuania in 1989. George Coy heard of an Antonov An-2, the largest single-engine biplane ever built, which had just been restored and was listed for sale. In spite of a major malfunction while crossing the Black Sea with the An-2, the Coys were hooked on the idea of importing similar aircraft and selling them to American pilots.

Since then, over 300 planes have passed through Border Air's hangars, some purchased by customers as far as Chicago. Through their work with pilots and aviation enthusiasts across the world, the Coy family has brought business to Swanton and helps to keep citizens safe by inspecting planes once a year to ensure they are up to Federal Aviation Administration safety codes. Though safety is most important, Cliff Coy also aims to inspire a love of flying in children and adults across the country by bringing students from nearby Missiquoi Valley Union High School to the airport to watch air show practices or speaking with anyone interested in planes from flying to skydiving.

The Coys represent an entrepreneurial spirit that is at the heart of Vermont. In Cliff Coy, we see a true commitment to and leadership with the community.

I ask unanimous consent that the April 14, 2016, article from Seven Days entitled ''Border Air in Swanton Keeps Imported Planes Alive,'' which chronicles the Coys' history with Border Air Ltd., be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, Apr. 14, 2016]

BORDER AIR IN SWANTON KEEPS IMPORTED PLANES ALIVE

(By Ken Picard)

A stiff snow squall swirls around the main building at Franklin County State Airport in Swanton as a large, twin-engine turboprop prepares to roll out of the hangar. Airport manager Cliff Coy watches silently as the King Air B200 revs its engines with a high-pitched whine and slowly inches its way onto the tarmac.

The plane's wingtips are upturned for improved aerodynamics and fuel efficiency. It's just a fringe benefit that the design also allows the plane to squeeze through the hangar door.

''That's a 58-foot wingspan going through a 60-foot opening,'' Coy notes with a bemused smile. Once the wings clear the sides, he flashes a quick thumbs-up to his mechanic, Dan Marcotte, who's directing the pilot from the tarmac.

Unlike busy commercial hubs, such as Burlington International Airport, Franklin County State Airport doesn't have its own air traffic control tower. Many planes that use this runway lack radios, lights or on-board electrical systems.

The 46-year-old Coy wears many hats at this small, state-owned airstrip that's just a hop from the Canadian border. Besides managing the airport, he's the owner of Border Air Ltd., which was founded by his father, George Coy. As an FBO, or fixed-base operator, Border Air performs various functions for the flying public: fueling, inspection, maintenance, flight training, and providing hangar and tie-down space for parking aircraft. Coy calls its headquarters ''a cross between a boat launch and a state park—and I'm the guy wearing the green shirt and the hat.''

Beyond Coy's official duties, he's the airport's unofficial ''aviation ambassador,'' which involves more than just greeting white-knuckled travelers when they land safely in inclement weather. Coy is Franklin County's go-to guy for anyone who's interested in learning more about airplanes, whether that means fixing them, flying them, building them or jumping out of them with parachutes.

And, with fuel prices at historic lows, interest in aviation is soaring. That's not readily apparent on the morning I visit: Aside from the departing turboprop, about the only thing moving on the airfield is a semierect orange wind sock. But, according to Coy, KFSO—the airport's Federal Aviation Administration abbreviation—is usually more active.

''This is the busiest airport in Vermont for general aviation,'' he says, referring to noncommercial and nonmilitary air traffic. ''Come out here in six weeks on a Saturday, and this place will be humming with airplanes.''

Those planes aren't just local flyers. In recent years, Coy has carved out a unique niche for himself in the wider world of aviation: He imports and exports planes to and from Russia and other former Soviet-bloc countries. One of only five companies in the country with the expertise to sell, service and inspect Soviet-era planes, Border Air also maintains, repairs and modifies them—an unusual specialty that Coy fell into almost by accident.

Coy got his degree in mechanical engineering from Vermont Technical College and studied computer science and physics at the University of New Mexico. Then, as he puts it, he faced an important life choice: ''Am I going to spend the rest of my life in front of a computer screen, under bad fluorescent lighting? Or am I going to solve problems out in the field and get dirty?''

Coy began answering that question in 1988. That year, his uncle Bob, who was working on a sister-city exchange program, offered Coy a chance to travel to the Soviet Union after an injury forced a student in the program to drop out at the last minute.

Coy jumped at the opportunity—and not merely to see the Soviet Union as it began to open up to the West. Coy's father, George, himself a pilot and flight mechanic, was keenly interested in a Russian-built aircraft called the Antonov An–2. The 1,000–horsepower, 12–passenger plane is the world's largest single-engine biplane ever built. As Coy recalls, his father ''became infatuated with it and absolutely had to have one.''

While that trip offered the chance to see an An–2 firsthand, the Coys wouldn't get their hands on one until 1989, when George Coy learned that a company in Lithuania had a freshly overhauled An–2 for sale. As the Soviet Union neared its collapse, the Eastern Bloc countries were becoming like the Wild West, Cliff Coy recalls, with everything being sold off at bargain-basement prices.

''So he strapped a pile of cash to a belt and flew out to Lithuania to go look at an airplane,'' says Cliff.

Since George didn't speak Lithuanian, and all the instrumentation was in Russian, the sellers taught him how to fly the plane. Convinced it was worth the investment, the Coys hired a Russian pilot and a farmer from Shelburne to help fly the An–2 back to Vermont.

Like many aviation adventures, Cliff Coy says, theirs began with a mechanical malfunction: The plane lost all of its oil above the clouds during a night crossing of the North Sea.* As he recalls, ''The Russian pilot knew very few words of English, and two of them were 'Very bad!' ''

The An–2 managed to run for another half hour without oil before landing safely. Despite the mishap, the trip stoked the Coys' interest in importing more Russian and Eastern European planes—such as two aerobatic trainer planes called Yakovlev Yak–52s that they'd seen in Lithuania. Sensing a business opportunity, the Coys began importing Russian and Eastern Bloc planes to the U.S. for American buyers.

Since 1989, Border Air has imported more than 300 such aircraft, including a Yak–55, which is currently under repair in the hangar in Swanton. With only about 250 Yak–52s still actively flying in the United States, Coy has loyal clients who fly to Swanton from as far west as Chicago to get their planes serviced.

What's the plane's appeal? For one thing, Coy points out, Yak–52s closely resemble World War II fighter planes. And, given the Soviets' efficient engineering, he adds, ''You're basically able to maintain it out in a farmer's field with a flathead screwdriver and a wrench. So they're incredibly rugged and inexpensive.''

The Coys pretty much stopped importing Russian aircraft in 2005, when the dollar-to-Euro exchange rate made them prohibitively expensive. The sale price of the Yak–52, for example, jumped from $120,000 to $380,000.

In 2007, Coy bought Border Air from his father. These days, much of his business has reversed direction—it involves moving planes and pilots from the U.S. to Russia instead of vice versa.

In the Soviet era, the only Russians who flew planes were military pilots; when the country opened up civil aviation, many Russians became interested in flying American aircraft. Until the Russian ruble crashed last year, Border Air was exporting about two containers of American-made planes to Russia every three months.

Recent changes overseas have brought a whole new crop of flyers to Swanton. In 2011, a wave of bad aviation accidents in Russia killed scores of people. Putting the blame on pilots who had obtained their licenses fraudulently, the Russian government closed flight schools across the country.

The virtual shutdown of civil aviation in Russia could have sent Coy's business into a tailspin. But then Russians began coming to the United States—including the flight school in Swanton—to obtain pilot's licenses. Apparently placing greater trust in American flight schools than in its own, the Russian government converts U.S. pilots' licenses into Russian ones, Coy says.

Just as Coy is explaining the process, two Russian men with crew cuts and black coats pass en route to a small trainer plane to begin their flight lessons. According to Coy, they're former Russian fighter pilots who are logging flight time and learning to fly in U.S. airspace. ''There's a bit of a mind shift when you go from flying something at 300 miles per hour to flying something at 60 miles per hour,'' he says.

Of course, not all of Coy's work involves Russians and Russian planes. As an FAA-licensed inspector, he ensures that the aircraft he encounters are flightworthy. By law, every aircraft, from a commercial Boeing 777 to the one-seat Ultralight hanging from the hangar rafters, must be inspected annually.

''I've seen things where you wonder how these people even made it here alive,'' Coy says. ''Unbelievably scary stuff.''

For example, he recalls encountering a pilot who reported that his plane was flying funny When Coy checked it out, he noticed that the bottom of the fuselage was blue—from the dye used to identify aircraft fuel. Coy instantly spotted the problem: The fuel line wasn't hooked up. When he went to adjust the propeller control, it broke off in his hand. Next, he discovered that the starboard engine wasn't bolted onto the frame and the landing gear wasn't installed correctly. The result: a 60-page report to the FAA.

Getting people passionate and up in the air is Coy's mission. And, notwithstanding the back issues of Cigar Aficionado in the airport waiting room, he says he meets a diverse cross-section of people who are aviation enthusiasts.

Granted, it's not a cheap hobby: The costs of purchasing and maintaining airplanes may seem daunting enough to dissuade anyone without a seven-figure trust fund. But, Coy points out, most people who fly these days rent their planes. (Coy himself doesn't own one.) And enthusiasts who decide to take the next step can buy a plane for as little as $15,000, on par with the price of a boat.

Coy does a lot of outreach to local schools, hoping to get the next generation interested in flying. Sometimes that means showing the kids his various ''museum pieces''—the historic aircraft parked in various hangars on the airfield. Or he'll invite students from nearby Missisquoi Valley Union High School to watch his mechanic, Marcotte, practice his air-show maneuvers during his lunch hour. (Burlingtonians know Marcotte as the pilot who flies acrobatic stunts over the waterfront before the annual July 3 fireworks show.)

''Look, if you have any interest in flying, we'll take you for a ride in an airplane,'' Coy says. ''That's what we do, because we want to get people interested in flying.''

Correction, April 14, 2016: An earlier version of this story misreported Coy's age—it is 46. The body of water over which Coy's plane experienced engine trouble was the North Sea, not the Black Sea. Additionally, aviation enthusiasts can buy a plane for $15,000, not the higher number originally reported.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the substitute to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, due to a funeral I attended for a neighbor in Newark, NJ. Had I been present in the Senate today, I would have voted against cloture.•

ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the urgent need for Congress to approve emergency funds to fight the Zika virus.

The Zika virus is a rapidly growing public health threat, and the stakes for women are particularly high. The virus is carried by two species of mosquito. They are found in 40 States in this country.

There have been 388 travel-related cases in the United States—meaning an individual was infected during a trip to Latin America, South America, or the Caribbean, where the virus is widespread. There have not yet been any reported cases of local transmission in the continental United States, although more than 500 cases have been reported in Puerto Rico. It is a matter of when, not if, that happens—particularly as we approach the summer season when mosquitos are most active.

Scientists are still working to understand the effects of the Zika virus, but we do know that Zika causes severe, brain-related birth defects in babies when women are infected during pregnancy.

Microcephaly, one of the most serious effects of Zika, causes babies' heads to be much smaller than normal. In severe cases, you will also see seizures, developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, feeding problems, hearing loss, and vision problems.

The CDC continues to research the virus, and it could be several years before the full-range of health effects is known.

One of the most concerning gaps in our scientific knowledge is how the disease is transmitted from person to person. The most common way people contract the disease is through mosquito bites, but there have been documented cases of the virus being spread from men to women through sexual contact.

Zika symptoms are mild—fever, rash, and joint pain—meaning that many people may become infected and spread with disease without knowing they have it. Unless we act now, we could end up with a significant number of Zika carriers who don't know they are infected.

The administration has asked Congress for $1.9 billion in emergency funding to stop the spread of the Zika virus. I fully support this funding request. The Federal Government needs this money for a number of reasons, including controlling mosquito populations, researching the virus, educating the public, and developing a vaccine.

As the weather warms, Zika will spread faster, particularly in States with persistent mosquito issues. We simply can't ignore public health threats of this magnitude, hoping they will go away.

In closing, Congress cannot afford to delay. I strongly urge the Senate to approve the administration's sensible request to fight this growing public health threat.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, is coordinating the latest National Prescription Drug Take

Back Day. Take back days are nationwide efforts to remove old or unused prescription drugs from medicine cabinets so they don't fall into the wrong hands and lead to substance abuse and addiction. I am proud to have helped encourage take back days a few years ago by working with Senators KLOBUCHAR, CORNYN, and BROWN to pass the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health care providers wrote almost a quarter of a billion opioid prescriptions in 2013, enough for every American adult to have his or her own bottle of pills. The accumulation of these medicines in our homes creates a public health risk, since they can be accidentally ingested, abused, stolen, and passed on to others. According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.5 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs that year. According to that same study, a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Obviously, the consequences of this prescription drug abuse can be dangerous and even deadly. Prescription drug abuse may lead to abuse of other drugs like heroin, which is cheaper and more readily available. In 2014, more than 47,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States, an alltime high. Incredibly, more than half of those deaths involved prescription opioids or heroin.

So raising public awareness about the dangers of abuse and reducing the availability of unused medications are important components of preventing prescription drug abuse and addiction. The take back day initiative is a great way to make progress on both fronts.

Beginning in September 2010, the DEA has coordinated these days twice a year, with fantastic results. At the most recent event last September, Americans turned in 350 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,000 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,800 of its State and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 10 previous take back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 2,750 tons of pills. It is not an exaggeration to say that take back events have probably saved lives.

Now, for some unexplained reason, the Obama administration decided to discontinue this program a few years ago, but in May 2015, I was a member of a bipartisan group of Senators that wrote to the Department of Justice, urging that it be reinstated. A few months later, DEA Acting Administrator Rosenberg did so. I am grateful for that decision.

In fact, I support expanding take back opportunities, by creating additional permanent, convenient disposal sites for the public. Expansion of the program along these lines is explicitly authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bill I guided through the Judiciary Committee in February. It subsequently passed the Senate by a vote of 94–1.

So I urge everyone in Iowa and across the country to check your homes for unneeded or expired medicines. If you find any, please take part in this year's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday. Participating locations typically include neighborhood pharmacies and local fire and police departments. You can locate a specific collection site near you on the DEA's website. This is one small way we can each do our part to reduce the risk of drug abuse and addiction for our families and communities.

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the boys and young men who suffer from this devastating disease.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy was first brought to my attention 15 years ago, when I met Brian and Alice Denger of Biddeford, ME. The Dengers had two wonderful sons, Matthew and Patrick, who were both born with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Patrick, now 19, is a student at the University of New England. He recently received his driver's license and enjoys driving in Maine. His brother Matthew was a 20-year-old student at UNE when he died from the disease about 3 years ago. The Dengers also have a daughter, Rachel, with juvenile diabetes. They are a loving and courageous family whose strength and spirit directly inspired me to become involved in the fight for research funding to combat muscular dystrophy.

Brian Denger was the first to tell me of the terrible progression of this type of muscular dystrophy. Symptoms begin in early childhood, and boys quickly experience severe and rapidly progressing muscle degeneration, which often results in their losing the ability to walk. Tragically, most die prematurely as a result of muscle-related cardiac and respiratory problems.

In 2001, what really caught my attention was that the treatment options for boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy were incredibly limited and aimed at managing symptoms in an attempt to optimize quality of life for the limited time that these children would have to share with us. Research had not yielded any meaningful way to extend the lifespan of children suffering from the disease. That is why I joined with the late Senator Paul Wellstone in introducing the MD CARE Act, to raise awareness and expand Federal support for research into this debilitating disease. It was signed into law and last reauthorized in 2014 and has resulted in dramatically improved and standardized clinical care for those with the disease. I have also fought diligently for increased funding for the Duchenne programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Today there is some good news for the boys—and now—young men with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and their families. A number of therapeutic strategies are currently under development, and we have made dramatic progress to improve the quality and length of life for those who suffer from the disease. In fact, the average lifespan of Duchenne patients has increased by about a decade since the MD CARE Act became law.

Given our Nation's wealth of scientific expertise, however, we can and should do more for families like the Dengers. We are making progress, but this is no time to take our foot off the accelerator. The $2 billion increase in funding for NIH that was included in the fiscal year 2016 funding bill will pay dividends for patients and their families. I urge my colleagues to continue to work collaboratively to sustain this commitment to biomedical research, which holds tremendous promise for finding better treatments and, ultimately, a cure for devastating diseases like Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

REMEMBERING JOHN HEINZ

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, on April 4, we marked 25 years since Pennsylvania Senator John Heinz died in a plane crash. I am honored to serve in the Senate seat he held from 1977 to 1991.

Five years ago, I paid tribute to Senator Heinz for his public service as a Senator. Today, I am going to focus on his leadership on the Special Committee on Aging. Senator Heinz served as chairman of that committee from 1981 to 1987. Pennsylvania is one of the oldest States in the country, and through this position, Senator Heinz was a strong advocate for seniors. During his chairmanship, the Special Committee on Aging held 34 hearings in Washington, DC, and countless more around the Nation. The committee also produced over 60 reports and papers. Senator Heinz would often use what he learned through these investigations and reports to inform his work as a member of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Social Security and Medicare programs.

John Heinz once said, ''Working together, we can lay the groundwork for a society that respects age and the elderly and that truly realizes the benefits of the experience, wisdom, and judgement of older Americans.'' As chairman of the Aging Committee, his first responsibility was not to party or partisanship, but to older Americans whose interests the committee was created to support and protect. Frank McArdle, a member of Senator Heinz's staff once commented:

> What Heinz brought to many issues . . . was a sense of outrage. He could channel that anger toward public policy that would correct the injustices that hurt vulnerable populations. When he seized upon a situation

like that, he wouldn't let go. His outrage over what was happening to defenseless people gave him an energy and a commitment to see it through.

As chairman, Senator Heinz took on the powerful in defense of the powerless.

Senator Heinz was an honorable public servant for our Commonwealth and our Nation. He focused intensively on the challenges facing our seniors and worked tirelessly to find solutions to their problems. We continue to be inspired by his distinguished service on behalf of the older citizens of Pennsylvania.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHEILA CROWLEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I do not often recognize non-Vermonters on the floor of the Senate, but I rise today to applaud the numerous and significant achievements of Dr. Sheila Crowley. Dr. Crowley recently retired as president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, after decades of advocacy to make sure people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. It has truly been an honor to work closely with Sheila on issues related to affordable housing.

I am particularly proud of our efforts to create the national housing trust fund, the only Federal program designed to build new affordable rental housing specifically for extremely low-income individuals. In the early 2000s, Sheila provided invaluable assistance to my office as we drafted the first House version of the trust fund and shepherded the legislation through its first votes in the House Financial Services Committee.

For the next 15 years, Sheila built grassroots support across the country for the trust fund, to keep the pressure on Federal lawmakers. Despite numerous setbacks—and one serious housing market collapse—she tirelessly advocated for addressing the significant housing needs of people with limited economic resources. It is a fitting testament to her tenacity that just as she prepared to retire, the Federal Housing Finance Agency began capitalizing the trust fund for the first time. Later this year, States will receive the first new Federal affordable housing production funds in decades, and for that, Sheila Crowley deserves an enormous amount of credit.

Not surprisingly, Sheila received the 2009 John W. Macy award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Housing Leadership Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition for her work on the National Housing Trust Fund campaign. But I am guessing the award Sheila will cherish most will be when, in the not-too-distant future, tenants move into the first trust fund financed affordable housing.

I cannot overstate the importance of Sheila's work and her accomplishments. We are experiencing nothing less than an affordable housing crisis on the national level. In order to afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 102 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

Throughout her tenure at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Sheila was not just a resolute advocate; she was also a vital resource on housing policy to many members of Congress. She also worked closely with organizations focused on homeless services, family housing, AIDS housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, and services for battered women and victims of rape.

And while her focus was national, Sheila often travelled to States to support local housing efforts, including in my State of Vermont. She was a frequent keynote speaker at Vermont conferences and a valued partner in developing local responses to our housing challenges. I know a great many Vermonters who worked closely with Sheila and hold her in the highest esteem.

I wish Dr. Sheila Crowley all the best in her well-deserved retirement, and I am confident her affordable housing efforts will continue to bear fruit for decades to come.•

NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. I wish everyone a Happy National Seersucker Day. This uniquely American fashion has a storied history dating back to 1909. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel. The first seersucker suit was designed by Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, LA.

This lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker, has been worn and enjoyed by Americans across the country during the hot summer months. Mr. Haspel said it best, ''hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living.'' In the 1990s, Seersucker Day was established by Members of this chamber to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives by designating Wednesday, June 11, as National Seersucker Day. I have continued this tradition in the U.S. Senate and wish to designate Thursday, June 9, as the third annual National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

TRIBUTE TO PETER HENRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a distinguished member of my staff, my legislative director, Peter Henry. I am sad to say that Peter will be leaving my office, as well as Washington, DC, for a new chapter in his life. His last day is April 29, 2016. He and his beautiful wife Libby, his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Winnie, and his daughter-to-be will soon move back to his hometown of Kansas City. Peter has taken a job working in the private sector, where I know he will excel and succeed as he has during his time with my office.

Peter was one of the first staff members I hired after I became Senator, but Peter's time in Washington began back in 2005 when he came to our Nation's capital straight out of college. Prior to joining my team, Peter made a name for himself as a sharp and capable Hill staffer, rising quickly through the ranks in three different Senators' offices before moving to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where he had a lead role in surface transportation issues.

Given his breadth of experience and the deep respect he fostered with his colleagues, Peter no doubt had his choice of offices to work for, but he chose to work for me. For that, I am immensely grateful. Being a freshman Senator is not easy, and being staff to a freshman senator is certainly a challenge. Peter rose to the challenge. He put together the best legislative team I could have imagined. He handled stress under fire, taught us about complex Senate procedures, and adeptly helped me navigate the minefields that can be Washington politics. His intelligence, integrity, strong work ethic, sense of fair play, and his good nature will be sorely missed in my office.

Peter is also a patriot and made sure to set us on the right track to serve the great people of Alaska and the rest of the country. I can't thank Peter enough for all the work he has done for me and for the rest of my staff. He leaves a hole, but I am comforted to know that his future is bright and that he will continue to contribute to our great country by working hard at his new endeavor and, most importantly, raising a wonderful family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CANTU

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Evelyn Cantu for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Evelyn is a native of Texas. She currently attends Casper College, where she is studying political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Evelyn for the dedication she has shown while working for

me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID JOST

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David Jost for his hard work as an intern in my Riverton office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he received a B.A. in psychology, B.S. in sociology, and M.S. in neurophysiology. David has also received a master of natural resources from Virginia Tech. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CJI

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the elementary students of Chester-Joplin-Inverness, CJI. These students took part in Chester's annual Harvest 4 Hunger Campaign. All together, they gathered 2136.5 pounds of nonperishable food.

CJI is a combination of three towns up on what we call the Highline in Montana. The towns are Chester, Joplin, and Inverness. These three town have come together to make one great school to serve the students of the area.

There are 108 elementary students at CJI, and they did such a wonderful thing for families in the area. Harvest 4 Hunger is a campaign operated by CHS to gather nonperishable food items and money donations to give to local charities to feed families in need.

Now I hear the students had a little motivation for bringing food in. The winning classes at the end of each week were rewarded with a pizza party. There is no better motivation than a pizza party. I read a lot quotes from the kids, and it sounds like they had a great time collecting the food, and they were happy to get the chance to help people in need. One student told their teacher Miss Manion, That is what Hawks do.

It makes me so proud to see young Montanans helping out their communities. These students did such a wonderful thing. Great job, and God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Veterans Guest House for its unwavering commitment and loyalty to providing our servicemembers, veterans, and their families lodging while they address their own health care needs at medical facilities throughout northern Nevada. The Veterans Guest House is one of a kind for our great State and is an invaluable resource to our military community.

The Veterans Guest House was founded over two decades ago when a mother and her children were found sleeping in their car while their veteran father was in the intensive care unit at the local VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. In the early 1990s, founders of the Veterans Guest House—Chuck Fulkerson, Dick Rhyno, Thomas Purkey, Minor Kelso, Robert Crowell, Esq., Wally Willson, Lois Crocker, David Parsons, Joseph Rooney, Charles Grundy, Jes Barbera, Don Anderson, Lew Carnahan, Ben Duncan, Jeani Hunt, Jim Martin, Manuel Muniz, Rick Sorenson, Ensio Tosolini, Joe Scamihorn, William Wood, Len Crocker, Kit McGrath, Richard Shuster, Elaine McNeill, Rand Tanner, Chester Henry, and Ted Buchwald—realized that many veterans and their families lacked a place to stay while family members received medical treatment, and in 1994, they created the Spouse House. By 1998, the facility grew to offer five beds for veterans and their families.

In 2002, the facility was officially named the Veterans Guest House, and on Veterans Day in 2004, with only private donations, the organization purchased and renovated a 3-story home across the street from the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. This facility now accommodates up to 17 guests. The Veterans Guest House provides both long-term and short-term lodging to veterans and their families for various situations, including veterans receiving outpatient care, families of veterans who are hospitalized, and veterans' immediate family members who are receiving medical treatment as an inpatient or outpatient. In the 22 years since its inception, the Veterans Guest House has served over 55,000 nights to veterans, veteran spouses, and veteran families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but those at the Veterans Guest House have gone above and beyond to show their appreciation. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to chief executive officer Noreen Leary, the incredible staff, and the many dedicated individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Guest House, in addition to president Terry Tholl, vice President Monk Maim, secretary Lucy Miller, treasurer Carol Langford, and past and present members serving on the board of directors. These individuals helping our active military members, veterans, and their families at the Veterans Guest House stand as shining examples of the manner in which we should respect our men and women in uniform. The unwavering dedication of the Veterans Guest House to providing our brave men and women with a place to stay is commendable, and I am proud to honor it today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that these servicemembers and their families have a place to stay while receiving quality care. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like the Veterans Guest House are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veterans Guest House, an organization whose mission is noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge this organization and its work to provide active military members, veterans, and thsikfamilies a safe place to stay, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS C. SWEENEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the people of Kodiak, AK, will gather on Saturday, May 7, to celebrate the life of Thomas ''Tom'' Cornelius Sweeney. Tom passed away on March 29 at the age of 84.

Tom was born on February 9, 1932, in Helena, MT. He first came to Kodiak as a member of the U.S. Navy, then returned to work construction and married Nancy Ann Norman. Nancy's family owned the gift and photo shop, Norman's.

Tom first pursued a career in law enforcement, serving as a territorial policeman, detective, State trooper, and private investigator. That took Tom and Nancy to various cities in Alaska. Following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami, they returned to Kodiak for good. Tom and Nancy helped Nancy's family restore Norman's following the disaster. Tom pursued his entrepreneurial interests in oil sales, automobile sales and service, and finally insurance brokerage before retiring in 1996—a well-rounded career.

He was equally committed to the Kodiak community, serving as president of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, the Kodiak Rotary Club, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #18, which Tom helped reactivate in 1983. His statewide leadership roles included service as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chairman of the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Tom leaves behind his beloved wife of 60 years, Nancy, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a large extended family. I join with the people of Kodiak in celebrating the life of this great Alaska pioneer.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF YORK COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the York County Children's Advocacy Center on the celebration of their 10th anniversary.

The York County Children's Advocacy Center opened its doors in May of 2006 in York, PA. Since its opening, the center has stayed true to its mission ''to reduce the trauma of child abuse investigations, foster professional collaboration and cooperation, and provide education and advocacy regarding the prevention of child abuse within the community.''

Without a child advocacy center, if a child is brave enough to report abuse, that child is often required to retell and, thus, relive the abuse through multiple, repetitive interviews with child protective services, prosecutors, police, victim services, and medical and mental health providers. The interviews often occur in places that magnify the child's trauma—police stations, emergency rooms, or offices of lawyers and social workers.

The York Child Advocacy Center, by contrast, brings together law enforcement, trained interviewers, child protective services, medical providers, and mental health experts in a child-friendly, safe house, where an abused child feels secure and only has to undergo one interview and one physical exam.

As a result of the center's tireless efforts, over 3,000 children have received vital services. The York County Children's Advocacy Center has achieved many important milestones. Some of these milestones include earning full accreditation through the National Children's Alliance, expanding their forensic interviewing and forensic medical services, and being accepted as a United Way partner agency. Each of these milestones has allowed the York County Children's Advocacy Center to better serve the most vulnerable in our society, our children.

On behalf of the Senate, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the York County Children's Advocacy Center as they celebrate 10 years of dedicated service to York County's children and families.●

TRIBUTE TO EVA ENCINIAS-SANDOVAL

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a great New Mexican and a great American. Eva Encinias-Sandoval is a pioneer and a cultural icon in the world of flamenco in New Mexico.

New Mexico has a long and rich cultural history with flamenco as one of its dynamic traditions. Flamenco is a complex art form that originated in Spain and blends influences from different cultures. It mixes both discipline and spontaneity.

With sweeping, expressive arm movements and rhythmic stomping often accompanied by singing or music, flamenco is more than a form of dance. It incorporates guitar, percussion, and song as integral parts of the art form.

Eva Encinias-Sandoval's career in flamenco spans more than 40 years. Her professional expertise includes performance, teaching choreography, concert production, and direction.

Eva began dancing and teaching flamenco at a young age. Her mother, Clarita, was also a dancer, and Eva started her training at the age of 5.

At age 14, Eva began teaching students in her mother's studio, and in 1973, she formed her first flamenco dance company, Ritmo Flamenco. The following year, she enrolled in the University of New Mexico, though the dance department did not offer flamenco classes at the time.

Eva began teaching flamenco as a single course offering at UNM in 1976. Now, the program of study includes all levels of flamenco technique and specialized topics. As a result of Eva's dedication and passion, UNM is the only institution in the country that offers bachelor of arts and masters of fine arts degrees with a concentration in flamenco.

Eva later went on to establish the National Institute of Flamenco in 1982. NIF is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of flamenco in the United States. With Eva's artistic vision and guidance, the organization has expanded to include several thriving programs, such as the Conservatory of Flamenco Arts, Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque, Alma Flamenca, and many others.

Eva's work has also helped bring renowned international flamenco artists from Spain and other parts of the world to study and teach in our State, adding a depth of knowledge and expertise to her students' experiences. She hopes that her students will become the better artists by learning alongside the best artists.

She was the first woman inducted into the Albuquerque Wall of Fame, has received three Bravo awards, and accolades from her colleagues and students.

Despite the importance of these awards and honors, they are not what distinguishes Eva most. Instead, it is the example she sets in always doing her best, always giving back, and always striving for excellence.

Eva has changed her community as a talented dancer and teacher who has inspired countless students. She is deeply committed to her community and pays equal attention to young, less experienced dancers as more advanced students.

Although the origins of flamenco are cloudy, the Encinias family is a true ''flamenco family.'' Eva's children, Marisol and Joaquin, are both dancers. Her passion and legacy will live on through them, as well as her students who can be found at NIF, UNM, and, now, Tierra Adentro, a local charter school that incorporates flamenco into its curriculum.

Our State is fortunate to have someone like Eva Encinias-Sandoval, who not only sees the beauty of art, but also the beauty of our culture. Flamenco will continue to grow in New Mexico thanks to her dedicated work and the love of dance she continues to share with the community.

By educating mostly New Mexican students, Eva views flamenco as an opportunity to teach our State's youth programs relevant to whom they are as a people. Flamenco is an art form that is as unique as the artists who study it.

Whether through an appreciation or dedication to the art form, Eva Encinias-Sandoval has brought flamenco into the lives of countless New Mexicans. Her love for the art has not gone unnoticed, and I commend her for all of her accomplishments and her service to our State.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 699. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4240. An act to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4498. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

H.R. 4923. An act to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4240. An act to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4498. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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–5288. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions'' (FRL No. 9945–28–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5289. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR); Institutional Oversight of Life Science Dual Use Research of Concern (iDURC)'' (FRL No. 9941–86–OARM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5290. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Several Areas for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9945–17–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5291. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Rescissions and Corrections'' (FRL No. 9945–78–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5292. 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 State Plans for Designated Facilities; Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units'' (FRL No. 9945–71–Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5293. 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 Plans; Georgia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9945–60–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5294. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Quality Assurance Requirements for Cleaning of Fluid Systems and Associated Components of Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants'' (NRC–2014–0158) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5295. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Laboratory Investigations of Soils and Rocks for Engineering Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants'' (Regulatory Guide 1.138, Revision 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5296. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants'' (Regulatory Guide 1.134, Revision 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5297. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Welder Qualification for Welding in Areas of Limited Accessibility in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants'' (NRC–2014–0069) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5298. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Preheat and Interpass Temperature Control for the Welding of Low-Alloy Steel for Use in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants'' (NRC–2014–0070) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5299. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Response Strategies for Potential Aircraft Threats'' (Regulatory Guide 1.124, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5300. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compilation of Reporting Requirements for Persons Subject to NRC Regulations'' (NRC–2014–0144) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5301. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 69th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5302. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Financial and Actuarial Information Reporting'' (RIN1212–AB30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5303. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5304. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Bucksport/Lake Murray Drag Boat Spring National, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Bucksport, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5305. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Net Positive Suction Head for Emergency Core Cooling and Containment Heat Removal System Pumps'' (NRC–2015–0107) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 434. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–246).

S. 1620. A bill to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–247).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 340. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS or Da'esh) is committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and calling upon the President to work with foreign governments and the United Nations to provide physical protection for ISIS' targets, to support the creation of an international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction to punish these crimes, and to use every reasonable means, including sanctions, to destroy ISIS and disrupt its support networks.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 381. A resolution honoring the memory and legacy of Michael James

Riddering and condemning the terrorist attacks in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on January 15, 2016.

S. Res. 394. A resolution recognizing the 195th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. Res. 418. A resolution recognizing Hafsat Abiola, Khanim Latif, Yoani Sanchez, and Akanksha Hazari for their selflessness and dedication to their respective causes, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 436. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 442. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2555. A bill to provide opportunities for broadband investment, and for other purposes.

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 2824. A bill to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., as the ''Ariel Rios Federal Building''.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

S. 2845. A bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Swati A. Dandekar, of Iowa, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Swati A. Dandekar, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Date: 12/14/2015.

SWATI A. DANDEKAR.

Dandekar, Swati Arvind

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Form Item B6

Year 2015 (thru July 20, 2015)

Individual/Organization, Dollars, and Level (Local, State or National):

Sam Gray, $250, State Representative Elections; Kumar Barve, $1500, U.S. Congress (Maryland); Iowa Democratic Party, $200 (EST), State; Dubuque County Democratic Central Committee, $60, Local.

Year 2014

Iowa Democratic Party, $1,500 (EST), State; Linn Phoenix Club, $250 (EST), Local; Linn County Democratic Central Committee, $100 (EST), Local; Citizens for Gronstal, $250, State.

Year 2013

Iowa Senate Fund, $250, State; Daniel Lundby, $200, State; Susie Weinacht, $700, Local; First District Democrats, $130, Iowa US congress District #1; Mark Smith, $100, State; Liz Bennett, $250, State; Citizens for Gronstal, $250, State; Citizens for Jochum, $150, State; Linn Phoenix Club, $250 (EST), Local; Buchanan County Democratic Central Committee, $25, Local; Iowa Democratic Party, $1,500, State.

Year 2012

Rob Hogg, $25, State; Daniel Lundby, $100, State; Linn County Democratic Central Committee, $100 (EST), Local; Linn Phoenix Club, $250 (EST), Local; Iowa Democratic Party, $1,500 (EST), State.

Year 2011

Linn County Democratic Central Committee, $100 (EST), Local; Linn Phoenix Club,$250 (EST), Local; Iowa Democratic Party, $1,500 (EST), State.

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*Adam H. Sterling, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

Nominee: Adam H. Sterling.

Post: Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Elka Sterling, None; Bram Sterling, None.

4. Parents: Stanley Sterling, deceased; Gloria Sterling, deceased.

5. Grandparents: Albert Wolfson, deceased; Mollie Wolfson, deceased; Eddie Sterling, deceased; Janie Wolfson, deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Judith Gitel, $5/month, DCCC House Democrats Act Blue; Abbie & Mark Frank, None.

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*Kelly Keiderling-Franz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Nominee: Kelly Keiderling.

Post: Uruguay.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: $0.

2. Spouse: David W. Franz: $0.

3. Children and Spouses (not married): Katherine K. Franz: $0; Alexander K. Franz: $0.

4. Parents: Wallace E. Keiderling—deceased; Maria del Rosario Keiderling: $0.

5. Grandparents: Katherine Keiderling—deceased; Harvey Keiderling—deceased; Domingo Soruco—deceased; Luisa Rios de Soruco—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Keith L. Keiderling: $0; Hedy Cyker: $0.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Casey J. Keiderling: $0; Jacques Naquet-Radiguet: $0.

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*Stephen Michael Schwartz, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Nominee: Stephen Michael Schwartz.

Post: Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $100, 07–13–13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.

2. Spouse: Kristy Doreen Cook: none.

3. Children and Spouses (Both children under 16 years of age): Hannah Hagere Schwartz: none, Jonas Randolph Schwartz: none.

4. Parents: Robert Norman Schwartz, none; Carole Lesses Schwartz—Deceased; Jean Suto Schwartz (Father's second wife), $125, 10–22–13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.

5. Grandparents: Edward Idal Schwartz—Deceased; Liza Dudnik Schwartz—Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Edward A. Schwartz (brother), none; Sharon F. Schwartz (sister-in-law), none; Lewis L. Schwartz (brother), $250, 08–29–12, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $250, 08–29–12, Obama for America; Patricia Pierson Schwartz (sister-in-law), $250, 08–29–12, Obama for America; $250, 10–23–13, Friends of Barbara Nuchereno.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Barbara Schwartz Nuchereno (sister), $150, 06–07–15, Brenda FreedmanFamily Court; $400, 09–25–14, Patrick Gallivan/NYS Senate; $205, 07–25–13, Guy Marlette/Amherst Town Cncil; $25, 05–01–13, Amherst Century Club; $150, 03–06–13, Debra Givens/NYS Supreme Court; $580, 07–25–12, Guy Marlette/Amherst Town Cncil; $325, 05–12–12, Amherst Republicans. Louis J. Nuchereno (brother-in-law): $250, 08–26–15, Danielle Restaino/Judge; $125, 05–29–15, Ed Rath/County Legislator; $1,000, 10–23–14, Ortt for NYS Senate; $15,260, 02–07–14, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $1,000, 10–22–13, Paul Wojtaszek/NYS Supr. Court; $1,000, 09–03–13, DeBlasio/NYC Mayor; $5,000, 09–11–13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $15,000, 08–30–13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $75, 07–26–13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $10,000, 06–24–13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $1,000, 06–24–13, Andrews/State Treasurer; $250, 04–29–13, Barbara Nuchereno/Judge; $250, 02–01–13, Mary Carney/Erie Cnty Family Crt; $250, 06–20–12, Andrews/State Treasurer; $2,500, 06–18–12, Mitt Romney/US President; $2,500, 06–18–12, Mitt Romney/US President.

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*Christine Ann Elder, of Kentucky, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia.

Nominee: Christine A. Elder.

Post: Monrovia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: Christine A. Elder: none, N/A, N/A.

2. Spouse (see below note): Paul R. Hughes, Jr.: $500, 3/30/11, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 8/4/11, Friends of Roger Wicker; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 11/15/11, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 5/29/12, Anna Eshoo for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 3/7/13, Anna Eshoo for

Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $1,000, 4/4/13, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $750, 1/15/14, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 10/31/14, Lofgren for Congress; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 3/23/15, Ready PAC; Paul R. Hughes, Jr., $500, 6/30/15, Lofgren for Congress.

3. Children and Spouses: Eleanor A. Hughes: none, N/A, N/A; Christopher P. Hughes: none, N/A, N/A.

4. Parents: Allen M. Elder: none, N/A, N/A; Diane L. Elder, none, N/A, N/A.

5. Grandparents: Verrill J. Cass (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; Dorothy A. Cass (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; William Elder (deceased): none, N/A, N/A; Selma Geyer (deceased): none, N/A, N/A.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory A. Elder: none, N/A, N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A: none, N/A, N/A.

Note re item 2 above: My husband's political giving record is bipartisan. Republican contributions outside the covered period include: Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Rep. Lamar Smith (R–TX), Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R–WA), Longhorn PAC, Senator Orrin Hatch (R–UT), Rep. Rick White (R–WA), Rep. Frank Wolf (R–VA), and Rep. Connie Morella (R–VA). After November 2010, when his then-employer Adobe hired a Republican head of DC office http://cloo.ol/Ju15uD my husband focused his contributions on Democrats.

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*Elizabeth Holzhall Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

Nominee: Elizabeth Holzhall Richard.

Post: Lebanon.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: (deceased).

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Vern F. Holzhall—None. Mary V. Holzhall—None.

5. Grandparents: (deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: Vern J. Holzhall/Marianne Holzhall—None. John J. Holzhall/Rosalba Sanchez Burgos—$25.00, 2012, Ron Paul.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Cheryl Sargent—None. Karen Rainier/Colin Rainier—None.

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*R. David Harden, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Foreign Service nomination of Victoria L. Mitchell.

*Foreign Service nomination of Antonio J. Arroyave.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Rian Harker Harris and ending with Jennifer Marie Schuett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Melinda L. Crowley and ending with Julie Elizabeth Zinamon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Nathan Seifert and ending with Joshua Burke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Patrick A. Burke, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Marshal for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2869. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve college savings under section 529 programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 2870. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prevent retaliation in the military, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2871. A bill to establish the position of Choice Program Ombudsman within the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to manage complaints regarding the provision of hospital care and medical services under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2872. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit to Congress a report on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the United States and its treatment under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2873. A bill to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2874. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to protect the enrollment of incarcerated youth for medical assistance under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2875. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2876. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to issue a scientifically valid and State-supported recovery plan for the Mexican gray wolf; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2877. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to specify the availability of certain funds provided by the Department of Defense to States for drug interdiction and counter-drug activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2878. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2880. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2881. A bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2882. A bill to facilitate efficient State implementation of ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2883. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2884. A bill to address the liability of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the lead contamination of the water supply of the City of Flint, Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 2885. A bill to extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 2886. A bill to reauthorize the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 2887. A bill to require the Missile Defense Agency to conduct annual tests of the

ground-based midcourse defense element of the ballistic missile defense system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2888. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2889. A bill to amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 to authorize an Innovation Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2890. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christa McAuliffe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2891. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 North Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the ''Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2892. A bill to accelerate the use of wood in buildings, especially tall wood buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2893. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2894. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for salary reductions for certain employees of a pension plan in critical or declining status that reduces participant benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2895. A bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2896. A bill to eliminate the sunset date for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and to extend certain operating hours for pharmacies and medical facilities of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2897. A bill to amend title 9, United States Code, with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2898. A bill to promote greater efficiency in contracting associated with the SBIR and STTR programs of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2899. A bill to remove Federal barriers to combating mosquito-borne transmission of the Zika virus and promote public health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. Res. 447. A resolution designating May 1, 2016, as ''National Purebred Dog Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 448. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of the teachers of the United States in building and enhancing the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 449. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through May 7, 2016; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 450. A resolution honoring May 1 through May 7, 2016, as ''National Small Business Week'' and celebrating the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 451. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 452. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 453. A resolution designating April 30, 2016, as ''Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. Res. 454. A resolution recognizing the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program on its 30th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 455. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historic significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 940

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to study the feasibility of providing certain taxpayers with an optional, pre-prepared tax return, and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to provide sensible relief to community financial institutions, to protect consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1631

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to multiemployer pensions, and for other purposes.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1852

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1852, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2123, supra.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2289

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2289, a bill to modernize and improve the Family Unification Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to reform laws relating to small public housing agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2454

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2454, a bill to limit the period of authorization of new budget authority provided in appropriation Acts, to require analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of existing programs for which continued new budget authority is proposed to be authorized by committees of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 2478

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2478, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds.

S. 2487

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to repeal the suspension of eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance for drug-related offenses.

S. 2566

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide sexual assault survivors with certain rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to genetically engineered food transparency and uniformity.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2707, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to prohibit the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to state sponsors of terrorism.

S. 2758

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove consideration of certain pain-related issues from calculations under the Medicare

hospital value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2758, supra.

S. 2759

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 2772

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2772, a bill to eliminate the requirement that veterans pay a copayment to the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive opioid antagonists or education on the use of opioid antagonists.

S. 2787

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the same level of Federal matching assistance for every State that chooses to expand Medicaid coverage to newly eligible individuals, regardless of when such expansion takes place.

S. 2794

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deposit certain funds into the general fund of the Treasury in accordance with provisions of Federal law with regard to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Transitional Reinsurance Program.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2830

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2830, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for a school and child care lead testing grant program.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2840, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2840, supra.

S. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2843, a bill to provide emergency supplemental appropriations to address the Zika crisis.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 2850

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2850, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the definition of the term ''fiduciary'' and the conflict of interest rule with respect to retirement investment advice.

S. RES. 340

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 340, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS or Da'esh) is committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and calling upon the President to work with foreign governments and the United Nations to provide physical protection for ISIS' targets, to support the creation of an international criminal tribunal with jurisdiction to punish these crimes, and to use every reasonable means, including sanctions, to destroy ISIS and disrupt its support networks.

S. RES. 373

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 373, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. KIRK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 436

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 436, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

S. RES. 442

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 442, a resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels and honoring the memory of the United States citizens murdered in those attacks, and offering thoughts and prayers for all the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the Belgian people, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of Belgium and all our allies in the face of continuing terrorist attacks on freedom and liberty.

AMENDMENT NO. 3862

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3862 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3873

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3873 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3873 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2028, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 2885. A bill to extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, when it comes to projecting America's power, I have said many times that North Carolina is the tip of the American spear. When our country calls, it is a safe bet that the first responders will be U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune or our paratroopers of the 18th Airborne stationed at Fort Bragg.

The 18th Airborne is America's Global Response Force. When called, units of the 18th Airborne can be anywhere in the world within 48 hours. Because of this unique mission—unique to Fort Bragg and the 18th Airborne—Pope Army Airfield is the busiest tactical airfield in the Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, Pope is also home of the shortest runway in the Army. If the 18th Airborne is put on alert, C–5 and C–17 aircraft are needed to launch the force, and they cannot depart fully fueled with a full load of paratroopers and equipment off of the airfield. The current Pope Army Airfield runway provides only 8,500 feet for takeoff; however, to take off, the C–17 needs a minimum of 10,500 feet and the C–5 requires 11,500 feet.

The Air Force's air refueling fleet is already stressed. The C–17s and C–5s used to carry out the Global Response Force missions have to leave Pope Army Airfield with full equipment and paratroopers but only about 60 percent of their fuel capacity. This requires them to go either to Charleston, SC, or Gander, Newfoundland, to get refueled so they can continue their mission. One refueling stop for an airlift coming out of Pope at Gander, Newfoundland, costs $17,000 per hour. If 53 aircraft—roughly the number required to outload the heaviest brigade combat team—have to refuel at Gander, it costs about $2 million one-way because they can't be fully loaded when they take off from Pope Army Airfield. This refueling stop also adds 2.5 more hours to the time on the mission, and the mission objective is to be anywhere in the world in 48 hours.

Prior to the last round of BRAC, extending the Pope runway to accommodate fully loaded C–17 and C–5 aircraft was Air Mobility Command's No. 1 airfield project, and the U.S. Air Force said it was their No. 2 project. However, this has fallen off the Army's priority list, and I am not really sure why.

Extending the Pope runway to accommodate the airlift requirements of the Global Response Force and the 18th Airborne Corps is a national strategic priority. Therefore, I will be offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act during markup that requires the Army to report to the Senate their plans to extend the runway at Pope and whether it is the top priority for the Army. I think our paratroopers and crews need to know this. I know our taxpayers need to know this. And, more than anything, I want to make sure that when we deploy the proud men and women from the Green Ramp of Pope Army Airfield, we do it loaded and ready to go wherever they need to go in the United States or around the world.

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

S. 2886. A bill to reauthorize the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Reauthorization of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000, also referred to as FRIMA. This Act was established to support healthy fish populations while simultaneously allowing for continued water diversions for irrigation and other uses in the Pacific Northwest. I championed this program's last reauthorization in 2009, and I can say with certainty that the pressing need for FRIMA has not gone away.

Throughout the Pacific Northwest there is a critical need for projects that improve fish passage without compromising important water diversion needs for agriculture and other uses. The sustainable coexistence of continued water diversions and healthy fish populations can be achieved through a number of interventions, such as installation of fish screens, removal of fish passage barriers, and carrying out inventories to better understand needs and priorities. The technology and the knowledge needed to carry out these projects are at our finger tips; the means, however, is not.

That is why FRIMA is such an important program for the Pacific Northwest. The act, overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides a Federal cost-share on the order of 65 percent to fund fish passage and fish screen projects at water diversion and irrigation sites in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. This voluntary cost-shared program authorizes $25 million in Federal funds, to be equally shared among the 4 States, that can be leveraged to make these essential projects to improve fish passage and install fish screens come to fruition.

FRIMA has a history of demonstrated success in Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 127 projects have been funded through FRIMA to date. These projects have reopened more than 1,130 miles of habitat to fish passage. In total, 56 fish passage barriers have been removed, 130 water diversion sites have been screened, and 18 fish passage evaluations have been completed. This program has led to multiple accomplishments for communities in the Pacific Northwest, but there are still tens of thousands of unscreened water diversions in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. There is still work to be done, and FRIMA could provide the means to continue to make a difference for sustainable fisheries and water management.

At its core, FRIMA is centered on the concept of collaboration. This is a program borne through bi-partisan and multi-sectoral support. FRIMA is embraced by water users, farmers, fisheries managers and conservation organizations alike. The economic and ecological integrity of our region depends on resilient fisheries and sustainable management of water resources, and FRIMA offers a means to concurrently make positive strides in sustainably managing both our water diversions and our treasured fishery resources.

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. 2886

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FISHERIES RESTORATION AND IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT OF 2000.

Section 10(a) of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106–502) is amended by striking ''2009 through 2015'' and inserting '' 2017 through 2024''.

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

S. 2893. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing The Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016. I am pleased to have Senator LEAHY as a cosponsor. This bill would reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress through fiscal year 2026. The current authorization sunsets in September 2016. In addition to reauthorizing the programs, the bill would increase the National Recording Preservation Foundation's number of board members and place a cap on Federal matching funds similar to what is currently required of the National Film Preservation Foundation.

Congress created the National Film Preservation Board in 1988 and the National Film Preservation Foundation in 1996 to help save historically significant American films for the benefit of the public. In 2000, Congress created the National Recording Preservation Board and the National Recording Preservation Foundation to help save

historically important American sound recordings.

The two boards advise the Librarian of Congress on national preservation planning policy, helping the Library develop and disseminate preservation and production standards for at-risk works. In addition, the Film Board selects films of importance to cinema and America's cultural and artistic history for the National Film Registry, while the Recording Board selects sound recordings which have been recognized for their cultural, artistic and/or historical significance to American society and the Nation's audio legacy for the National Recording Registry.

The two foundations are the private sector charitable affiliates of the Boards. They raise funds and distribute them to archives throughout the U.S. The Library's Federal match is used for small grants to archives, educational institutions, museums and local historical societies with small film and sound recording collections in need of preservation. A requirement of the grants is that recipients make these works available to researchers, educators and the general public.

These programs have allowed the Library of Congress, in collaboration with a wide range of industry organizations, no-profit libraries and archives, preservation organizations, artist guilds, educators and academics, to collect and preserve at-risk films and recordings all over the country.

My State of Iowa has benefitted directly from these programs. For example, the National Film Preservation Foundation has provided grants to preserve films held in Iowa institutions, including Coe College, Council Bluffs Public Library, Davenport Public Library, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, Iowa State University American Archives of the Factual Film, and the University of Iowa. In addition, a number of Iowa-related items are preserved in the Library of Congress Packard Campus audio-visual collection, including copies of Iowa Public Radio and Public Television items from the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.

Iowa constituents have contacted my office about their support for the reauthorization of these programs. For example, I heard from Ben Johnson, Support Service Librarian at the Council Bluffs Public Library, Jill Jack, Director of Library Services, College Archivist and Associate Professor at Coe College, Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Director of Special Collection & Archives at Wake Forest University, and David McCartney, University Archivist at the University of Iowa, about the value of these programs to local libraries and historical societies, and how their organizations were in the possession of materials that were able to be saved with the help of these programs.

According to Mr. Johnson, the Council Bluffs Public Library received a grant to preserve a 1930s silent film entitled Man Power, which had been created ''to boost the local economy by luring businesses to Council Bluffs. This historic film sat in our archives for over 80 years, unwatched and deteriorating over time. With the help of the [National Film Preservation Fund], we were able to preserve and digitize this wonderful time capsule of our local history. Thanks to the [National Film Preservation Foundation], this lost piece of history has been viewed hundreds of times and is now safe from decay and available for the public.'' Mr. Johnson wrote, ''Did you know Council Bluffs Iowa had the first electric Streetcar system in the country? As a result of this grant we were able to see, for the first time, real, moving images of Council Bluffs from back when it was a major rail hub. I have no doubt that without support from the [National Film Preservation Foundation], vital pieces of local history would be lost forever.''

Ms. Jack wrote, ''Coe College received grants to preserve two films that depict campus life in the 1930s and 1960s. Once these historically rich films were preserved more than 170 people attended a screening of the films. Thanks to that event, the college was able to raise funds from alumni to preserve a third campus film from 1972. The public funding from the [National Film Preservation Foundation] helped us not only share our history with the public but also generated financial support from the community. Since posting the films on our website students, faculty and the public have viewed the films using them in academic and public history research.''

According to a statement from Ms. Zanish-Belcher, who managed the National Film Preservation Foundation film grant when she was Head of the Special Collections Department at Iowa State University, ''[t]hanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation, NFPF, Iowa State University was able to preserve and make accessible an important group of films documenting the Rath Packing Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As the Head of the Special Collections Department at Iowa State at the time, I oversaw the preservation of these fragile nitrate films from the 1930s. Without support from the NFPF, these important visual documents of Iowa History would have been lost. The NFPF continues to help regional archives throughout the country, helping to save more than 2,230 films and collections in all 50 states. While most film preservation efforts focus on the Hollywood product, the NFPF is the only agency devoted to helping organizations like Iowa State University preserve films in their collections that would otherwise deteriorate and go unseen. These films provide important historical documentation depicting local and regional business, groups, and organizations of interest to both Iowa constituents and U.S. citizens.''

According to a letter from Mr. McCartney, the University of Iowa received funds to preserve a number of films significant to Iowa history, including ''a set of student-produced dance films (1939) believed to be the oldest thesis films of their type in the nation. Another noteworthy project is Iowa State's Rath Packing Company Collection (ca. 1933), a group of depression era films documenting the largest meatpacking company in the country. The films show the Rath test kitchen, packing plant operations, and advertising efforts. Thanks to a [National Film Preservation Foundation] grant, this collection is now available for scholars and historians.''

I appreciate the fact that these Library of Congress programs have placed a special emphasis on assisting small and local projects that would otherwise have been lost or overlooked. Local libraries and historical societies have been helped by the National Film Preservation Foundation to rescue films that, according to Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jack and Mr. McCartney, ''aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture.'' According to Ms. Jack, ''we and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state [of Iowa] from its earliest years to present time.'' So the biggest value that I see of these programs is that they boost smaller archives with few resources to protect their collections, and they provide smaller organizations with a path to learn about film preservation and successful production standards. These programs are an invaluable partner to these small and local organizations in their efforts to save America's moving picture and sound recording heritage.

It is important to foster an environment that encourages the preservation of our nation's cultural resources, and films and music are a big part of the American experience. As such, vulnerable motion pictures and sound recordings of historic and cultural significance should be protected from disintegration and decay. I understand that many of these works already have been lost and that others are deteriorating rapidly. I am a history buff, so I am inspired when I see works that depict our American heritage—and especially life in Iowa and rural America—saved for future generations. We need to safeguard these precious items so they are not lost and so that generations of Americans to come can appreciate and learn about their historical and creative roots in both film and sound recordings. Many of these works are unique and rare, so I am pleased to support the Library of Congress programs and their effort to assist organizations all across the 50 States to preserve these treasures for students, researchers and the general public.

I look forward to swift action on this bill so that it can be enacted before these programs sunset at the end of September.

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

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

S. 2893

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 ''Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. SOUND RECORDING PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 133 of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (2 U.S.C. 1743) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2016'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2026''.

(b) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—

(1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 152411(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2016 an amount not to exceed'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2026 an amount not to exceed the lesser of $750,000 or''.

(2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 152403(b)(2) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''nine directors'' and inserting ''12 directors''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''six directors'' each place it appears and inserting ''8 directors''.

SEC. 3. FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 112 of the National Film Preservation Act of 1996 (2 U.S.C. 179v) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2016'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2026''.

(b) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—Section 151711(a)(1)(C) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''through 2016'' and inserting ''through 2026''.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In Iowa we benefit directly from the programs of the NFPF. The University of Iowa has received funds from the foundation to preserve several films significant to Iowa history. These include a set of student-produced dance films (1939) believed to be the oldest thesis films of their type in the nation. Another noteworthy project is Iowa State's Rath Packing Company Collection (ca. 1933), a group of depression-era films documenting the largest meatpacking company in the country. The films show the Rath test kitchen, packing plant operations, and advertising efforts. Thanks to an NFPF grant, this collection is now available for scholars and historians.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Coe College, Davenport Public Library, and Council Bluffs Public Library also received grants to preserve films from the NFPF. We and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state from its earliest years to present time.

Thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation we have made important progress on saving this important material. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like the University of Iowa to save America's heritage. I would be happy to speak with your staff if you have any questions. Please phone, email or write if I can provide additional information.

Best wishes,

DAVID MCCARTNEY.

APRIL 21, 2016.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation, the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In Iowa we have benefitted directly from the programs of the National Film Preservation Foundation. Coe College received grants to preserve two films that depict campus life in the 1930s and 1960s. Once these historically rich films were preserved more than 170 people attended a screening of the films. Thanks to that event, the college was able to raise funds from alumni to preserve a third campus film from 1972. The public funding from the NFPF helped us not only share our history with the public but also generated financial support from the community. Since posting the films on our website students, faculty and the public have viewed the films using them in academic and public history research.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, Davenport Public Library, Council Bluffs Public Library, and Iowa State University also received grants to preserve films from the NFPF. We and other Iowa organizations have hundreds of other culturally and historically significant films that need preservation work to survive. These document the history of our state from its earliest years to present time.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like the University of Iowa to save America's heritage.

Best wishes,

JILL JACK.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: I write to ask your support for reauthorization of the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), the grant-giving public charity set up by Congress in 1996 to help save America's film heritage. I understand that the NFPF's reauthorization comes before the Senate this session.

In 2012 Council Bluffs Public Library received a grant to preserve Man Power, a 1930 silent film created to boost the local economy by luring businesses to Council Bluffs. This historic film sat in our archives for over 80 years, unwatched and deteriorating over time. With the help of the NFPF, we were able to preserve and digitize this wonderful time capsule of our local history. Thanks to the NFPF, this lost piece of history has been viewed hundreds of times and is now safe from decay and available for the public.

Did you know Council Bluffs Iowa had the first electric Streetcar system in the country? As a result of this grant we were able to see, for the first time, real, moving images of Council Bluffs from back when it was a major rail hub. I have no doubt that without support from the NFPF, vital pieces of local history would be lost forever.

Thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation, we and other local libraries and historical societies have been able to save important films that would otherwise be overlooked. To date the NFPF has helped rescue more than 2,600 films from all 50 states and these aren't Hollywood features but regional films and newsreels that document our history and culture.

The NFPF has been very effective since it started operations in 1997. They assist not only the largest film archives in the country, but also provide a path for smaller organizations to learn about film preservation and protect their collections. I urge you to support their work. With additional funding the National Film Preservation Foundation can continue to work with organizations like Council Bluffs Public Library to save America's heritage. Thank you for your time and please be in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

BEN JOHNSON.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, two days ago, we recognized World IP Day, celebrating the profound contributions that artists and inventors make to our culture and beyond. The theme of this year's World IP Day was Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined, and events around the world focused on how to promote and protect creative efforts in the digital age. As we look forward to new and innovative digital creations we must also be vigilant in preserving the past.

We must ensure that the films and recordings that played vital roles in shaping and recording the American experience are preserved for future generations. Those works, created by previous generations, tell us who we are, and who we were, as a society. To help ensure that these records of our history, our dreams, and our aspirations can be viewed and appreciated by future generations, I am joining with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce legislation reauthorizing the Library of Congress sound recording and film preservation programs.

Congress has long recognized the importance of cultural preservation, creating the National Film Preservation Program in 1988 and the National Sound Recording Preservation Program in 2000 within the Library of Congress. Both programs help preserve historical and cultural artifacts that would otherwise disappear or be destroyed through the passage of time. The Library of Congress uses the programs to advance important preservation efforts including recognizing films

and sound recordings on the National Film and National Recording Registries.

The programs also created the federally chartered National Film and National Recording Preservation Foundations. The foundations provide grants to a wide array of educational and nonprofit organizations to preserve films and sound recordings. To date, the National Film Preservation Foundation has given grants to organizations in all 50 States, including to Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, Vermont, which used the money to preserve home movies of Robert Todd Lincoln's descendants from the 1920s to the 1940s. Well over 2000 films, many of which can now be viewed online, have been preserved through the Foundation's grants. Among the preserved films is the earliest feature film shot in Vermont, ''A Vermont Romance'' from 1916.

By reauthorizing these important programs through 2027, this legislation will allow the Library of Congress and the Foundations to continue their important work in preserving America's fading treasures, as well as providing grants that will help libraries, museums, and archives preserve these works and make them available for study and research. I urge my colleagues to act swiftly to pass this legislation.

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

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

NORTHEAST HISTORIC FILM,
Bucksport, ME, April 20, 2016.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: Founded in 1986, Northeast Historic Film has built the largest existing collection of moving images documenting the history and heritage of northern New England. And since the founding of the National Film Preservation Foundation, the NFPF has been the largest and most important source of funds for preserving these works.

The preserved films include A Vermont Romance (1916), the earliest feature film shot in Vermont; film documentation of the 1927 flood; textile mill owners and workers in Maine; the home movies of Charles Norman Shay, a Penobscot Indian elder who is a decorated veteran of the D-Day invasion; Provincetown, Massachusetts, in 1915; a 4–H club in 1946; a tuberculosis sanitarium in 1934, and over two dozen other examples of community life and activity in the region.

Communications with colleagues in archives around the country inform us of the crucial significance of National Film Preservation Foundation funding. Moving image repositories from coast to coast benefit from NFPF grants. The dedicated staff, which efficiently shepherds NFPF financial resources, has ensured that our nation's heritage will continue to be available for study and enjoyment.

We are grateful to you and NFPF's friends in Congress for help in the past—and for assistance with the upcoming reauthorization. Our film heritage depends on it.

Sincerely,
DAVID WEISS and KARAN SHELDON,
Founders, Northeast Historic Film.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2895. A bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Extending Justice for Sex Crime Victims Act, which is a bill to extend the time for child sexual abuse victims to seek justice against their perpetrators.

I would like to thank Senator CORNYN for working closely with me on this important issue.

Tragically, all over the country, victims of sexual abuse are coming forward to tell their stories of abuse and exploitation at the height of their innocence when they were children.

Several from California, for example, have contacted my office, and described with great courage their pain and anguish.

Each of these individual stories represents an untold amount of pain and suffering. When you look at the numbers, you cannot help but feel devastated.

Indeed, the numbers reveal that no one is too far removed from being affected by deplorable crimes committed against children.

Studies indicate that at least one in four girls and about one in five boys is sexually abused.

It has been estimated that 90 percent of child victims never go to the authorities concerning their abuse.

For many of these children, coming to grips with the trauma is extraordinarily difficult.

Several research studies have described in painstaking detail the long-term effects that affect the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development of abuse victims and sex trafficking victims.

Those who are victimized when they are children typically do not come forward with their abuse—if at all—until many years later, after the victims reach adulthood.

Simply put, the bill extends the civil statute of limitations in two ways for minor victims of Federal sex crimes—because these victims often need more time to realize the harm they have suffered and to seek redress.

First, the bill extends the statute of limitations until the age of 28—from age 21—for minor victims of particular offenses, such as sexual abuse and child pornography.

This brings the statute of limitations in line with a similar law that provides a civil remedy for victims of sex trafficking. The two laws are sections 2255 and 1595 of Title 18.

This provision was recently included, at my request, in the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2016, which the Judiciary Committee approved unanimously weeks ago.

Second, for the laws that provide civil remedies for sex abuse and sex trafficking victims, the bill clarifies when the statute of limitations begins to run.

The bill would clarify that, for both laws providing civil remedies for these victims, the time for a victim to bring a claim against the perpetrator would not begin to run until after the victim actually discovers the injury or the violation.

This is significant because victims of sex crimes are sometimes abused even before they can remember the abuse—some as young as 3-years old.

The bill therefore clarifies that the time for a victim to sue her perpetrator does not begin to run when the violation occurs, but rather when the victim first discovers the injury or the violation.

This is also important because victims of child pornography—who are also sexually abused—may not even ''discover'' that their illegal, pornographic images are being distributed over the internet and elsewhere until later in life.

The bill therefore ensures that minor victims have an extended period to seek justice against their perpetrators after discovering their injury or violation.

Under current law, it is unclear from court opinions when victims must bring their claims, and Congress must make clear it has always intended these victims to have an opportunity to come forward and seek redress.

I want to thank Senator CORNYN again for working so closely with me on this issue.

I also want to acknowledge the support for this bill from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—DESIGNATING MAY 1, 2016, AS ''NATIONAL PUREBRED DOG DAY''

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 447

Whereas the human-canine bond predates history and individuals have enjoyed the companionship and assistance of dogs since the dawn of civilization;

Whereas dog ownership has existed in all cultures, races, climates, and economic situations;

Whereas more than 350 dog breeds exist worldwide, and more than 180 breeds are recognized by the American Kennel Club;

Whereas purebred dogs and breeders of purebred dogs have played a crucial role in United States history, dating to colonial times, during which George Washington had a foxhound breeding program, which established the American Foxhound breed;

Whereas responsible breeders of purebred dogs dedicate their lives to improving the health and well-being of dogs and preserving unique breeds of dogs;

Whereas purebred dogs were created to work alongside humans, and provide inestimable service as—

(1) search and rescue dogs;

(2) service dogs;
(3) disease detection dogs;
(4) police dogs;
(5) conservation dogs;
(6) livestock guardians;
(7) therapy dogs; and
(8) companions and guardians of families, homes, and property;

Whereas purebred dogs provide unparalleled service to the disabled as guide and service dogs, and are the choice of leading service dog breeding programs because of the heritable intelligence, and desirable and predictable qualities, of purebred dogs;

Whereas purebred military working dogs serve alongside the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in combat and in peacetime;

Whereas breed instinct enables purebred dogs to readily serve as—
(1) avalanche dogs;
(2) trackers and trailers;
(3) herders;
(4) controllers of vermin;
(5) water rescuers;
(6) carting and sled dogs;
(7) retrievers;
(8) protectors;
(9) hunters; and
(10) bird dogs;

Whereas the first ''National Purebred Dog Day'' was established on May 1, 2015;

Whereas millions of individuals, through social media and other avenues, recognize May 1 each year as ''National Purebred Dog Day'' and desire, on May 1, to expressly recognize the contributions of the purebred dog; and

Whereas individuals value all dogs, regardless of the ancestry of the dogs, and especially cherish a purpose-bred dog and the predictability of each respective breed of purpose-bred dog: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1, 2016, as ''National Purebred Dog Day'' in celebration of purebred dogs and the many service and companion benefits purebred dogs have and continue to provide to the United States; and

(2) honors the dedicated and responsible breeders who work to preserve and advance their breeds and responsible dog ownership throughout the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—RECOGNIZING THE ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN BUILDING AND ENHANCING THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas education and knowledge form the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for the selfless dedication of the teachers and staff to community service and the futures of the children of the United States;

Whereas the purposes of National Teacher Appreciation Week, held from May 2, 2016, through May 6, 2016, are to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing educators are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) thanks the teachers of the United States; and

(2) promotes the profession of teaching by encouraging students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2016

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach the students' potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for children of the families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 43 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2015–2016 school year, more than 6,800 public charter schools served more than 2,900,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 400,000 students in 2001 to 2,900,000 students in 2016, a sixfold increase in 15 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 160 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in 14 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, and compared to peers of traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in math;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was an estimated 9 percent growth in charter school enrollment between fall 2014 and fall 2105; and

Whereas the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 1 through May 7, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 17th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 1 through May 7, 2016, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—HONORING MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2016, AS ''NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK'' AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 450

Whereas ''National Small Business Week'' has been declared by every President since 1963;

Whereas there are more than 28,000,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas nearly 90 percent of United States employers have fewer than 20 employees;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees;

(2) employ over 48 percent of employees in the private sector;

(3) constitute 98 percent of businesses that export goods; and

(4) account for more than 46 percent of private sector output;

Whereas, on July 30, 1953, Congress established the Small Business Administration to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small businesses—

(1) to preserve free and competitive enterprise;

(2) to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property are made to small businesses; and

(3) to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas 63 percent of new jobs are created by small businesses; and

Whereas May 1 through May 7, 2016, will be celebrated as ''National Small Business Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors May 1 through May 7, 2016, as ''National Small Business Week'';

(2) celebrates the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States during National Small Business Week;

(3) recognizes the importance of—

(A) creating policies that promote an environment in which small businesses may succeed; and

(B) the Small Business Administration as a valuable resource for entrepreneurs in the United States; and

(4) supports efforts—

(A) to encourage consumers to use small businesses; and

(B) to increase awareness of the value of small businesses and the impact of small businesses on the economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 451

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week was established in 1983 through the enactment of the Joint Resolution entitled ''Joint Resolution to designate the week beginning May 27, 1984, as 'National Tourism Week' '', approved November 29, 1983 (Public Law 98–178; 97 Stat. 1126), which recognized the value of travel and tourism;

Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week is celebrated across the United States from May 1 through May 7, 2016;

Whereas more than 400 travel destinations throughout the United States are holding events in honor of National Travel and Tourism Week;

Whereas 1 out of every 9 jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism and the travel and tourism industry supports 15,100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry employs individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all the territories of the United States;

Whereas international travel to the United States—

(1) is the single largest export industry in the United States; and

(2) generates a trade surplus balance of approximately $61,000,000,000;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry, Congress, and the President have worked to streamline the visa process and make the United States welcoming to visitors from other countries;

Whereas travel and tourism provide significant economic benefits to the United States by generating nearly $2,100,000,000,000 in annual economic output;

Whereas leisure travel allows individuals to experience the rich cultural heritage and educational opportunities of the United States and its communities; and

Whereas the immense value of travel and tourism cannot be overstated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week;

(2) commends the travel and tourism industry for its important contributions to the United States; and

(3) commends the employees of the travel and tourism industry for their important contributions to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 452—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 452

Whereas on average, an individual is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2 minutes, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network;

Whereas nearly 80,000 rapes were reported to law enforcement in 2013, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women (or 18.3 percent) and 1 in 71 men (or 1.4 percent) surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas sexual violence is also a burden for many individuals who serve the United States, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 19,000 members of the United States Armed Forces experienced unwanted sexual contact in fiscal year 2014;

Whereas children and young adults are at significant risk of sexual assault, up to 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under 18 years of age, and up to 80 percent of sexual assault victims are under 30 years of age;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs of sexual assault, sexual assault has numerous adverse consequences, which can include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas as many as ⅔ of sexual crimes are committed by individuals who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars of the survivors have healed;

Whereas advances in DNA technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to potentially identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas prosecution can lead to the incarceration of rapists and prevent those individuals from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-HOPE and online.rainn.org); and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the DoD Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile app each provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at SafeHelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no sexual assault victim to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2016 is recognized as ''National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault, and the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2016, AS ''DIA DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS''

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 453

Whereas each year, people in many countries throughout the world, and especially in the Western Hemisphere, celebrate Día de los Niños, or Day of the Children, on April 30th in recognition and celebration of the future of their country—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and the well-being of children remains one of the top priorities of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States must nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas in 2014, the Census Bureau estimated that approximately 17,900,000 of the nearly 55,400,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under 18 years of age, representing ⅓ of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly ¼ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with all people of the United States;

Whereas as the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to create opportunities that provide dignity and upward mobility for all children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas the latest data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as ''NAEP'') indicates that Latino students continue to score lower than the national average on reading assessments conducted at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels—an achievement gap that has persisted for decades;

Whereas the most recent data by NAEP demonstrates that 81 percent of Latino fourth graders in public schools are not proficient in reading;

Whereas Latino authors and Latino protagonists remain underrepresented in literature for children, and less than 3 percent of books for children are written by Latino authors, illustrated by Latino book creators, or feature significant Latino cultural content, even though ¼ of all public school children are Latino;

Whereas research has shown that culturally relevant literature can increase student engagement and reading comprehension, yet some Latino students may go their entire educational experience without seeing themselves portrayed positively in the books that they read and the stories that they hear;

Whereas increasing the number and proportion of multicultural authors in literature for children elevates the voices of the growing diverse communities in the United States and can serve as an effective strategy for closing the reading proficiency achievement gap;

Whereas addressing the widening disparities that still exist among children is of paramount importance to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, and community among the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their futures, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2016, as Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans, a day to bring together Latinos and communities across the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society and invest in future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2016, as ''Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive, uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about each other's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within families, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and to find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—RECOGNIZING THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. CAPITO submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (referred to in this preamble as ''TRANSCAER'') is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident;

Whereas TRANSCAER was founded in 1986;

Whereas TRANSCAER members consist of—

(1) volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and emergency response industries;

(2) volunteer representatives from industry associations;

(3) volunteer personnel of those industries and industry associations; and

(4) government representatives;

Whereas TRANSCAER offers hundreds of training events each year;

Whereas TRANSCAER offered training to tens of thousands of responders between 1986 and 2016;

Whereas TRANSCAER is a unified industry initiative that promotes the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials;

Whereas TRANSCAER aids community emergency response planning for hazardous material transportation incidents;

Whereas TRANSCAER builds strong relationships and trust with communities located along transportation routes, and those relationships and trust could help to ensure that an incident is handled safely, appropriately, and efficiently; and

Whereas TRANSCAER demonstrates the continuing commitment of chemical manufacturers and transporters to the safe transportation of hazardous materials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (commonly referred to as ''TRANSCAER'') on its 30th anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs.

MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 455

Whereas May 5, or ''Cinco de Mayo'' in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, 1 of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at the Battle of Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican government during the Franco-Mexican war of 1861–1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, ''El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz'', meaning ''respect for the rights of others is peace'';

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder—

(1) that the foundation of the United States was built by individuals from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom; and

(2) of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunities for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3884. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3885. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

SA 3886. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1635, to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3884. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 143, line 12, insert ''and for which the offender's release from any term of imprisonment was within 15 years of the commencement of the instant offense'' before the period.

On page 146, line 11, insert ''a term of imprisonment may be reduced only if the defendant has not been convicted of any serious violent felony and'' after ''offense,''.

On page 146, line 12, strike ''may''.

On page 146, beginning on line 15, strike '', reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense''.

On page 146, line 21, strike ''if such'' and insert ''finds''.

On page 147, line 7, insert '', including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from Federal, State, and local authorities'' after ''section''.

On page 147, strike lines 11 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''or section 1010'' and inserting '', section 1010''; and

(ii) by inserting '', or section 70503 or 70506 of title 46'' after ''963)'';

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the defendant does not have—

''(A) more than 4 criminal history points, excluding any criminal history points resulting from a 1-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;

''(B) a prior 3-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines; and

''(C) a prior 2-point violent offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;''; and

(C) after paragraph (5), by inserting the following:

''Information disclosed by a defendant under this subsection may not be used to enhance the sentence of the defendant unless the information relates to a violent offense.''; and

On page 148, strike lines 15 through 25 and insert the following:

''(h) DEFINITION OF VIOLENT OFFENSE.—As used in this section, the term 'violent offense' means a 'crime of violence', as defined in section 16, that is punishable by imprisonment.''.

On page 149, line 13, strike ''or section'' and insert '', section''.

On page 149, line 14, insert '', or section 70503 or 70506 of title 46,'' after ''963)''.

On page 150, strike lines 7 through 14 and insert the following:

''(3) the defendant was not an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of other participants in the offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;

On page 150, line 20, insert '', unless the defendant was a minor or minimal participant, as determined under the sentencing guidelines'' before the semicolon.

On page 151, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

''Information disclosed by a defendant under this subsection may not be used to enhance the sentence of the defendant unless the information relates to a violent offense.

On page 152, strike lines 10 through 20 and insert the following: ''United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking 'second or subsequent conviction under this subsection' and inserting 'violation of this subsection that occurs after a prior conviction under this subsection has become final'.''.

On page 153, line 8, insert ''a term of imprisonment may be reduced only if the instant violation was for a drug trafficking offense that did not involve a violation of clause (ii) or (iii) of section 924(c)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, the defendant has not otherwise been convicted of any serious violent felony, and'' after ''offense,''.

On page 153, line 9, strike ''may''.

On page 153, beginning on line 12, strike '', reduce the term of imprisonment for the offense''.

On page 153, line 18, strike ''if such'' and insert ''finds''.

On page 154, line 4, insert '', including a review of any prior criminal conduct or any other relevant information from Federal, State, and local authorities'' after ''section''.

Beginning on page 154, strike line 5 and all that follows through page 155, line 23.

On page 156, line 1, strike ''106'' and insert ''105''.

On page 157, line 1, strike ''107'' and insert ''106''.

On page 158, line 1, strike ''108'' and insert ''107''.

On page 162, line 3, strike ''109'' and insert ''108''.

On page 162, line 25, insert ''and organized by Federal district where applicable'' after ''paragraph (1)''.

On page 163, line 5, insert '', including referrals from investigative agencies of the Department of Justice,'' after ''prosecution''.

On page 166, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 109. FENTANYL.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 401(b) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin also contains a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide, then a court shall—

''(i) not impose a term of probation; and

''(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

''(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.

''(9)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide was represented to be or sold as heroin, then a court shall—

''(i) not impose a term of probation; and

''(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

''(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.''.

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin also contains a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide, then a court shall—

''(i) not impose a term of probation; and

''(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

''(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.

''(9)(A) In the case of a violation of subsection (a), if the mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide or any analogue of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl) -4-piperidinyl] propanamide was represented to be or sold as heroin, then a court shall—

''(i) not impose a term of probation; and

''(ii) in addition to the term of punishment for the violation of this section, impose a term of imprisonment not to exceed 5 years.

''(B) A term of imprisonment imposed on a person under subparagraph (A)(ii) may not run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under any other provision of law.''.

On page 170, beginning on line 1, strike ''Private entities that will, on a volunteer basis'' and insert ''Nonprofit or other private organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations, that will''.

On page 178, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 179, line 10 and insert the following:

''(A) ELIGIBLE PRISONER.—The term 'eligible prisoner' means—

''(i) an individual who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for a Federal criminal offense; or

''(ii) an individual within the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, including an individual in a Bureau of Prisons contracted facility.''.

On page 191, line 21, strike ''In'' and insert ''Notwithstanding the 10 percent limit described in paragraph (1) and in''.

On page 203, line 8, strike ''title'' and insert ''Act''.

On page 203, line 9, strike ''title'' and insert ''Act''.

On page 203, line 24, strike ''and''.

On page 204, line 5, strike the period and insert ''; and''.

On page 204, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

(iv) a description of how the reduced expenditures on Federal corrections and the budgetary savings resulting from this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, are currently being used and will be used to—

(I) increase investment in law enforcement and crime prevention to combat gangs of national significance and high-level drug traffickers through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program and other task forces;

(II) hire, train, and equip law enforcement officers and prosecutors; and

(III) promote crime reduction programs using evidence-based practices and strategic planning to help reduce crime and criminal recidivism.

On page 226, line 17, insert ''and the Secretary of Labor'' after ''Affairs''.

On page 227, line 3, insert ''and the Secretary of Labor'' after ''Affairs''.

On page 227, line 8, insert ''and the Secretary of Labor'' after ''Affairs''.

On page 227, line 12, insert ''AND DOL'' after ''VA''.

On page 227, line 13, insert ''and the Department of Labor'' after ''Affairs''.

SA 3885. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Afghanistan Accountability Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(4) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, and since then the United States Armed Forces and the Afghan National Security Forces have made countless sacrifices in defending Afghanistan against the threat of terrorism and insurgency and by extension the United States and the wider world.

(2) Since 2001, the United States has worked with a broad coalition of nations that has helped to dramatically improve numerous development indicators within Afghanistan, including—

(A) a dramatic increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary education from an estimated 5,000 under the Taliban to 2,400,000 girls as of 2010;

(B) an increase in the percentage of individuals above the poverty line from 25.4 percent in 2002 to 35.8 percent in 2011;

(C) an increase in the percentage of individuals who now have access to an improved water source in rural areas from 22 percent in 2001 to 56 percent in 2012;

(D) a precipitous decline in maternal mortality from 1200/100,000 births in 1995 to 400/100,000 births in 2013; and

(E) an expansion of women's rights.

(3) Numerous research studies have shown that government corruption is a driver of conflict and particularly so in Afghanistan, where it has served as a powerful recruitment tool for the Taliban.

(4) Since the first democratic transfer of power in the history of Afghanistan in 2014, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah have led a National Unity Government that has identified key security and development challenges in order to make Afghanistan a full and productive member of the community of democratic nations.

(5) The National Unity Government has renewed specific focus on addressing corruption within the country as a driver of instability, including reopening a fraud case involving high level officials and the Kabul Bank that resulted in the disappearance of an estimated $1,000,000,000.

(6) In its report ''Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership'', the Government of Afghanistan committed to the international community in London in December 2014, to address the ''main drivers of corruption in Afghanistan,'' including ''collusive procurement practices, weak rule of law and abuse of the legal system, and arbitrary regulations that build in incentives to pay bribes''. Government of Afghanistan commitments included—

(A) forming an independent anti-corruption commission with time-bound prosecutorial powers;

(B) implementing recommendations by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on a national action plan to reduce corruption;

(C) requiring all government officials to provide public declarations of their assets;

(D) meeting all Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements to further limit and investigate illicit fund flows;

(E) forming a national procurement board staffed by qualified professionals who will manage all large value contracts using internationally recognized standards and procedures; and

(F) delineating the roles, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of anti-corruption institutions such as the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOO) and the Attorney General to restrict them to focus on their core function of enforcement instead of oversight.

(7) The December 2014 Government of Afghanistan report ''Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership'', expressed a commitment to ''enhancing productivity, growth and revenues'' by—

(A) developing natural resources through public-private partnerships that bring in rents, taxes, and profits;

(B) removing obstacles to trade and transit and ending smuggling that diverts revenue away from the treasury;

(C) negotiating expanded market access in regional and global markets;

(D) gradually formalizing the informal economy and changing the compact between the state and citizens to one where citizens pay taxes for services they tangibly benefit from; and

(E) transferring government payments electronically to eliminate losses in transit.

(8) In 2012, international donors and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (''TMAF'') which committed to provide $4,000,000,000 in economic assistance per year from 2012-2015 and sustain assistance at or near the same levels of the past decade through 2017, while the Government of Afghanistan committed to meet benchmarks related to democracy and governance, public finance and revenue generation, and economic development.

(9) At the end of 2014, under the TMAF, the Government of Afghanistan had fallen short in meeting benchmarks related to: revenue collection, the enhancement of women's rights, corruption and the illicit economy, and the protection of human rights.

(10) In the Joint Declaration following the London Conference on Afghanistan of December 4, 2014, the international community and the new Government of Afghanistan agreed to refresh the existing TMAF and associated commitments at the 2015 Senior Officials Meeting based on the reform program and priorities as laid out by the Government of Afghanistan.

(11) Afghanistan faces great difficulties in making progress in countering illegal narcotics and remains the leading global illicit opium poppy producer.

(12) The illegal narcotics trade results in the transfer of illicit funds and encourages and also requires corrupt financial transactions, and, if minimized, could have beneficial impacts on trade and reduce overall levels of corruption.

(13) The international community has endorsed Afghanistan's longer-term development following the war and identified the criticality of the ''transformation decade'' from 2015-2024 outlined by the Government of Afghanistan and has acknowledged that the Government of Afghanistan will seek continued international assistance in order for it to become a stable, self-sustained partner in the community of democratic countries.

(14) As development assistance from the United States and broader international community gradually diminishes in the coming years, the accelerated development of the Afghan private sector and governing institutions becomes even more necessary to maintain the gains of the past decade and to enhance our mutual goals of Afghan security and stability.

(15) While Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have taken over lead combat responsibilities, they continue to operate in close coordination with, and with significant resources from the international community, under the Resolute Support Mission and in coordination with ongoing counter-terrorism operations. Development of civilian oversight institutions for the security sector has lagged. Such oversight will be important for ensuring that Afghan security forces are accountable and do not abuse their powers.

SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has made a substantial commitment to reform that should be supported but also subject to heightened scrutiny by the Afghan people and international donors given past failures and persistent challenges in the country;

(2) Afghanistan is at a critical inflection point, having gone through political and security transitions as the international community draws down its military forces. The international community should work closely with the new government in supporting development priorities for the rest of the transformation decade that translate into producing concrete development results for the Afghan people;

(3) sustainable accountability and reform of Afghan governing institutions will not come from the international community but from a commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and society reinforced by domestic watchdog groups and internal government accountability monitoring mechanisms;

(4) the United States Government should deepen its dialogue on anti-corruption efforts with the Government of Afghanistan to develop effective oversight mechanisms to ensure large donor contracts do not contribute to corruption;

(5) the United States should encourage Afghanistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership, a multilateral initiative in which government and civil society collaborate to promote transparency, fight corruption, and use technologies to strengthen government;

(6) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to build upon existing anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing legislation by developing effective regulations and institutions to implement reforms;

(7) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to broaden personal asset disclosures to include members of the covered officials' immediate families or households and develop effective mechanisms for verifying disclosed information;

(8) in the event of future egregious cases of corruption in Afghanistan, the President should impose visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible, especially in instances where United States assistance is stolen or misappropriated;

(9) the United States Government should cooperate with the Government of Afghanistan and with international donors to develop a series of strict accountability benchmarks based on the refreshed Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the Government of Afghanistan's own ''Realizing Self Reliance'' report commitments that will condition levels of assistance and the amount of on-budget assistance on anti-corruption performance acceptable to donors;

(10) the United States should support the Afghan Parliament to refine and strengthen the legal framework of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws to address beneficial ownership, countering bid-rigging and other contracting and procurement fraud, criminal investigations of financial transactions, complementary banks, personal asset or other financial declarations and disclosures as required by law or regulation, efforts to meet FATF requirements, and other areas to further inhibit the illicit flow of money;

(11) the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its nascent private sector should be supported and sustained using the full array of tools of the United States, including technical and legal assistance;

(12) United States assistance to the Afghan judicial system and other Afghan legal institutions that enable and empower private sector development by instilling greater investor confidence should be prioritized to ensure the protection of private property, the sanctity of contracts, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms for businesses and investors;

(13) the United States Government should identify opportunities for the United States to introduce trade facilitation as part of the economic relationship between the 2 countries;

(14) the Governments of the United States and Afghanistan should work together to identify more Afghan products and raw materials to be included on the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) treatment list;

(15) the American University of Afghanistan is an emerging pillar in Afghanistan's education system and has provided a unique opportunity for higher education for Afghan youth, especially women; and

(16) the United States should encourage the Government of Afghanistan to implement with urgency electoral reforms in accordance with the ''Agreement between the Two Campaign Teams Regarding the Structure of the National Unity Government''.

SEC. 103. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR AFGHANISTAN.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to conduct assistance programs that result in highly effective, impact driven development outcomes for the people of Afghanistan while maintaining the highest standards of accountability for United States taxpayers;

(2) that all United States Government agencies and entities working in Afghanistan coordinate, plan, and regularly review plans in a coherent, well-informed process to develop United States policy and assistance programming;

(3) to support the development of effective Government of Afghanistan oversight institutions and domestic watchdog civil society organizations;

(4) subject to significant evident progress made in meeting TMAF accountability and improved governance as it relates to development, to abide by resource commitments made as part of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

(5) to provide incentivized assistance to Afghanistan's governing institutions based upon verifiable and measurable development outcomes and on-budget assistance based upon demonstrated capacity improvements that are mutually agreed to by the Government of Afghanistan and Government of the United States;

(6) to support the development of democratic governing institutions in Afghanistan, promote the development of a growing private sector, and strengthen civil society in Afghanistan;

(7) to recognize that Afghanistan's sustainable development is grounded in growing the regional economy, and to support the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build strong regional economic connectivity with the country's neighbors;

(8) to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan; and

(9) that assistance programs in direct support of Afghan women and girls remain a priority for the United States, including specific efforts to support women and girls education, meaningful engagement in political and reconciliation processes, training and recruitment of Afghan female police and security forces, advancement of women's legal rights, economic development, and efforts to increase the overall health and well-being of Afghan women and girls.

SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) STRATEGY TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Government of Afghanistan, shall develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for United States assistance that is sustainable and is not counter-productive to combating corruption in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) should include the following elements:

(A) Multi-year goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for targeted activities to strengthen selected Afghan official institutions and nongovernmental organizations to prevent, investigate, deter, and prosecute corruption.

(B) An operational plan incorporating all United States Government programming to implement the anti-corruption goals and objectives.

(C) A summary of United States efforts to coordinate with other international donors to ensure that anti-corruption advice or programming provided to the Government of Afghanistan is not contradictory.

(D) A focus on the development of governmental and nongovernmental Afghan capacity to ensure accountability and combat corruption.

(E) An evaluation of Afghan civil society anti-corruption capacities that includes

their ability to use technology to combat corruption.

(b) AFGHANISTAN ANTI-CORRUPTION FUND.—Subject to the availability of funds, the President is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to official Government of Afghanistan anti-corruption and audit institutions and Afghan civil society watchdog groups in support of the anti-corruption priorities identified by the Government of Afghanistan and the United States Government. Subject to careful consideration by the United States Government of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, offices, and organizations that are funded under this subsection could include—

(1) the Supreme Audit Office;

(2) the Attorney General;

(3) the Ministry of Justice;

(4) Inspectors General within key ministries;

(5) the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC);

(6) the major crimes task force, Technical Investigative Unit, and the Sensitive Investigative Unit;

(7) the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption;

(8) the Anti-Corruption Tribunal;

(9) the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan;

(10) the proposed procurement board; and

(11) civil society organizations engaged in oversight, anti-corruption advocacy, and support of good governance.

(c) PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS FREEDOM, AND SECURITY SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, is authorized to provide support for efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve oversight and accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan National Police, and Afghan local police, and strengthen Afghan civil society and investigative journalists to provide watchdog oversight of these institutions. Subject to due consideration of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, these efforts could include—

(A) supporting the ANSF to strengthen the capacity, independence, and power of its internal Inspector General to collect and investigate all credible reports of abuse by armed forces;

(B) supporting the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministries of Defense and Interior to be better capable to investigate and, if appropriate, criminally prosecute police, military, intelligence, and militia personnel, regardless of rank, found responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes;

(C) considering establishing a special independent mechanism to investigate government officials and security force officers implicated in abuses;

(D) supporting the Ministry of Interior to establish a centralized register of all detainees held in police and National Directorate of Security custody, and ensure that it is accessible to independent monitors and is updated regularly and in a transparent manner;

(E) supporting implementation of the Access to Information Law and the 2009 Mass Media Law, particularly provisions of the latter that would disband the Media Violations Investigation Commission and replace it with a Mass Media Commission;

(F) supporting the Attorney General's Office to undertake prompt, impartial, and thorough investigations into all attacks on journalists and media organizations and bring prosecutions as appropriate; and

(G) supporting the further establishment of civil society organizations to provide essential ''watchdog'' oversight of the police and armed forces; as well as efforts to strengthen and improve coordination among civil society organizations, such as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

SEC. 105. REPORTS.

(a) REPORTING ON CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing each individual who the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is a Government of Afghanistan official, a senior associate, or close relative of such an official, who is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described above.

(b) REPORT ON CIVILIAN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes civilian-military assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of lessons learned from conducting development programming in Afghanistan to include recommendations on how to improve coordination between United States development agencies and the United States Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the ability of the United States Agency for International Development to advance development goals within Afghanistan, operating alongside providers of United States military assistance.

(C) An assessment of whether funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program achieved the program's counter-insurgency goals, including force protection, and whether this program had any long term development impact, including any negative unintended consequences.

SA 3886. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1635, to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 16, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following: ''the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—''.

On page 30, lines 9 and 10, strike ''in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran''.

On page 30, lines 20 and 21, strike ''entering into a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran'' and insert ''the date of the enactment of this Act''.

On page 30, line 23, insert ''the majority leader, the minority leader,'' after ''(1)''.

On page 31, line 1, insert ''the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader,'' after ''(2)''.

Beginning on page 32, lines 24 and 25, strike '', as appropriate'' and all that follows through ''the United States'' on page 33, line 1, and insert ''with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States''.

Strike section 122.

On page 47, lines 14 and 15, strike ''and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives'' and insert '', the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives''.

On page 90, line 24, insert ''and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives'' after ''congressional committees''.

On page 92, line 18, insert ''and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives'' after ''committees''.

On page 116, line 20, strike ''Secretary of State'' and insert ''Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b))''.

Beginning on page 117, line 14, strike ''Secretary of State'' and all that follows through ''in consultation with'' on page 118, line 1, and insert the following: ''Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

(B) in consultation with

On page 160, line 16, insert ''to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and'' after ''the report''.

Strike sections 501 and 502 and insert:

SEC. 501. WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practiable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within ''embassy security, construction and maintenance'' shall to the extent

practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government's ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 9 a.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Mental Health in America: Where Are We Now?''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH–219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 28, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Michael Jetvig, an intern in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 519 through 545 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark A. Baird

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Thomas F. Spencer

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Gregory S. Champagne

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel J. Swain

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. James J. Keefe

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Andrea D. Tullos

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Bradley C. Saltzman

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Andrew E. Salas

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Craig D. Wills

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Tamhra L. Hutchins-Frye

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. William J. Prendergast, IV

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William P. Barriage
Brig. Gen. Peter A. Bosse
Brig. Gen. Troy D. Kok
Brig. Gen. William S. Lee

To be brigadier general

Col. Marilyn S. Chiafullo
Col. Alex B. Fink
Col. John B. Hashem
Col. Susan E. Henderson
Col. Andrew J. Juknelis
Col. Jeffrey W. Jurasek
Col. Deborah L. Kotulich
Col. John H. Phillips
Col. Stephen T. Sauter
Col. Stephen E. Strand

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Paul J. Verrastro

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy J. White

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Kyle J. Cozad
Rear Adm. (lh) Lisa M. Franchetti
Rear Adm. (lh) Roy J. Kelley
Rear Adm. (lh) David M. Kriete
Rear Adm. (lh) Bruce H. Lindsey
Rear Adm. (lh) James T. Loeblein
Rear Adm. (lh) William R. Merz
Rear Adm. (lh) Dee L. Mewbourne
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael T. Moran
Rear Adm. (lh) Stuart B. Munsch
Rear Adm. (lh) John B. Nowell, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Timothy G. Szymanski

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Vincent K. Brooks

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bradley A. Heithold

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as Director, Air National Guard, and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Leon S. Rice

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Lori J. Robinson

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John G. Rossi

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Brown

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlieck

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Rodney L. Faulk

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1219 AIR FORCE nomination of Martin T. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1269 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning LAURA S. BARCHICK, and ending KEVIN J. WILKINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1270 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning MICHELLE D. AASTROM, and ending CYNTHIA J. WEIDMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1271 AIR FORCE nominations (446) beginning LAIRD S. ABBOTT, and ending CHRISTOPHER J. ZUHLKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1318 AIR FORCE nomination of Albert E. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1333 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathan M. Letsinger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1334 AIR FORCE nominations (42) beginning LLOYD TRAVIS A. ARNOLD, and ending KONSTANTINA ZUBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1335 AIR FORCE nomination of Kristie L. Partin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1336 AIR FORCE nomination of Aimee D. Safford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1337 AIR FORCE nomination of Tracey A. Gosser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1338 AIR FORCE nomination of Todd R. Howell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

PN1220 ARMY nominations (3) beginning LARSS G. CELTNIEKS, and ending PAULETTE V. BURTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1221 ARMY nomination of Eric Danko, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1222 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEVEN N. CAROZZA, and ending NOAH C. CLOUD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1223 ARMY nomination of Ramit Ring, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1272 ARMY nomination of Geoffrey E. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1274 ARMY nomination of Bruce H. Robinson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1275 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW B. BOOTH, and ending DONALD W. MOYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1276 ARMY nomination of Robert L. Cronyn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1277 ARMY nomination of Darrell W. Collins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1299 ARMY nomination of Devon D. Nudelman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1300 ARMY nomination of Calvin C. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1301 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEPHEN G. CRUYS, and ending GREGORY J. LONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1302 ARMY nominations (2) beginning EDWARD S. BARNETT, and ending LYNN J.

WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1303 ARMY nominations (5) beginning TIMOTHY G. BONNER, and ending JAMES S. WELCH, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1304 ARMY nominations (7) beginning KRYSTAL D. BEAN, and ending JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1305 ARMY nominations (19) beginning GEORGE A. BARBEE, and ending D013078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1306 ARMY nominations (80) beginning GABRIELLE M. ANDREANIFABRONI, and ending YOUNG J. YAUGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1307 ARMY nominations (84) beginning TERRYL L. AITKEN, and ending D010908, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1319 ARMY nomination of Travis H. Owen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1320 ARMY nominations (54) beginning JOSHUA T. ADE, and ending D012875, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1322 ARMY nomination of Timothy R. Teague, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1323 ARMY nomination of Eric E. Halstrom, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1324 ARMY nominations (4) beginning BRIAN D. BOBO, and ending ANTHONY D. FOURNIER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1325 ARMY nomination of Dennis N. Snelling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2016.

PN1340 ARMY nomination of Kodjo S. Knoxlimbacker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1341 ARMY nomination of Lori R. Schanhals, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1342 ARMY nomination of Drew R. Conover, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1343 ARMY nomination of Bradley D. Osterman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1344 ARMY nomination of Francisco J. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1346 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY D. AIKEN, and ending JAMES R. WEAKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1347 ARMY nomination of George A. Rollins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1348 ARMY nomination of McArthur Walker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1349 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TIMOTHY D. COVINGTON, and ending ERIC A. KENNEDY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1379 ARMY nomination of Nilson Orozcooviedo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 18, 2016.

PN1380 ARMY nomination of Pierre E. Saintfleur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 18, 2016.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1126 MARINE CORPS nomination of John A. Yukica, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1129 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MATRIX W. ELIAS, and ending NICHOLAS J. TAZZA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN1201 NAVY nomination of Brian D. Hennessy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2016.

PN1224 NAVY nomination of Donald C. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2016.

PN1279 NAVY nomination of Stephanie M. Simoni, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1280 NAVY nomination of Jennifer L. Shafer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1281 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JUSTIN K. CONROY, and ending REBECCA L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1282 NAVY nomination of Brice A. Goodwin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1283 NAVY nomination of Brian J. Hamer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1284 NAVY nomination of Scott F. Gruwell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1285 NAVY nomination of Shannon D. Lorimer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2016.

PN1308 NAVY nominations (11) beginning DANIELLE M. BARNES, and ending MARK R. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1309 NAVY nomination of William A. Hlavin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1312 NAVY nomination of Phillip G. Cyr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 5, 2016.

PN1350 NAVY nomination of Donald E. Speights, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1366 NAVY nomination of Luis A. Bencomo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AFGHANISTAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 189, S. 1875.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1875) to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. 1875

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 ''Afghanistan Accountability Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, and since then the United States Armed Forces and the Afghan National Security Forces have made countless sacrifices in defending Afghanistan against the threat of terrorism and insurgency and by extension the United States and the wider world.

(2) Since 2001, the United States has worked with a broad coalition of nations that has helped to dramatically improve numerous development indicators within Afghanistan, including a dramatic increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary education from an estimated 5,000 under the Taliban to 2,400,000 girls as of 2010; an increase in the percentage of individuals above the poverty line from 25.4 percent in 2002 to 35.8 percent in 2011; an increase in the percentage of individuals who now have access to an improved water source in rural areas from 22 percent in 2001 to 56 percent in 2012; a precipitous decline in maternal mortality from 1200/100,000 births in 1995 to 400/100,000 births in 2013; and an expansion of women's rights;

(3) Numerous research studies have shown that government corruption is a driver of conflict and particularly so in Afghanistan, where it has served as a powerful recruitment tool for the Taliban.

(4) Since the first democratic transfer of power in the history of Afghanistan in 2014, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah have led a National Unity Government that has identified

key security and development challenges in order to make Afghanistan a full and productive member of the community of democratic nations.

(5) The National Unity Government has renewed specific focus on addressing corruption within the country as a driver of instability, including reopening a fraud case involving high level officials and the Kabul Bank that resulted in the disappearance of an estimated $1,000,000,000.

(6) In its report ''Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership'', the Government of Afghanistan committed to the international community in London in December 2014, to address the ''main drivers of corruption in Afghanistan,'' including ''collusive procurement practices, weak rule of law and abuse of the legal system, and arbitrary regulations that build in incentives to pay bribes''. Government of Afghanistan commitments included—

(A) forming an independent anti-corruption commission with time-bound prosecutorial powers;

(B) implementing recommendations by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee on a national action plan to reduce corruption;

(C) requiring all government officials to provide public declarations of their assets;

(D) meeting all Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements to further limit and investigate illicit fund flows;

(E) forming a national procurement board staffed by qualified professionals who will manage all large value contracts using internationally recognized standards and procedures; and

(F) delineating the roles, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of anti-corruption institutions such as the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOO) and the Attorney General to restrict them to focus on their core function of enforcement instead of oversight.

(7) The December 2014 Government of Afghanistan report ''Realizing Self Reliance: Commitments to Reform and Renewed Partnership'', expressed a commitment to ''enhancing productivity, growth and revenues'' by—

(A) developing natural resources through public-private partnerships that bring in rents, taxes, and profits;

(B) removing obstacles to trade and transit and ending smuggling that diverts revenue away from the treasury;

(C) negotiating expanded market access in regional and global markets;

(D) gradually formalizing the informal economy and changing the compact between the state and citizens to one where citizens pay taxes for services they tangibly benefit from; and

(E) transferring government payments electronically to eliminate losses in transit.

(8) In 2012, international donors and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (''TMAF'') which committed to provide $4,000,000,000 in economic assistance per year from 2012-2015 and sustain assistance at or near the same levels of the past decade through 2017, while the Government of Afghanistan committed to meet benchmarks related to democracy and governance, public finance and revenue generation, and economic development.

(9) At the end of 2014, under the TMAF, the Government of Afghanistan had fallen short in meeting benchmarks related to: revenue collection, the enhancement of women's rights, corruption and the illicit economy, and the protection of human rights,

(10) In the Joint Declaration following the London Conference on Afghanistan of December 4, 2014, the international community and the new Government of Afghanistan agreed to refresh the existing TMAF and associated commitments at the 2015 Senior Officials Meeting based on the reform program and priorities as laid out by the Government of Afghanistan.

(11) Afghanistan faces great difficulties in making progress in countering illegal narcotics and remains the leading global illicit opium poppy producer.

(12) The illegal narcotics trade results in the transfer of illicit funds and encourages and also requires corrupt financial transactions, and, if minimized, could have beneficial impacts on trade and reduce overall levels of corruption.

(13) The international community has endorsed Afghanistan's longer-term development following the war and identified the criticality of the ''transformation decade'' from 2015-2024 outlined by the Government of Afghanistan and has acknowledged that the Government of Afghanistan will seek continued international assistance in order for it to become a stable, self-sustained partner in the community of democratic countries.

(14) As development assistance from the United States and broader international community gradually diminishes in the coming years, the accelerated development of the Afghan private sector and governing institutions becomes even more necessary to maintain the gains of the past decade and to enhance our mutual goals of Afghan security and stability.

(15) While Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have taken over lead combat responsibilities, they continue to operate in close coordination with, and with significant resources from the international community, under the Train, Advise and Assist (TAA) mission of Operation Inherent Resolve and in coordination with ongoing counter-terrorism operations. Development of civilian oversight institutions for the security sector has lagged. Such oversight will be important for ensuring that Afghan security forces are accountable and do not abuse their powers.

SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has made a substantial commitment to reform that should be supported but also subject to heightened scrutiny by the Afghan people and international donors given past failures and persistent challenges in the country;

(2) Afghanistan is at a critical inflection point, having gone through political and security transitions as the international community draws down its military forces. The international community should work closely with the new government in supporting development priorities for the rest of the transformation decade that translate into producing concrete development results for the Afghan people;

(3) sustainable accountability and reform of Afghan governing institutions will not come from the international community but from a commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and society reinforced by domestic watchdog groups and internal government accountability monitoring mechanisms;

(4) the United States Government should deepen its dialogue on anti-corruption efforts with the Government of Afghanistan to develop effective oversight mechanisms to ensure large donor contracts do not contribute to corruption;

(5) the United States should encourage Afghanistan's participation in the Open Government Partnership, a multilateral initiative in which government and civil society collaborate to promote transparency, fight corruption, and use technologies to strengthen government;

(6) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to build upon existing anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing legislation by developing effective regulations and institutions to implement reforms;

(7) the United States should urge the Government of Afghanistan to broaden personal asset disclosures to include members of the covered officials' immediate families or households and develop effective mechanisms for verifying disclosed information;

(8) in the event of future egregious cases of corruption in Afghanistan, the President should impose visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible, especially in instances where United States assistance is stolen or misappropriated;

(9) the United States Government should cooperate with the Government of Afghanistan and with international donors to develop a series of strict accountability benchmarks based on the refreshed Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the Government of Afghanistan's own ''Realizing Self Reliance'' report commitments that will condition levels of assistance and the amount of on-budget assistance on anti-corruption performance acceptable to donors;

(10) the United States should support the Afghan Parliament to refine and strengthen the legal framework of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws to address beneficial ownership, countering bid-rigging and other contracting and procurement fraud, criminal investigations of financial transactions, complementary banks, personal asset or other financial declarations and disclosures as required by law or regulation, efforts to meet FATF requirements, and other areas to further inhibit the illicit flow of money;

(11) the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its nascent private sector should be supported and sustained using the full array of tools of the United States, including technical and legal assistance;

(12) United States assistance to the Afghan judicial system and other Afghan legal institutions that enable and empower private sector development by instilling greater investor confidence should be prioritized to ensure the protection of private property, the sanctity of contracts, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms for businesses and investors;

(13) the United States Government should identify opportunities for the United States to introduce trade facilitation as part of the economic relationship between the two countries;

(14) the Governments of the United States and Afghanistan should work together to identify more Afghan products and raw materials to be included on the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) treatment list;

(15) the United States Government should establish a United States-Afghan Tax Commission to help spearhead a rapid and successful conclusion of a new Bilateral Tax Agreement similar to the Agreements with several of Afghanistan's neighbors, including Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, India, and Pakistan;

(16) the American University of Afghanistan is an emerging pillar in Afghanistan's education system and has provided a unique opportunity for higher education for Afghan youth, especially women; and

(17) the United States should encourage the Government of Afghanistan to implement with urgency electoral reforms in accordance with the ''Agreement between the

Two Campaign Teams Regarding the Structure of the National Unity Government''.

SEC. 103. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR AFGHANISTAN.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to conduct assistance programs that result in highly effective, impact driven development outcomes for the people of Afghanistan while maintaining the highest standards of accountability for United States taxpayers;

(2) that all United States Government agencies and entities working in Afghanistan coordinate, plan, and regularly review plans in a coherent, well-informed process to develop United States policy and assistance programming;

(3) to support the development of effective Government of Afghanistan oversight institutions and domestic watchdog civil society organizations;

(4) subject to significant evident progress made in meeting TMAF accountability and improved governance as it relates to development, to abide by resource commitments made as part of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework;

(5) to provide incentivized assistance to Afghanistan's governing institutions based upon verifiable and measurable development outcomes and on-budget assistance based upon demonstrated capacity improvements that are mutually agreed to by the Governments of Afghanistan and the United States;

(6) to support the development of democratic governing institutions in Afghanistan, promote the development of a growing private sector, and strengthen civil society in Afghanistan;

(7) to recognize that Afghanistan's sustainable development is grounded in growing the regional economy, and to support the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build strong regional economic connectivity with the country's [neighbors; and]

(8) [to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan.] *neighbors;*

(8) to support, where appropriate, proven programs that promote private sector job creation in Afghanistan; and

(9) that assistance programs in direct support of Afghan women and girls remain a priority for the United States, including specific efforts to support women and girls education, meaningful engagement in political and reconciliation processes, training and recruitment of Afghan female police and security forces, advancement of women's legal rights, economic development, and efforts to increase the overall health and well-being of Afghan women and girls.

SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) STRATEGY TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Government of Afghanistan, shall develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for United States assistance that is sustainable and is not counter-productive to combatting corruption in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) should include the following elements:

(A) Multi-year goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for targeted activities to strengthen selected Afghan official institutions and nongovernmental organizations to prevent, investigate, deter, and prosecute corruption.

(B) An operational plan incorporating all United States Government programming to implement the anti-corruption goals and objectives.

(C) A summary of United States efforts to coordinate with other international donors to ensure that anti-corruption advice or programming provided to the Government of Afghanistan is not contradictory.

(D) A focus on the development of governmental and nongovernmental Afghan capacity to ensure accountability and combat corruption.

(E) An evaluation of Afghan civil society anti-corruption capacities that includes their ability to use technology to combat corruption.

(b) AFGHANISTAN ANTI-CORRUPTION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the President is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to official Government of Afghanistan anti-corruption and audit institutions and Afghan civil society watchdog groups in support of the anti-corruption priorities identified by the Government of Afghanistan and the United States Government. Subject to careful consideration by the United States Government of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, offices, and organizations that are funded under this subsection could include—

(A) the Supreme Audit Office;

(B) the Attorney General;

(C) the Ministry of Justice;

(D) Inspectors General within key ministries;

(E) the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC);

(F) the major crimes task force, Technical Investigative Unit, and the Sensitive Investigative Unit;

(G) the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption;

(H) the Anti-Corruption Tribunal;

(I) the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan;

(J) the proposed procurement board; and

(K) civil society organizations engaged in oversight, anti-corruption advocacy, and support of good governance.

(c) PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS FREEDOM, AND SECURITY SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, should provide support for efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to improve oversight and accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan National Police, and Afghan local police, and strengthen Afghan civil society and investigative journalists to provide watchdog oversight of these institutions. Subject to due consideration of the legitimacy, efficacy, and direct impact and influence of such entities and individuals, these efforts could include—

(A) supporting the ANSF to strengthen the capacity, independence, and power of its internal Inspector General to collect and investigate all credible reports of abuse by armed forces;

(B) supporting the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministries of Defense and Interior to be better capable to investigate and, if appropriate, criminally prosecute police, military, intelligence, and militia personnel, regardless of rank, found responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes;

(C) considering establishing a special independent mechanism to investigate government officials and security force officers implicated in abuses;

(D) supporting the Ministry of Interior to establish a centralized register of all detainees held in police and National Directorate of Security custody, and ensure that it is accessible to independent monitors and is updated regularly and in a transparent manner;

(E) supporting implementation of the Access to Information Law and the 2009 Mass Media Law, particularly provisions of the latter that would disband the Media Violations Investigation Commission and replace it with a Mass Media Commission;

(F) supporting the Attorney General's Office to undertake prompt, impartial, and thorough investigations into all attacks on journalists and media organizations and bring prosecutions as appropriate; and

(G) supporting the further establishment of civil society organizations to provide essential ''watchdog'' oversight of the police and armed forces; as well as efforts to strengthen and improve coordination among civil society organizations, such as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

(d) DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFGHAN PRIVATE SECTOR.—

(1) REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY FUND.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Regional Economic Connectivity Fund from which funds may be made available from existing appropriations to enhance regional economic connectivity between Afghanistan and the countries of South and Central Asia.

(B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Regional Economic Connectivity Fund is to provide support for efforts to enhance Afghanistan's economic connectivity with its neighbors, thus improving the country's overall economic prospects and diminishing the need for international assistance in the future. The Regional Economic Connectivity Fund may be used to support programs in the following areas:

(i) Trade and transit fee normalization and electronic payment systems.

(ii) Capacity and skills development to improve collaboration among countries for border and customs.

(iii) Women-owned business networking.

(iv) Developing regional options on transit and customs to facilitate trade.

(v) Enhancing and implementing confidence building measures.

(vi) Encouraging regional energy and electricity development and sharing.

(vii) Market access and business conferences.

(viii) Intellectual and cultural exchanges to engage in regional problem solving.

(2) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—In addition to other transfer authorities available to the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or other United States Government agencies or departments, funds that are specifically allocated towards addressing the situation in Afghanistan may be transferred to programs in South and Central Asia that promote regional economic connectivity with substantial and direct benefits to Afghanistan.

SEC. 105. REPORTS.

(a) REPORTING ON CORRUPTION IN AFGHANISTAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing each individual who the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is an Government of Afghanistan official, a senior associate, or close relative of such an official, who is responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described above.

(b) REPORT ON CIVILIAN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on civilian-military assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of lessons learned from conducting development programming in a conflict zone to include recommendations on how to improve coordination between United States development agencies and the United States Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the ability of the United States Agency for International Development to advance development goals within a conflict environment, operating alongside providers of United States military assistance.

(C) An assessment of whether funding under the Commander's Emergency Response Program achieved the program's stated goals and whether this program had any long term development impact, including any negative unintended consequences.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the Menendez substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3885) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1875), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL BISON LEGACY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 438, H.R. 2908.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2908) to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2908) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

KIDS TO PARKS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 435 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) designating May 21, 2016, as ''Kids to Parks Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 435) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 21, 2016, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 448, S. Res. 449, S. Res. 450, S. Res. 451, S. Res. 452, S. Res. 453, S. Res. 454, and S. Res. 455.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 452

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I submitted a bipartisan resolution recognizing that April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Senators LEAHY, AYOTTE, CASEY, ERNST, and GILLIBRAND have joined as cosponsors of the resolution, and I thank them for their support.

Our purpose in introducing the resolution is to bring greater awareness to the problem of sexual assault and publicly acknowledge the survivors. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes, on average, in the United States. Sexual assault can take many forms, including rape, commercial sex trafficking, child sexual abuse, and stalking.

Rape, which is the second most violent crime in the United States—second only to murder, according to the FBI—can happen to anyone. According to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the consequences of rape can be profound for its victims, and may include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or even suicide.

In communities across the United States, Americans have commemorated the month of April with activities designed to support survivors of sexual violence in their efforts to heal. Before the month comes to a close, it is important that Congress also express its support for the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

I would also like to take a moment to mention several other bipartisan, anti-sexual assault measures that I have championed during the month of April, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these initiatives too.

First, just last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which I serve as chairman, cleared legislation that's designed to help sexual assault victims secure justice. I incorporated this language into the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act, a measure I introduced earlier this year at the urging of a young woman who survived a sexual assault and founded an organization, RISE, that's dedicated to helping other survivors.

The measure reported by our committee by voice vote on April 20th would amend the federal crime victims' statute to add a number of new rights specific to sexual assault survivors. If it's enacted, victims of federal crimes of sexual violence would have the right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic exam. They would have the right to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit preserved, without charge, until the statutory limitations period for prosecuting the crime has expired or ten years has elapsed. They would have the right to be informed of the results when their forensic evidence is analyzed. And they would have the right to written notice of policies governing their evidence kit's collection and preservation, as well as the right to notice if that evidence is about to be discarded.

The latest version of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization also would make Justice Department grants available to entities that notify sexual violence victims of any applicable rights under state law. Finally, this legislation would extend the statutory period in which child survivors of human trafficking and child sexual abuse offenses can file suit against the perpetrators. The bill has been endorsed not only by RISE but also by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Senators SCHUMER, HATCH, FEINSTEIN, LEAHY, SHAHEEN, COONS, DURBIN, and KLOBUCHAR have joined as cosponsors.

Also last week, I joined Senator GILLIBRAND in calling on President

Obama to take additional steps to investigate military sexual assault. We contacted the President to voice our concerns shortly after an organization known as Protect Our Defenders released a report questioning the accuracy of congressional testimony by a Pentagon official during a hearing on sexual assault in the military.

Last but not least, due to my concerns about campus sexual assault, I am an original cosponsor of the Campus Accountability and Safety Act. I joined Senators HELLER, MCCASKILL, GILLIBRAND, AYOTTE, and others in introducing this bill last year. It would make additional support services available to student survivors of campus rape, require training standards and uniform discipline procedures for campus officials, and add transparency requirements for the Nation's universities. Earlier this week, the cosponsors of this measure came together to publicly call for prompt action on this legislation.

Mr. President, I will close by urging my colleagues to support adoptoin of the resolution we have submitted today.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 365 only, with no other executive business in order.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the nomination, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jacobson nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

VENEZUELA DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY EXTENSION ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 445, S. 2845.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2845) to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. 2845

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 ''Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Extension Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA.

Section 5(e) of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2016'' and inserting ''**[**December 31, 2021**]** *December 31, 2019*''.

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

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2845), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2845

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 ''Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Extension Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA.

Section 5(e) of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2016'' and inserting ''December 31, 2019''.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION AND EMBASSY SECURITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 123, S. 1635.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1635) to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Corker amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3886) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To remove language relating to Iran hostages compensation, to provide that the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall have primary responsibility for religious freedom training, and to make other technical amendments)

On page 16, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following: ''the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—''.

On page 30, lines 9 and 10, strike ''in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran''.

On page 30, lines 20 and 21, strike ''entering into a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran'' and insert ''the date of the enactment of this Act''.

On page 30, line 23, insert ''the majority leader, the minority leader,'' after ''(1)''.

On page 31, line 1, insert ''the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader,'' after ''(2)''.

Beginning on page 32, lines 24 and 25, strike '', as appropriate'' and all that follows through ''the United States'' on page 33, line 1, and insert ''with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States''.

Strike section 122.

On page 47, lines 14 and 15, strike ''and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives'' and insert '', the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the

Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives''.

On page 90, line 24, insert ''and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives'' after ''congressional committees''.

On page 92, line 18, insert ''and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives'' after ''committees''.

On page 116, line 20, strike ''Secretary of State'' and insert ''Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b))''.

Beginning on page 117, line 14, strike ''Secretary of State'' and all that follows through ''in consultation with'' on page 118, line 1, and insert the following: ''Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

(B) in consultation with

On page 160, line 16, insert ''to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and'' after ''the report''.

Strike sections 501 and 502 and insert:

SEC. 501 WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practicable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within ''embassy security, construction and maintenance'' shall to the extent practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government's ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

The bill (S. 1635), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1635

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—Basic Authorities and Activities

Sec. 101. American spaces review.
Sec. 102. Identifying bilateral investment treaty opportunities.
Sec. 103. Reinstatement of Hong Kong report.
Sec. 104. Interagency hostage recovery coordinator.
Sec. 105. United States-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue review.
Sec. 106. Report on human rights violations in Burma.
Sec. 107. Combating anti-semitism.
Sec. 108. Biotechnology grants.
Sec. 109. Definition of ''use'' in passport and visa offenses.
Sec. 110. Science and technology fellowships.
Sec. 111. Name changes.
Sec. 112. Anti-piracy information sharing.
Sec. 113. Report reform.
Sec. 114. Sense of Congress on the United States alliance with Japan.
Sec. 115. Sense of Congress on the defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India.
Sec. 116. Sense of Congress on the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea.
Sec. 117. Sense of Congress on the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.
Sec. 118. Report on political freedom in Venezuela.
Sec. 119. Strategy for the Middle East in the event of a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran.
Sec. 120. Department of State international cyberspace policy strategy.
Sec. 121. Waiver of fees for renewal of immigrant visa for adopted child in certain situations.
Sec. 122. Sense of Congress on anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement within the Palestinian Authority.
Sec. 123. Support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of post-Soviet countries in light of Russian aggression and interference.
Sec. 124. Russian propaganda report.
Sec. 125. Approval of export licences and letters of request to assist the Government of Ukraine.

Subtitle B—Additional Matters

Sec. 131. Atrocities prevention board.
Sec. 132. United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific.
Sec. 133. Joint action plan to combat prejudice and discrimination and to foster inclusion.
Sec. 134. Report on developing country debt sustainability.
Sec. 135. United States strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.
Sec. 136. International corruption and accountability.
Sec. 137. Quadrennial diplomacy and development review.
Sec. 138. Disappeared persons in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
Sec. 139. Report on implementation by the Government of Bahrain of recommendations from the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.
Sec. 140. Report on United States humanitarian assistance to Haiti and whether recent elections in Haiti meet international election standards.
Sec. 141. Sense of Congress with respect to the imposition of additional sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subtitle A—Organizational Matters

Sec. 201. Rightsizing accountability.
Sec. 202. Integration of foreign economic policy.
Sec. 203. Review of Bureau of African Affairs and Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs jurisdictions.
Sec. 204. Special envoys, representatives, advisors, and coordinators.
Sec. 205. Conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution, and the inclusion and participation of women.
Sec. 206. Information technology system security.
Sec. 207. Analysis of embassy cost sharing.
Sec. 208. Parent advisory committee to the Interagency Working Group to Prevent International Parental Child Abduction.

Sec. 209. Improving research and evaluation of public diplomacy.
Sec. 210. Enhanced institutional capacity of the Bureau of African Affairs.
Subtitle B—Personnel Matters
Sec. 211. Review of Foreign Service Officer compensation.
Sec. 212. Repeal of recertification requirement for senior Foreign Service.
Sec. 213. Compensatory time off for travel.
Sec. 214. Certificates of demonstrated competence.
Sec. 215. Foreign Service assignment restrictions.
Sec. 216. Security clearance suspensions.
Sec. 217. Economic statecraft education and training.
Sec. 218. Report on diversity recruitment, employment, retention, and promotion.
Sec. 219. Expansion of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.
Sec. 220. Retention of mid- and senior-level professionals from underrepresented groups.
Sec. 221. Review of jurisdictional responsibilities of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.
Sec. 222. Congressional notification of countries compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
Sec. 223. International religious freedom training program.
TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Subtitle A—United States Contributions to International Organizations
Sec. 301. Reports concerning the United Nations.
Sec. 302. Annual report on financial contributions to international organizations.
Sec. 303. Report on peacekeeping arrears, credits, and contributions.
Sec. 304. Assessment rate transparency.
Subtitle B—Accountability at International Organizations
Sec. 311. Preventing abuse in peacekeeping.
Sec. 312. Inclusion of peacekeeping abuses in country report on human rights practices.
Sec. 313. Evaluation of United Nations peacekeeping missions.
Subtitle C—Personnel Matters
Sec. 321. Encouraging employment of United States citizens at the United Nations.
Sec. 322. Ensuring appropriate United Nations personnel salaries.
TITLE IV—CONSULAR AUTHORITIES
Sec. 401. Visa ineligibility for international child abductors.
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Sec. 601. Short title.
Sec. 602. Competitive hiring status for former employees of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.
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Sec. 604. Protecting the integrity of internal investigations.
Sec. 605. Report on Inspector General inspection and auditing of Foreign Service posts and bureaus and operating units Department of State.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of State.

(3) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.—The term ''peacekeeping credits'' means the amounts by which United States assessed peacekeeping contributions exceed actual expenditures, apportioned to the United States, of peacekeeping operations by the United Nations during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of State.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—Basic Authorities and Activities

SEC. 101. AMERICAN SPACES REVIEW.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) the full costs incurred by the Department to provide American Spaces, including—

(A) American Centers, American Corners, Binational Centers, Information Resource Centers, and Science Centers; and

(B) the total costs of all associated—

(i) employee salaries, including foreign service, American civilian, and locally employed staff;

(ii) programming expenses;

(iii) operating expenses;

(iv) contracting expenses; and

(v) security expenses;

(2) a breakdown of the total costs described in paragraph (1) by each space and type of space;

(3) the total fees collected for entry to, or the use of, American Spaces and related resources, including a breakdown by the type of fee for each space and type of space; and

(4) the total usage rates, including by type of service, for each space and type of space.

SEC. 102. IDENTIFYING BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY OPPORTUNITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a detailed description of—

(1) the status of all ongoing investment treaty negotiations, including a strategy and timetable for concluding each such negotiation;

(2) a strategy to expand the investment treaty agenda, including through—

(A) launching new investment treaty negotiations with foreign partners that are currently capable of entering into such negotiations; and

(B) building the capacity of foreign partners to enter into such negotiations, including by encouraging the adoption of best practices with respect to investment; and

(3) an estimate of any resources that will be needed, including anticipated staffing levels—

(A) to conclude all ongoing negotiations described in paragraph (1);

(B) to launch new investment treaty negotiations, as described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(C) to build the capacity of foreign partners, as described in paragraph (2)(B).

SEC. 103. REINSTATEMENT OF HONG KONG REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2020, the Secretary shall submit the report required under section 301 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5731) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The report submitted under subsection (a) should be unclassified and made publicly available, including through the Department's public website.

(c) TREATMENT OF HONG KONG UNDER UNITED STATES LAW.—

(1) SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall certify to Congress whether Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is sufficiently autonomous to justify different treatment for its citizens from the treatment accorded to other citizens of the People's Republic of China in any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements entered into between the United States and Hong Kong after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) FACTOR FOR CONSIDERATION.—In making a certification under subparagraph (A), the

Secretary should consider the terms, obligations, and expectations expressed in the Joint Declaration with respect to Hong Kong.

(C) EXCEPTION.—A certification shall not be required under this subsection with respect to any new laws, agreements, treaties, or arrangements that support human rights, rule of law, or democracy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive the application of paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(B) on or before the date on which such waiver would take effect, submits a notice of, and justification for, the waiver to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 104. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDINATOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism. For purposes of carrying out the duties described in paragraph (2), such officer shall have the title of ''Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator''.

(2) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall have the following duties:

(A) Coordinate and direct all activities of the Federal Government relating to each hostage situation described in paragraph (1) to ensure efforts to secure the release of all hostages in the hostage situation are properly resourced and correct lines of authority are established and maintained.

(B) Establish and direct a fusion cell consisting of appropriate personnel of the Federal Government with purview over each hostage situation described in paragraph (1).

(C) Develop a strategy to keep family members of hostages described in paragraph (1) informed of the status of such hostages and inform such family members of updates, procedures, and policies that do not compromise the national security of the United States.

(b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator shall be limited to hostage cases outside the United States.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On a quarterly basis, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the members of Congress described in paragraph (2) a report that includes a summary of each hostage situation described in sub-section (a)(1) and efforts to secure the release of all hostages in such hostage situation.

(2) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The members of Congress described in this subparagraph are, with respect to a United States person hostage covered by a report under paragraph (1), the Senators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives representing the district, where a hostage described in subjection (a)(1) resides.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection may be submitted in classified or unclassified form.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the Federal Government to negotiate with a state sponsor of terrorism or an organization that the Secretary has designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) or any other hostage-takers.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HOSTILE GROUP.—The term ''hostile group'' means—

(A) a group that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));

(B) a group that is engaged in armed conflict with the United States; or

(C) any other group that the President determines to be a hostile group for purposes of this paragraph.

(2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term ''state sponsor of terrorism''—

(A) means a country the government of which the Secretary has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or any other provision of law, to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism; and

(B) includes North Korea.

SEC. 105. UNITED STATES-CHINA STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consultation with other departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall—

(1) conduct a review of the United States-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (referred to in this section as the ''Dialogue''); and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the findings of such review.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all commitments agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings;

(2) an assessment of the status of each commitment agreed to by the United States and China at each of the first 6 rounds of meetings, including a detailed description of—

(A) any actions that have been taken with respect to such commitments;

(B) any aspects of such commitments that remain unfulfilled; and

(C) any actions that remain necessary to fulfill any unfulfilled commitments described in subparagraph (B);

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities in the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) the security situation in the East and South China Seas, including a peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in the region;

(B) denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;

(C) cybertheft of United States intellectual property;

(D) the treatment of political dissidents, media representatives, and ethnic and religious minorities;

(E) reciprocal treatment of United States journalists and academics in China, including issuance of visas;

(F) expanding investment and trade opportunities for United States businesses;

(G) repatriation of North Korean refugees from China to North Korea; and

(H) promoting and protecting rule of law and democratic institutions in Hong Kong; and

(4) recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Dialogue in achieving and fulfilling significant commitments on United States priorities described in paragraph (3), including consideration of the use of predetermined benchmarks for assessing whether the commitments achieved are significantly furthering such priorities.

SEC. 106. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes in detail all known widespread or systematic civil or political rights violations, including violations that may constitute crimes against humanity against ethnic, racial, or religious minorities in Burma, including the Rohingya people; and

(2) provides recommendations for holding perpetrators of the violations described in paragraph (1) accountable for their actions.

SEC. 107. COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for Diplomatic and Consular Programs, $500,000 shall be made available to the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, to be used in support of efforts by American and European Jewish and other civil society organizations, focusing on youth, to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of religious, ethnic, or racial intolerance in Europe.

SEC. 108. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 63. BIOTECHNOLOGY GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to support, through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, outreach, and public diplomacy activities, activities promoting the benefits of agricultural biotechnology, biofuels, science-based regulatory systems, and the application of such technologies for trade and development.

''(b) LIMITATION.—The total amount of grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) shall not exceed $500,000 in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 109. DEFINITION OF ''USE'' IN PASSPORT AND VISA OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 1541 the following:

''SEC. 1540. DEFINITION OF 'USE' AND 'USES'.

''In this chapter, the terms 'use' and 'uses' shall be given their plain meaning, which shall include use for identification purposes.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 1541 the following:

''1540. Definition of 'use' and 'uses'.''.

SEC. 110. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.

Section 504 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1979 (22 U.S.C. 2656d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements for science and technology fellowship programs of the Department of State.

''(2) RECRUITMENT; STIPENDS.—Assistance authorized under paragraph (1) may be used—

''(A) to recruit fellows; and

''(B) to pay stipends, travel, and other appropriate expenses to fellows.

''(3) CLASSIFICATION OF STIPENDS.—Stipends paid under paragraph (2)(B) shall not be considered compensation for purposes of section 209 of title 18, United States Code.

''(4) LIMITATION.—The total amount of assistance provided under this subsection may not exceed $500,000 in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 111. NAME CHANGES.

(a) PUBLIC LAW 87–195.—Section 607(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2357(d)) is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science''.

(b) PUBLIC LAW 88–206.—Section 617(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7671p(a)) is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science''.

(c) PUBLIC LAW 93–126.—Section 9(a) of the Department of State Appropriations Authorization Act of 1973 (22 U.S.C. 2655a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs'' and inserting ''Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science''; and

(2) by striking ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment, and Science''.

(d) PUBLIC LAW 106–113.—Section 1112(a) of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2652c(a)) is amended by striking ''Verification and Compliance.'' and inserting ''Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance (referred to in this section as the 'Assistant Secretary').''.

SEC. 112. ANTI-PIRACY INFORMATION SHARING.

The Secretary is authorized to provide for the participation of the United States in the Information Sharing Centre located in Singapore, as established by the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, done at Singapore November 11, 2004.

SEC. 113. REPORT REFORM.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347h) is repealed.

(b) ROUGH DIAMONDS ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 12 of the Clean Diamond Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 3911) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 12. REPORTS.

''For each country that, during the preceding 12-month period, exported rough diamonds to the United States, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and if the failure to do so has significantly increased the likelihood that those diamonds not so controlled are being imported into the United States, the President shall submit a semi-annual report to Congress that explains what actions have been taken by the United States or such country since the previous report to ensure that diamonds, the exportation of which was not controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, are not being imported from that country into the United States. A country shall be included in the report required under this section until the country is controlling the importation and exportation of rough diamonds through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.''.

SEC. 114. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and Japan is a cornerstone of peace, security, and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) Prime Minister Shiuzo Abe's visit to the United States in April 2015 and historic address to a Joint Session of Congress symbolized the strength and importance of ties between the United States and Japan;

(3) in 2015, which marks 70 years since the end of World War II, the United States and Japan continue to strengthen the alliance and work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region and the world;

(4) the Governments and people of the United States and Japan share values, interests, and capabilities that have helped to build a strong rules-based international order, based on a commitment to rules, norms and institutions;

(5) the revised Guidelines for United States-Japan Defense Cooperation and Japan's policy of ''Proactive Contribution to Peace'' will reinforce deterrence, update the roles and missions of the United States and Japan, enable Japan to expand its contributions to regional and global security, and allow the United States Government and the Government of Japan to enhance cooperation on security issues in the region and beyond;

(6) the United States remain resolute in its commitments under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan;

(7) although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

(8) the United States Government reaffirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

(9) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to work together on common security interests, including to confront the threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(10) the United States Government and the Government of Japan remain committed to ensuring maritime security and respect for international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight; and

(11) the United States Government and the Government of Japan continue to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the status quo, including in the East and South China Seas.

SEC. 115. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

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

(1) The United States has an upgraded, strategic-plus relationship with India based on regional cooperation, space science cooperation, and defense cooperation.

(2) The defense relationship between the United States and the Republic of India is strengthened by the common commitment of both countries to democracy.

(3) The United States and the Republic of India share a common and long-standing commitment to civilian control of the military.

(4) The United States and the Republic of India have increasingly worked together on defense cooperation across a range of activities, exercises, initiatives, and research.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to expand defense cooperation with the Republic of India;

(2) welcome the role of the Republic of India in providing security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) work cooperatively with the Republic of India on matters relating to our common defense;

(4) vigorously support the implementation of the United States-India Defense Framework Agreement; and

(5) support the India Defense Trade and Technology Initiative.

SEC. 116. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world;

(2) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to strengthen and adapt the bilateral, regional, and global scope of the comprehensive strategic alliance between the 2 nations, to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing the shared values of democracy, human rights, free and open markets, and the rule of law, as reaffirmed in the May 2013 ''Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America'';

(3) the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to broaden and deepen the alliance by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula, enhancing mutual security based on the Republic of Korea-United States Mutual Defense Treaty, and promoting cooperation for regional and global security in the 21st century;

(4) the United States and the Republic of Korea share deep concerns that the nuclear, cyber, and ballistic missiles programs of North Korea and its repeated provocations pose grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia and recognize that both nations are determined to achieve the peaceful denuclearization of North Korea and remain fully committed to continuing close cooperation on the full range of issues related to North Korea;

(5) the United States and the Republic of Korea are particularly concerned that the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of North Korea, including North Korean efforts to miniaturize their nuclear technology and improve the mobility of their ballistic missiles, have gathered significant momentum and are poised to expand in the coming years;

(6) the Republic of Korea has made progress in enhancing future warfighting and interoperability capabilities by taking steps toward procuring Patriot Advanced Capability missiles, F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft, and RQ–4 Global Hawk Surveillance Aircraft;

(7) the United States supports the vision of a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles, as articulated in President Park's address in Dresden, Germany; and

(8) the United States and the Republic of Korea share the future interests of both nations in securing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

SEC. 117. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States policy toward Taiwan is based upon the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96–8), which was enacted in 1979, and the Six Assurances given by President Ronald Reagan in 1982;

(2) provision of defensive weapons to Taiwan should continue as mandated in the Taiwan Relations Act; and

(3) enhanced trade relations with Taiwan should be pursued to mutually benefit the citizens of both countries.

SEC. 118. REPORT ON POLITICAL FREEDOM IN VENEZUELA.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an assessment of the support provided by the United States to the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy (as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, done at Lima September 11, 2001);

(2) an assessment of work carried out by the United States, in cooperation with the other member states of the Organization of American States and countries of the European Union, to ensure—

(A) the peaceful resolution of the current political situation in Venezuela; and

(B) the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) a list of the government and security officials in Venezuela who—

(A) are responsible for, or complicit in, the use of force in relation to antigovernment protests and similar acts of violence; and

(B) have had their financial assets in the United States frozen or been placed on a visa ban by the United States; and

(4) an assessment of United States support for the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 119. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE EVENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, other members of the National Security Council, and the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States Government, develop a strategy for the United States for the Middle East.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy shall include the following:

(1) Efforts to counter Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Middle East region.

(2) Efforts to reassure United States allies and partners in Middle East.

(3) Efforts to address the potential for a conventional or nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the strategy developed under subsection (a) to—

(1) the majority leader, the minority leader, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 120. DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE POLICY STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall produce a comprehensive strategy, with a classified annex if necessary, relating to United States international policy with regard to cyberspace.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required in subsection (a) shall include:

(1) A review of actions and activities undertaken by the Secretary of State to date to support the goal of the President's International Strategy for Cyberspace, released in May 2011, to ''work internationally to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and commerce, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression and innovation''.

(2) A plan of action to guide the Secretary's diplomacy with regard to nation-states, including conducting bilateral and multilateral activities to develop the norms of responsible international behavior in cyberspace, and status review of existing discussions in multilateral fora to obtain agreements on international norms in cyberspace.

(3) A review of the alternative concepts with regard to international norms in cyberspace offered by other prominent nation-state actors, including China, Russia, Brazil, and India.

(4) A detailed description of threats to United States national security in cyberspace from other nation-states, state-sponsored actors and private actors, to United States Federal and private sector infrastructure, United States intellectual property, and the privacy of United States citizens.

(5) A review of policy tools available to the President of United States to deter nation-states, state-sponsored actors, and private actors, including, but not limited to, those outlined in Executive Order 13694, released on April 1, 2015.

(6) A review of resources required by the Secretary, including the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues, to conduct activities to build responsible norms of international cyber behavior.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with other United States Government agencies, including the intelligence community, and, as appropriate, the United States private sector, and United States nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and cybersecurity.

(d) RELEASE.—The Secretary shall publicly release the strategy required in subsection (a) and brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives upon its release, including on the classified annex, should the strategy include such an annex.

SEC. 121. WAIVER OF FEES FOR RENEWAL OF IMMIGRANT VISA FOR ADOPTED CHILD IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

Section 221(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) PERIOD OF VALIDITY; RENEWAL OR REPLACEMENT.—

''(1) IMMIGRANT VISAS.—An immigrant visa shall be valid for such period, not exceeding 6 months, as shall be by regulations prescribed, except that any visa issued to a child lawfully adopted by a United States citizen and spouse while such citizen is serving abroad in the United States Armed Forces, or is employed abroad by the United States Government, or is temporarily abroad on business, shall be valid until such time, for a period not to exceed 3 years, as the adoptive citizen parent returns to the United States in due course of his service, employment, or business.

''(2) NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.—A nonimmigrant visa shall be valid for such periods as shall be prescribed by regulations. In prescribing the period of validity of a nonimmigrant visa in the case of nationals of any foreign country who are eligible for such visas, the Secretary of State shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same treatment upon a reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to nationals of the United States who are within a similar class, except that in the case of aliens who are nationals of a foreign country and who either are granted refugee status and firmly resettled in another foreign country or are granted permanent residence and residing in another foreign country, the Secretary of State may prescribe the period of validity of such a visa based upon the treatment granted by that other foreign country to alien refugees and permanent residents, respectively, in the United States.

''(3) VISA REPLACEMENT.—An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number during the fiscal year in which the original visa was issued for an immigrant who establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer that the immigrant—

''(A) was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity because of reasons beyond his control and for which he was not responsible;

''(B) is found by a consular officer to be eligible for an immigrant visa; and

''(C) pays again the statutory fees for an application and an immigrant visa.

''(4) FEE WAIVER.—If an immigrant visa was issued, on or after March 27, 2013, for a child who has been lawfully adopted, or who is coming to the United States to be adopted, by a United States citizen, any statutory immigrant visa fees relating to a renewal or replacement of such visa may be waived or, if already paid, may be refunded upon request, subject to such criteria as the Secretary of State may prescribe, if—

''(A) the immigrant child was unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity as a direct result of extraordinary circumstances, including the denial of an exit permit; and

''(B) if such inability was attributable to factors beyond the control of the adopting parent or parents and of the immigrant.''.

SEC. 122. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ANTI-ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, commonly referred to as Oslo II, specifically details that Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall ''abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) expresses support and admiration for individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israeli Jews and Palestinians, including—

(A) Professor Mohammed Dajani Daoudi, who took students from al-Quds University in Jerusalem to visit Auschwitz in March 2014 only to return to death threats by fellow Palestinians and expulsion from his teacher's union;

(B) the Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information, the only joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think-tank,

(C) United Hatzalah, a nonprofit, fully volunteer Emergency Medical Services organization that, mobilizing volunteers who are religious or secular Jews, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, provides EMS services to all people in Israel regardless of race, religion, or national origin; and

(D) Breaking the Impasse, an apolitical initiative of Palestinian and Israeli business and civil society leaders who advocate for a two-state solution and an urgent diplomatic solution to the conflict;

(2) reiterates strong condemnation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the Palestinian Authority as antithetical to the stated desire to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement; and

(3) urges President Abbas and Palestinian Authority officials to discontinue all official incitement that runs contrary to the determination to put an end to decades of confrontation.

SEC. 123. SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND INVIOLABILITY OF POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of post-Soviet countries within their internationally recognized borders;

(2) expresses deep concern over increasingly aggressive actions by the Russian Federation;

(3) is committed to providing sufficient funding for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs of the Department of State to address subversive and destabilizing activities by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(4) supports robust engagement between the United States and post-Soviet countries through—

(A) the promotion of strengthened people-to-people ties, including through educational and cultural exchange programs;

(B) anticorruption assistance;

(C) public diplomacy;

(D) economic diplomacy; and

(E) other democratic reform efforts;

(5) encourages the President to further enhance nondefense cooperation and diplomatic engagement with post-Soviet countries;

(6) condemns the subversive and destabilizing activities undertaken by the Russian Federation within post-Soviet countries;

(7) encourages enhanced cooperation between the United States and the European Union to promote greater Euro-Atlantic integration, including through—

(A) the enlargement of the European Union; and

(B) the Open Door policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(8) urges continued cooperation between the United States and the European Union to maintain sanctions against the Russian Federation until the Government of Russia has—

(A) fully implemented all provisions of the Minsk agreements, done at Minsk September 5, 2014 and February 12, 2015; and

(B) demonstrated respect for the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine;

(9) calls on the member states of the European Union to extend the current sanctions regime against the Russian Federation; and

(10) urges the consideration of additional sanctions if the Russian Federation continue to engage in subversive and destabilizing activities within post-Soviet countries.

SEC. 124. RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA REPORT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Russian Federation is waging a propaganda war against the United States and our allies; and

(2) a successful strategy must be implemented to counter the threat posed by Russian propaganda.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually for the following 3 years, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal officials, shall submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that contains a detailed analysis of—

(1) the recent use of propaganda by the Government of Russia, including—

(A) the forms of propaganda used, including types of media and programming;

(B) the principal countries and regions targeted by Russian propaganda; and

(C) the impact of Russian propaganda on such targets;

(2) the response by United States allies, particularly European allies, to counter the threat of Russian propaganda;

(3) the response by the United States to the threat of Russian propaganda;

(4) the extent of the effectiveness of programs currently in use to counter Russian propaganda;

(5) a strategy for improving the effectiveness of such programs;

(6) any additional authority needed to counter the threat of Russian propaganda; and

(7) the additional funding needed to successfully implement the strategy referred to in paragraph (5).

SEC. 125. APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENCES AND LETTERS OF REQUEST TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

(A) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all export license applications, including requests for marketing licenses, for the sale of defense articles and defense services to Ukraine.

(B) CONTENTS.—The list submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the date on which the application or request was first submitted;

(ii) the current status of each application or request; and

(iii) the estimated timeline for adjudication of such applications or requests.

(C) PRIORITY.—The Secretary should give priority to processing the applications and requests included on the list submitted under subparagraph (A).

(2) LETTERS OF REQUEST.—The Secretary shall submit to the specified congressional committees a detailed list of all pending Letters of Request for Foreign Military Sales to Ukraine, including—

(A) the date on which each such letter was first submitted;

(B) the current status of each such letter; and

(C) the estimated timeline for the adjudication of each such letter.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit a report to the specified congressional committees that describes the status of the applications, requests for marketing licenses, and Letters of Request described in subsection (a).

(2) TERMINATION DATE.—The date set forth in this paragraph is the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the President certifies to Congress that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Government of Ukraine has been restored; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''specified congressional committees'' means—

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

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—Additional Matters

SEC. 131. ATROCITIES PREVENTION BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized to establish, within the Executive Office of the President, an Interagency Atrocities Prevention Board (referred to in this section as the ''Board'').

(b) DUTIES.—The Board is authorized—

(1) to coordinate an interagency approach to preventing mass atrocities;

(2) to propose policies to integrate the early warning systems of national security agencies, including intelligence agencies, with respect to incidents of mass atrocities and to coordinate the policy response to such incidents;

(3) to identify relevant Federal agencies, which shall track and report on Federal funding spent on atrocity prevention efforts;

(4) to oversee the development and implementation of comprehensive atrocities prevention and response strategies;

(5) to identify available resources and policy options necessary to prevent the emergence or escalation of mass atrocities;

(6) to identify and propose policies to close gaps in expertise, readiness, and planning for atrocities prevention and early action across Federal agencies, including training for employees at relevant Federal agencies;

(7) to engage relevant civil society and nongovernmental organization stakeholders in regular consultations to solicit current information on countries of concern; and

(8) to conduct an atrocity-specific expert review of policy and programming of all countries at risk for mass atrocities.

(c) LEADERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be headed by a Senior Director, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the President; and

(B) shall report to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Director is authorized to have primary responsibility for—

(A) recommending and, if adopted, promoting United States Government policies on preventing mass atrocities; and

(B) carrying out the duties described in subsection (b).

(d) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of—

(1) representatives from—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Department of Defense;

(D) the Department of Justice;

(E) the Department of the Treasury;

(F) the Department of Homeland Security;

(G) the Central Intelligence Agency;

(H) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(I) the United States Mission to the United Nations; and

(J) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(2) such other individuals as the President may appoint.

(e) COORDINATION.—The Board is authorized to coordinate with relevant officials and government agencies responsible for foreign policy with respect to particular regions and countries to help provide a cohesive, whole

of government response and policy direction to emerging and ongoing atrocities.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report, with an unclassified annex, which shall include—

(1) an update on the interagency review mandated by Presidential Study Directive 10 that includes—

(A) an evaluation of current mechanisms and capacities for government-wide detection, early warning, information-sharing, contingency planning, and coordination of efforts to prevent and respond to situations of genocide, mass atrocities, and other mass violence, including such mass gender- and ethnicity-based violence;

(B) an assessment of the funding spent by relevant Federal agencies on atrocity prevention activities;

(C) current annual global assessments of sources of conflict and instability;

(D) recommendations to further strengthen United States capabilities to improve the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A); and

(E) evaluations of the various approaches to enhancing capabilities and improving the mechanisms described in subparagraph (A);

(2) recommendations to ensure burden sharing by—

(A) improving international cooperation and coordination to enhance multilateral mechanisms for preventing genocide and atrocities, including improving the role of regional and international organizations in conflict prevention, mitigation, and response; and

(B) strengthening regional organizations; and

(3) the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the interagency review described in paragraph (1).

(g) MATERIALS AND BRIEFINGS.—The Senior Director and the members of the Board shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives at least annually.

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on June 30, 2017.

SEC. 132. UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive assessment to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific, including with partners across the Indo-Pacific region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of current and emerging United States diplomatic, national security, and economic interests and trends in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) a review of resources devoted to United States diplomatic, economic, trade, development, and cultural engagement and plans in the Indo-Pacific region during the 10-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) options for the realignment of United States engagement in the Indo-Pacific region to respond to new opportunities and challenges, including linking United States strategy more broadly across the Indo-Pacific region; and

(4) the views of noted policy leaders and regional experts, including leaders and experts in the Indo-Pacific region, on the opportunities and challenges to United States engagement across the Indo-Pacific region.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, as appropriate, shall consult with—

(1) other United States Government agencies; and

(2) independent, nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials and expertise in foreign policy, national security, and international economic affairs that have access to policy experts throughout the United States and from the Indo-Pacific region.

SEC. 133. JOINT ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AND TO FOSTER INCLUSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into a bilateral joint action plan with the European Union to combat prejudice and discrimination and to foster inclusion (referred to in this section as the ''Joint Action Plan'').

(b) CONTENTS OF JOINT ACTION PLAN.—The Joint Action Plan shall—

(1) address anti-Semitism;

(2) address prejudice against, and the discriminatory treatment of, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities;

(3) promote equality of opportunity for access to quality education and economic opportunities; and

(4) promote equal treatment by the justice system.

(c) COOPERATION.—In developing the Joint Action Plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) leverage interagency policy expertise in the United States and Europe;

(2) develop partnerships among civil society and private sector stakeholders; and

(3) draw upon the extensive work done by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to address anti-Semitism.

(d) INITIATIVES.—The Joint Action Plan may include initiatives for promoting equality of opportunity and methods of eliminating prejudice and discrimination based on religion, race, or ethnicity, including—

(1) training programs;

(2) regional initiatives to promote equality of opportunity through the strengthening of democratic institutions;

(3) public-private partnerships with enterprises and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) exchanges of technical experts;

(5) scholarships and fellowships; and

(6) political empowerment and leadership initiatives.

(e) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Joint Action Plan with his or her European Union counterpart.

(f) LEGAL EFFECTS.—Any Joint Action Plan adopted under this section—

(1) shall not be legally binding; and

(2) shall create no rights or obligations under international or United States law.

(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize—

(1) the Secretary to enter into a legally binding agreement or Joint Action Plan with the European Union; or

(2) any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives described in this section.

(h) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a progress report on the development of the Joint Action Plan to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 134. REPORT ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEBT SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, shall submit a report containing an assessment of the current external debt environment for developing countries and identifying particular near-term risks to debt sustainability to—

(1) the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall assess—

(1) the impact of new lending relationships, including the role of new creditors;

(2) the adequacy of current multilateral surveillance mechanisms in guarding against debt distress in developing countries;

(3) the ability of developing countries to borrow on global capital markets; and

(4) the interaction between debt sustainability objectives of the developing world and the development-oriented investment agenda of the G–20, including the impact of—

(A) current debt sustainability objectives on investment in developing countries; and

(B) investment objectives proposed by the G–20 on the ability to meet the goals of—

(i) the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative; and

(ii) the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

SEC. 135. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.

(a) GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter for 6 years, the Secretary of State shall develop or update a United States global strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees and made publicly available on the Internet.

(b) INITIAL STRATEGY.—For the purposes of this section, the ''United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally'', issued in August 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial requirement of subsection (a).

(c) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with—

(1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;

(2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons; and

(3) representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations with demonstrated experience in addressing violence against women and girls or promoting gender equality internationally.

(d) PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION.—To further the objectives of the strategy described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall identify no less than 4 eligible low-income and lower-middle income countries with significant levels of violence against women and girls, including within displaced communities, that have the governmental or nongovernmental organizational capacity to manage and implement gender-based violence prevention and response program activities and should, when possible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one another.

(e) COUNTRY PLANS.—In each country identified under subsection (d) the Secretary shall develop comprehensive, multisectoral, and holistic individual country plans designed to address and respond to violence against women and girls that include—

(1) an assessment and description of the current or potential capacity of the government of each identified country and civil society organizations in each such identified country to address and respond to violence against women and girls;

(2) an identification of coordination mechanisms with Federal agencies that—

(A) have existing programs relevant to the strategy;

(B) will be involved in new program activities; and

(C) are engaged in broader United States strategies around development;

(3) a description of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established for each identified country, and their intended use in assessing overall progress in prevention and response;

(4) a projection of the general levels of resources needed to achieve the stated objectives in each identified country, including an accounting of—

(A) activities and funding already expended by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, other Federal agencies, donor country governments, and multilateral institutions; and

(B) leveraged private sector resources; and

(5) strategies, as appropriate, designed to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, internally displaced, refugee, or religious or ethnic minority women and girls.

(f) REPORT ON PRIORITY COUNTRY SELECTION AND COUNTRY PLANS.—Not more than 90 days after selection of the priority countries required under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the priority country selection process, the development of specific country plans, and include an overview of all programming and specific activities being undertaken, the budget resources requested, and the specific activities to be supported by each Executive agency under the strategy if such resources are provided.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives of this section.

SEC. 136. INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than June 1 of each year, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the ''USAID Administrator''), the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of appropriate intelligence agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a Country Report on Corruption Practices, with a classified annex, which shall include information about countries for which a corruption analysis was conducted under subsection (b).

(b) CORRUPTION ANALYSIS ELEMENTS.—The corruption analysis conducted under this subsection should include, among other elements—

(1) an analysis of individuals and associations that comprise corruption networks in the country, including, as applicable—

(A) government officials;

(B) private sector actors;

(C) criminals; and

(D) members of illegal armed groups;

(2) the identification of the state functions that have been captured by corrupt networks in the country, including, as applicable functions of—

(A) the judicial branch;

(B) the taxing authority;

(C) the central bank; and

(D) specific military or police units;

(3) the identification of—

(A) the key economic activities, whether licit or illicit, which are dominated by members of the corrupt network; and

(B) other revenue streams that enrich such members; and

(4) the identification of enablers of corrupt practices, within the country and outside the country.

(c) PUBLICATION AND BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the Country Report on Corruption and Accountability submitted under subsection (a) on the website of the Department; and

(2) brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the information contained in the report published under paragraph (1).

SEC. 137. QUADRENNIAL DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) QUADRENNIAL REVIEWS REQUIRED.—Under the direction of the President, the Secretary of State shall every 4 years, during a year following a year evenly divisible by 4, conduct a review of United States diplomacy and development (to be known as a ''quadrennial diplomacy and development review'').

(2) SCOPE OF REVIEWS.—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall be a comprehensive examination of the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States for the next 4-year period until a subsequent review is due under paragraph (1). The review shall include—

(A) recommendations regarding the long-term diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States;

(B) priorities of the United States for diplomacy and development; and

(C) guidance on the related programs, assets, capabilities, budget, policies, and authorities of the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In conducting each quadrennial diplomacy and development review, after consultation with Department of State and United States Agency for International Development officials, the Secretary of State should consult with—

(A) the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, including the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Director of National Intelligence;

(B) any other Federal agency that provides foreign assistance, including at a minimum the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and, as appropriate, other members of Congress; and

(D) other relevant governmental and nongovernmental entities, including private sector representatives, academics, and other policy experts.

(b) CONTENTS OF REVIEW.—Each quadrennial diplomacy and development review shall—

(1) delineate, as appropriate, the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework of the United States, consistent with appropriate national, Department of State, and United States Agency for International Development strategies, strategic plans, and relevant presidential directives, including the national security strategy prescribed pursuant to section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a);

(2) outline and prioritize the full range of critical national diplomacy and development areas, capabilities, and resources, including those implemented across agencies, and address the full range of challenges confronting the United States in this regard;

(3) describe the interagency cooperation, and preparedness of relevant Federal assets, and the infrastructure, budget plan, and other elements of the diplomacy and development policies and programs of the United States required to execute successfully the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(4) describe the roles of international organizations and multilateral institutions in advancing United States diplomatic and development objectives, including the mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing development policies and programs with partner countries and among donors;

(5) identify the budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully execute the full range of mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(6) include an assessment of the organizational alignment of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development with the national diplomacy and development policy and strategic framework referred to in paragraph (1) and the diplomacy and development mission priorities outlined under paragraph (2);

(7) review and assess the effectiveness of the management mechanisms of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for executing the strategic priorities outlined in the quadrennial diplomacy and development review, including the extent to which such effectiveness has been enhanced since the previous report; and

(8) the relationship between the requirements of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review and the acquisition strategy and expenditure plan within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY BOARD REVIEW.—The Secretary of State should apprise the Foreign Affairs Policy Board on an ongoing basis of the work undertaken in the conduct of the quadrennial diplomacy and development review.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize any additional appropriations for the purposes and initiatives under this section.

SEC. 138. DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR.

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

(1) The United States—

(A) values governance, security, and the rule of law in Mexico and Central America; and

(B) has reemphasized its commitment to this region following the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children from these countries across the international border between the United States and Mexico in 2014.

(2) Individuals migrating from Central America to the United States face great peril during their journey. Many go missing along the way and are often never heard from again.

(b) REPORT OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in close consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the number of cases of enforced disappearances in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador;

(2) an assessment of causes for the disappearances described in paragraph (1);

(3) the primary individuals and groups responsible for such disappearances; and

(4) the official government response in those countries to account for such disappeared persons.

SEC. 139. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BAHRAIN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit an unclassified report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the implementation by the Government of Bahrain of the recommendations contained in the 2011 Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (referred to in this section as the ''Bahrain Report'').

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the specific steps taken by the Government of Bahrain to implement each of the 26 recommendations contained in the Bahrain Report;

(2) an assessment of whether the Government of Bahrain has ''fully complied with'', ''partially implemented'', or ''not meaningfully implemented'' each recommendation referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) an assessment of the impact of the findings in the Bahrain Report for the United States security posture in the Arab Gulf and the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command.

SEC. 140. REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI AND WHETHER RECENT ELECTIONS IN HAITI MEET INTERNATIONAL ELECTION STANDARDS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 5(a) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2017'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022''.

(b) REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(14) a determination of whether recent Haitian elections are free, fair and responsive to the people of Haiti; and

''(15) a description of any attempts to disqualify candidates for political officers in Haiti for political reasons.''.

SEC. 141. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

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

(1) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this section referred to as the ''DPRK'') tested nuclear weapons on 3 separate occasions, in October 2006, in May 2009, and in February 2013.

(2) Nuclear experts have reported that the DPRK may currently have as many as 20 nuclear warheads and has the potential to possess as many as 100 warheads within the next 5 years.

(3) According to the 2014 Department of Defense report, ''Military and Security Developments Involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea'' (in this subsection referred to as the ''2014 DoD report''), the DPRK has proliferated nuclear technology to Libya via the proliferation network of Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan.

(4) According to the 2014 DoD report, ''North Korea also provided Syria with nuclear reactor technology until 2007.''.

(5) On September 6, 2007, as part of ''Operation Orchard'', the Israeli Air Force destroyed the suspected nuclear facility in Syria.

(6) According to the 2014 DoD report, ''North Korea has exported conventional and ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials, and technical assistance to countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.''.

(7) On November 29, 1987, DPRK agents planted explosive devices onboard Korean Air flight 858, which killed all 115 passengers and crew on board.

(8) On March 26, 2010, the DPRK fired upon and sank the South Korean warship Cheonan, killing 46 of her crew.

(9) On November 23, 2010, the DPRK shelled South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island, killing 4 South Korean citizens.

(10) On February 7, 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in DPRK (in this subsection referred to as the ''Commission of Inquiry'') released a report detailing the atrocious human rights record of the DPRK.

(11) Dr. Michael Kirby, Chair of the Commission of Inquiry, stated on March 17, 2014, ''The Commission of Inquiry has found systematic, widespread, and grave human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It has also found a disturbing array of crimes against humanity. These crimes are committed against inmates of political and other prison camps; against starving populations; against religious believers; against persons who try to flee the country—including those forcibly repatriated by China.''.

(12) Dr. Michael Kirby also stated, ''These crimes arise from policies established at the highest level of the State. They have been committed, and continue to take place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their heart remain in place. The gravity, scale, duration, and nature of the unspeakable atrocities committed in the country reveal a totalitarian State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world.''.

(13) The Commission of Inquiry also notes, ''Since 1950, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has engaged in the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation, and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons from other countries on a large scale and as a matter of State policy. Well over 200,000 persons, including children, who were brought from other countries to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may have become victims of enforced disappearance,'' and states that the DPRK has failed to account or address this injustice in any way.

(14) According to reports and analysis from organizations such as the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Labor, the Korea Policy Research Center, NK Watch, the Asian Institute for Policy Studies, the Center for International and Strategic Studies, and the George W. Bush Institute, there may currently be as many as 100,000 North Korean overseas laborers in various nations around the world.

(15) Such forced North Korean laborers are often subjected to harsh working conditions under the direct supervision of DPRK officials, and their salaries contribute to anywhere from $150,000,000 to $230,000,000 a year to the DPRK state coffers.

(16) According to the Director of National Intelligence's 2015 Worldwide Threat Assessment, ''North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs pose a serious threat to the United States and to the security environment in East Asia.''.

(17) The Worldwide Threat Assessment states, ''North Korea has also expanded the size and sophistication of its ballistic missile forces, ranging from close-range ballistic missiles to ICBMs, while continuing to conduct test launches. In 2014, North Korea launched an unprecedented number of ballistic missiles.''.

(18) On December 19, 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation declared that the DPRK was responsible for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures conducted on November 24, 2014.

(19) From 1988 to 2008, the DPRK was designated by the United States Government as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(20) The DPRK is currently in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), and 2094 (2013).

(21) The DPRK repeatedly violated agreements with the United States and the other so-called Six-Party Talks partners (the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China) designed to halt its nuclear weapons program, while receiving significant concessions, including fuel, oil, and food aid.

(22) The Six-Party Talks have not been held since December 2008.

(23) On May 9, 2015, the DPRK claimed that it has test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the DPRK represents a serious threat to the national security of the United States and United States allies in East Asia and to international peace and stability, and grossly violates the human rights of its own people;

(2) the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury should impose additional sanctions against the DPRK, including targeting its financial assets around the world, specific designations relating to human rights abuses, and a redesignation of the DPRK as a state sponsor of terror; and

(3) the President should not resume the negotiations with the DPRK, either bilaterally or as part of the Six-Party Talks, without strict preconditions, including that the DPRK—

(A) adhere to its denuclearization commitments outlined in the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks;

(B) commit to halting its ballistic missile programs and its proliferation activities;

(C) cease military provocations; and

(D) measurably and significantly improve its human rights record.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subtitle A—Organizational Matters

SEC. 201. RIGHTSIZING ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving rightsizing recommendations pursuant to a review conducted by the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation relating to overseas staffing levels at United States overseas posts, the relevant chief of mission, in coordination with the relevant regional bureau, shall submit a response to the Office of Management, Policy, Rightsizing, and Innovation that describes—

(1) any rightsizing recommendations that are accepted by such chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) a detailed schedule for implementation of any such recommendations;

(3) any recommendations that are rejected; and

(4) a detailed justification providing the basis for the rejection of any such recommendations.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—On the date on which the President's annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of all rightsizing recommendations and responses described in subsection (a) from the preceding 5 years, including—

(1) a list of all such rightsizing recommendations made, including whether each such recommendation was accepted or rejected by the relevant chief of mission and regional bureau;

(2) for each accepted recommendation, a detailed description of the current status of its implementation according to the schedule provided pursuant to subsection (a)(2), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, such schedule; and

(3) for any rejected recommendations, the justification provided pursuant to subsection (a)(4).

(c) REPORT ON REGIONAL BUREAU STAFFING.—In conjunction with each report required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit a supplemental report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an enumeration of the domestic staff positions in each regional bureau of the Department;

(2) a detailed explanation of the extent to which the staffing of each regional bureau reflects the overseas requirements of the United States within each such region;

(3) a detailed plan, including an implementation schedule, for how the Department will seek to rectify any significant imbalances in staffing among regional bureaus or between any regional bureau and the overseas requirements of the United States within such region if the Secretary determines that such staffing does not reflect—

(A) the foreign policy priorities of the United States; or

(B) the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States; and

(4) a detailed description of the implementation status of any plan provided pursuant to paragraph (3), including an explanation for any departure from, or changes to, the implementation schedule provided with such plan.

SEC. 202. INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, shall establish—

(1) foreign economic policy priorities for each regional bureau, including for individual countries, as appropriate; and

(2) policies and guidance for integrating such foreign economic policy priorities throughout the Department.

(b) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Within each regional bureau of the Department, the Secretary shall task an existing Deputy Assistant Secretary with appropriate training and background in economic and commercial affairs with the responsibility for economic matters and interests within the responsibilities of such regional bureau, including the integration of the foreign economic policy priorities established pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) COORDINATION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary given the responsibility for economic matters and interests pursuant to subsection (b) within each bureau shall—

(1) at the direction of the relevant Assistant Secretary, review and report to the Assistant Secretary of such bureau on all economic matters and interests; and

(2) serve as liaison with the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.

SEC. 203. REVIEW OF BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS JURISDICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibility of the Bureau of African Affairs and that of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs relating to the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya; and

(2) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility among the bureaus referred to in paragraph (1) should be adjusted.

(b) REVIEW.—The review conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) identify regional strategic priorities;

(2) assess regional dynamics between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, including the degree to which the priorities identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) are distinct between each such region; or

(B) have similar application across such regions;

(3) identify current priorities and effectiveness of United States Government regional engagement in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, including through security assistance, economic assistance, humanitarian assistance, and trade;

(4) assess the degree to which such engagement is—

(A) inefficient, duplicative, or uncoordinated between the North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions; or

(B) otherwise harmed or limited as a result of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities;

(5) assess the overall coherence and effectiveness of the current division of jurisdictional responsibilities in Africa between the Bureau of African Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, including with regard to coordination with other United States departments or agencies; and

(6) assess any opportunities and costs of transferring jurisdictional responsibility of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs to the Bureau of African Affairs.

SEC. 204. SPECIAL ENVOYS, REPRESENTATIVES, ADVISORS, AND COORDINATORS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on special envoys, representatives, advisors, and coordinators of the Department, which shall include—

(1) a tabulation of the current names, ranks, positions, and responsibilities of all special envoy, representative, advisor, and coordinator positions at the Department, with a separate accounting of all such positions at the level of Assistant Secretary (or equivalent) or above; and

(2) for each position identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) the date on which the position was created;

(B) the mechanism by which the position was created, including the authority under which the position was created;

(C) the positions authorized under section 1(d) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(d));

(D) a description of whether, and the extent to which, the responsibilities assigned to the position duplicate the responsibilities of other current officials within the Department, including other special envoys, representatives, and advisors;

(E) which current official within the Department would be assigned the responsibilities of the position in the absence of the position;

(F) to which current official within the Department the position directly reports;

(G) the total number of staff assigned to support the position; and

(H) with the exception of those created by statute, a detailed explanation of the necessity of the position to the effective conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States.

SEC. 205. CONFLICT PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND RESOLUTION, AND THE INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

Section 704 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) The Secretary, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel, responsible for, or deploying to, countries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict, including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or foreign service, and contractors, obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and ensuring women's meaningful inclusion and participation:

''(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

''(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

''(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.''.

SEC. 206. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall regularly consult with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate regarding the security of United States Government and nongovernment information technology systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by the Department, including any such systems or networks facilitating the use of sensitive or classified information.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In performing the consultations required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make all such systems and networks available to the Director of the National Security Agency and any other such departments or agencies to carry out such tests and procedures as are necessary to ensure adequate policies and protections are in place to prevent penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks, including by malicious intrusions by any unauthorized individual or state actor or other entity.

(c) SECURITY BREACH REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Security Agency and any other departments or agencies the Secretary determines to be appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that describes in detail—

(1) all known or suspected penetrations or compromises of the systems or networks described in subsection (a) facilitating the use of classified information; and

(2) all known or suspected significant penetrations or compromises of any other such systems and networks that occurred since the submission of the prior report.

(d) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subsection (c) shall include—

(1) a description of the relevant information technology system or network penetrated or compromised;

(2) an assessment of the date and time such penetration or compromise occurred;

(3) an assessment of the duration for which such system or network was penetrated or compromised, including whether such penetration or compromise is ongoing;

(4) an assessment of the amount and sensitivity of information accessed and available to have been accessed by such penetration or compromise, including any such information contained on systems and networks owned, operated, managed, or utilized by any other department or agency of the United States Government;

(5) an assessment of whether such system or network was penetrated by a malicious intrusion, including an assessment of—

(A) the known or suspected perpetrators, including state actors; and

(B) the methods used to conduct such penetration or compromise; and

(6) a description of the actions the Department has taken, or plans to take, to prevent future, similar penetrations or compromises of such systems and networks.

SEC. 207. ANALYSIS OF EMBASSY COST SHARING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that assesses the cost-effectiveness and performance of the International Cooperative Administrative Support Services system (referred to in this section as the ''ICASS system''), including by assessing—

(1) the general performance of the ICASS system in providing cost-effective, timely, efficient, appropriate, and reliable services that meet the needs of all departments and agencies served;

(2) the extent to which additional cost savings and greater performance can be achieved under the current ICASS system and rules;

(3) the standards applied in the selection of the ICASS provider and the extent to which such standards are consistently applied; and

(4) potential reforms to the ICASS system, including—

(A) the selection of more than 1 service provider under certain circumstances;

(B) options for all departments or agencies to opt out of ICASS entirely or to opt out of individual services, including by debundling service packages;

(C) increasing the reliance on locally employed staff or outsourcing to local firms, as appropriate; and

(D) other modifications to the current ICASS system and rules that would incentivize greater effectiveness and cost efficiency.

SEC. 208. PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION.

Section 433(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 241(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

''(1) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of State shall convene and chair an interagency working group to prevent international parental child abduction, which shall be composed of presidentially appointed, Senate confirmed, officials from—

''(A) the Department of State;

''(B) the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

''(C) the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary of State shall convene an advisory committee to the interagency working group established pursuant to paragraph (1), for the duration of the working group's existence, which shall be composed of not less than 3 left-behind parents, serving for 2-year terms, who—

''(A) shall be selected by the Secretary; and

''(B) shall periodically consult with the interagency working group on all activities of the interagency working group, as appropriate.''.

SEC. 209. IMPROVING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) conduct regular research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities of the Department, including through the routine use of audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluations, to plan and execute such programs and activities; and

(2) make the findings of the research and evaluations conducted under paragraph (1) available to Congress.

(b) DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint a Director of Research and Evaluation in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of a Director of Research and Evaluation pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not result in an increase in the overall full-time equivalent positions within the Department.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of Research and Evaluation shall—

(A) coordinate and oversee the research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs of the Department—

(i) to improve public diplomacy strategies and tactics; and

(ii) to ensure that programs are increasing the knowledge, understanding, and trust of the United States by relevant target audiences;

(B) report to the Director of Policy and Planning;

(C) routinely organize and oversee audience research, digital analytics and impact evaluations across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department;

(D) support embassy public affairs sections;

(E) share appropriate public diplomacy research and evaluation information within the Department and with other Federal departments and agencies;

(F) regularly design and coordinate standardized research questions, methodologies, and procedures to ensure that public diplomacy activities across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices are designed to meet appropriate foreign policy objectives; and

(G) report quarterly to the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, through the Commission's Subcommittee on Research and Evaluation established pursuant to subsection (e), regarding the research and evaluation of all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(4) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after his or her appointment pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director of Research and Evaluation shall create guidance and training for all public diplomacy officers regarding the reading and interpretation of public diplomacy program evaluation findings to ensure that such findings and lessons learned are implemented in the planning and evaluation of all public diplomacy programs and activities throughout the Department.

(c) PRIORITIZING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Policy, Planning, and Resources shall ensure that research and evaluation, as coordinated and overseen by the Director of Research and Evaluation, supports strategic planning and resource allocation across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(2) ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.—Amounts allocated for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs and activities pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to be disbursed at the direction of the Director of Research and Evaluation among the research and evaluation staff across all public diplomacy bureaus and offices of the Department.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should allocate, for the purposes of research and evaluation of public diplomacy activities and programs pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) 3 to 5 percent of program funds made available under the heading ''EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS''; and

(B) 3 to 5 percent of program funds allocated for public diplomacy programs under the heading ''DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS''.

(d) LIMITED EXEMPTION.—The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) shall not apply to collections of information directed at foreign individuals conducted by, or on behalf of, the Department for the purpose of audience research and impact evaluations, in accordance with the requirements under this section and in connection with the Department's activities conducted pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) or the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

(e) ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—

(1) SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—The Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy shall establish a Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation to monitor and advise on the research and evaluation activities of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

(2) REPORT.—The Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit an annual report to Congress in conjunction with the Commission on Public Diplomacy's Comprehensive Annual Report on the performance of the Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors in carrying out research and evaluations of their respective public diplomacy programming.

(3) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2015'' and inserting ''October 1, 2020''.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUDIENCE RESEARCH.—The term ''audience research'' means research conducted at the outset of public diplomacy program or campaign planning and design on specific audience segments to understand the attitudes, interests, knowledge and behaviors of such audience segments.

(2) DIGITAL ANALYTICS.—The term ''digital analytics'' means the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, accumulated in digital format, to indicate the outputs and outcomes of a public diplomacy program or campaign.

(3) IMPACT EVALUATION.—The term ''impact evaluation'' means an assessment of the changes in the audience targeted by a public diplomacy program or campaign that can be attributed to such program or campaign.

SEC. 210. ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strengthen the institutional capacity of the Bureau of African Affairs to oversee programs and engage in strategic planning and crisis management by—

(1) establishing an office within the Bureau of African Affairs that is separate and distinct from the regional affairs office specifically charged with overseeing strategy development and program implementation related to security assistance;

(2) planning to facilitate the long-term planning process; and

(3) developing a concrete plan to rightsize the Bureau of African Affairs not later than 180 days after the date enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the actions that have been taken to carry out subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts to carry out this section, and the Secretary shall use existing resources to carry out the provisions of this section.

Subtitle B—Personnel Matters

SEC. 211. REVIEW OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER COMPENSATION.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission an independent assessment of Foreign Service Officer compensation to ensure that such compensation is achieving its purposes and the goals of the Department, including to recruit, retain, and maintain the world's premier diplomatic corps.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the results of the independent assessment commissioned pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) the views of the Secretary regarding Foreign Service Officer compensation.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all compensation received by Foreign Service Officers assigned domestically or overseas, including base salary and any other benefits, allowances, differentials, or other financial incentives;

(2) for each form of compensation described in paragraph (1)—

(A) an explanation of its stated purpose;

(B) a description of all relevant authorities, including statutory authority; and

(C) an assessment of the degree to which its historical and current use matches its stated purpose; and

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of each form of compensation described in paragraph (1) in—

(A) achieving its stated purpose;

(B) achieving the recruiting and retention goals of the Department; and

(C) achieving the assignment placement needs of the Department.

SEC. 212. REPEAL OF RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 305 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3945) is amended by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 213. COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL.

Section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) The maximum amount of compensatory time off that may be earned under this section may not exceed 104 hours during any leave year (as defined in section 630.201(b) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations).''.

SEC. 214. CERTIFICATES OF DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE.

Not later than 7 days after submitting the report required under section 304(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3944(a)(4)) to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the President shall make the report available to the public, including by posting the on the website of the Department in a conspicuous manner and location.

SEC. 215. FOREIGN SERVICE ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTIONS.

(a) APPEAL OF ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall establish a right and process for employees to appeal any assignment restriction or preclusion.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon full implementation of a right and process for employees to appeal an assignment restriction or preclusion, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) certifies that such appeals process has been fully implemented; and

(2) includes a detailed description of such process.

(c) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish the right and process established pursuant to subsection (a) in the Foreign Affairs Manual; and

(2) include a reference to such publication in the report required under subsection (b).

(d) PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION.—Section 502(a)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3982(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) In making assignments under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that a member of the Service is not assigned to, or restricted from, a position at a post in a particular geographic area, or domestically in a position working on issues relating to a particular geographic area, exclusively on the basis of the race, ethnicity, or religion of that member.''.

SEC. 216. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS.

(a) SUSPENSION.—Section 610 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 610. SEPARATION FOR CAUSE; SUSPENSION."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) In order to promote the efficiency of the Service, the Secretary may suspend a member of the Service without pay when—

''(A) the member's security clearance is suspended; or

''(B) there is reasonable cause to believe that the member has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed.

''(2) Any member of the Foreign Service for whom a suspension is proposed under this subsection shall be entitled to—

''(A) written notice stating the specific reasons for the proposed suspension;

''(B) a reasonable time to respond orally and in writing to the proposed suspension;

''(C) representation by an attorney or other representative; and

''(D) a final written decision, including the specific reasons for such decision, as soon as practicable.

''(3) Any member suspended under this subsection may file a grievance in accordance with the procedures applicable to grievances under chapter 11.

''(4) If a grievance is filed under paragraph (3)—

''(A) the review by the Foreign Service Grievance Board shall be limited to a determination of whether the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) have been fulfilled; and

''(B) the Board may not exercise the authority provided under section 1106(8).

''(5) In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'reasonable time' means—

''(i) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty in the United States, 15 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension; and

''(ii) with respect to a member of the Foreign Service assigned to duty outside the United States, 30 days after receiving notice of the proposed suspension.

''(B) The terms 'suspend' and 'suspension' mean placing a member of the Foreign Service in a temporary status without duties and pay.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 610 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 610. Separation for cause; suspension.''.

SEC. 217. ECONOMIC STATECRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

The Secretary shall establish curriculum at the Foreign Services Institute to develop the practical foreign economic policy expertise and skill sets of Foreign Service officers, including by making available distance-learning courses in commercial, economic, and business affairs, including in—

(1) the global business environment;

(2) the economics of development;

(3) development and infrastructure finance;

(4) current trade and investment agreements negotiations;

(5) implementing existing multilateral and World Trade Organization agreements, and United States trade and investment agreements;

(6) best practices for customs and export procedures; and

(7) market analysis and global supply chain management.

SEC. 218. REPORT ON DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quadrennially thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a comprehensive report to Congress that—

(1) describes the efforts, consistent with existing law, including procedures, effects, and results of the Department since the period covered by the prior such report, to promote equal opportunity and inclusion for all American employees in direct hire and personal service contractors status, particularly employees of the Foreign Service, to include equal opportunity for all races, ethnicities, ages, genders, and service-disabled veterans, with a focus on traditionally underrepresented minority groups;

(2) includes a section on—

(A) the diversity of selection boards;

(B) the employment of minority and service-disabled veterans during the most recent 10-year period, including—

(i) the number hired through direct hires, internships, and fellowship programs;

(ii) the number promoted to senior positions, including FS–01, GS–15, Senior Executive Service, and Senior Foreign Service; and

(iii) attrition rates by grade, civil and foreign services, and the senior level ranks listed in clause (ii);

(C) mentorship and retention programs; and

(3) is organized in terms of real numbers and percentages at all levels.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall describe the efforts of the Department—

(1) to propagate fairness, impartiality, and inclusion in the work environment domestically and abroad;

(2) to eradicate harassment, intolerance, and discrimination;

(3) to refrain from engaging in unlawful discrimination in any phase of the employment process, including recruitment, hiring, evaluation, assignments, promotion, retention, and training;

(4) to eliminate illegal retaliation against employees for participating in a protected equal employment opportunity activity;

(5) to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified employees and applicants with disabilities;

(6) to resolve workplace conflicts, confrontations, and complaints in a prompt, impartial, constructive, and timely manner;

(7) to improve demographic data availability and analysis regarding recruitment, hiring, promotion, training, length in service, assignment restrictions, and pass-through programs;

(8) to recruit a diverse staff by—

(A) recruiting women, minorities, veterans, and undergraduate and graduate students;

(B) recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(C) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(D) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward women and people of color;

(E) providing opportunities through the Foreign Service Internship Program and other hiring initiatives; and

(F) recruiting mid- and senior-level professionals through programs such as—

(i) the International Career Advancement Program;

(ii) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(iii) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program;

(iv) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies; and

(v) other similar, highly respected, international leadership programs; and

(9) to provide opportunities through—

(A) the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program;

(B) the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(C) the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(c) SCOPE OF INITIAL REPORT.—The first report submitted to Congress under this section shall include the information described in subsection (b) for the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted.

SEC. 219. EXPANSION OF THE CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM, THE THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, AND THE DONALD M. PAYNE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AUTHORIZED.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary shall—

(1) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program;

(2) increase by 10 the number of fellows selected for the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) increase by 5 the number of fellows selected for the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program.

(b) PAYNE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Undergraduate and graduate components of the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program are authorized to conduct outreach to attract outstanding students who represent diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds with an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career.

SEC. 220. RETENTION OF MID- AND SENIOR-LEVEL PROFESSIONALS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should provide attention and oversight to the employment, retention, and promotion of underrepresented groups to promote a diverse ethnic representation among mid- and senior-level career professionals through programs such as—

(1) the International Career Advancement Program;

(2) Seminar XXI at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies; and

(3) other highly respected international leadership programs.

(b) REVIEW OF PAST PROGRAMS.—The Secretary should review past programs designed to increase minority representation in international affairs positions, including—

(1) the USAID Undergraduate Cooperative and Graduate Economics Program;

(2) the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program; and

(3) the Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program.

SEC. 221. REVIEW OF JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND THE BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall conduct a review of the jurisdictional responsibilities of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations on whether jurisdictional responsibility between the 2 offices should be adjusted.

SEC. 222. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before the anticipated submission of each annual report under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of State shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees concerning the countries that will be upgraded to a higher tier or downgraded to a lower tier in such report.''.

SEC. 223. INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by inserting ''REFUGEES'' before ''The Secretary of State'';

(3) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by inserting ''CHILD SOLDIERS'' before ''The Secretary of State''; and

(4) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b)) shall develop a curriculum for Foreign Service Officers that includes training on—

''(A) the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom;

''(B) how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests;

''(C) how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests;

''(D) how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service Officers; and

''(E) the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts to combat violent extremism.

''(2) ROLE OF OTHER OFFICIALS.—The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom shall carry out paragraph (1)—

''(A) in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

''(B) in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)).

''(3) RESOURCES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement the curriculum required under this subsection.

''(b) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall begin training on religious freedom, using the curriculum developed under subsection (a), for Foreign Service officers, including—

''(A) entry level officers;

''(B) officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States; and

''(C) incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—The training required under paragraph (1) shall be substantively incorporated into—

''(A) the A–100 course attended by Foreign Service Officers;

''(B) the specific country courses required of Foreign Service Officers prior to a posting outside the United States, with training tailored to—

''(i) the particular religious demography of such country;

''(ii) religious freedom conditions in such country;

''(iii) religious engagement strategies; and

''(iv) United States strategies for advancing religious freedom.

''(C) the courses required of incoming deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

''(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and all other Federal departments and agencies whose personnel serve as attachés, advisors, detailees, or otherwise in United States embassies globally to provide training on—

''(1) United States religious freedom policies;

''(2) religious traditions;

''(3) religious engagement strategies;

''(4) religious and cultural issues; and

''(5) efforts to combat terrorism and violent religious extremism.''.

TITLE III—INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Subtitle A—United States Contributions to International Organizations

SEC. 301. REPORTS CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) REPORT ON ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) all activities at the United Nations and its subagencies that can be construed to exhibit an anti-Semitic bias, including official statements, proposed resolutions, and United Nations investigations;

(2) the use of United Nations resources to promote anti-Semitic or anti-Israel rhetoric or propaganda, including publications, internet websites, and textbooks or other educational materials used to propagate political rhetoric regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

(3) specific actions taken by the United States Government to address any of the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT ON ALL UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A detailed description of all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions, of the United States to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies—

''(i) during the preceding fiscal year;

''(ii) estimated for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted; and

''(iii) requested in the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for the following fiscal year.

''(B) CONTENT.—The description required under subparagraph (A) shall, for each fiscal year specified in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of that subparagraph, include—

''(i) the total amount or value of all contributions described in that subparagraph;

''(ii) the approximate percentage of all such contributions by the United States compared to all contributions to the United Nations and to each of its affiliated agencies and related bodies from any source; and

''(iii) for each such contribution described in subparagraph (A)—

''(I) the amount or value of the contribution;

''(II) whether the contribution was assessed by the United Nations or voluntary;

''(III) the purpose of the contribution;

''(IV) the department or agency of the United States Government responsible for the contribution; and

''(V) whether the United Nations or an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution and, if an affiliated agency or related body received the contribution, which such agency or body.

''(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 14 days after submitting a report required under this subsection to the designated congressional committees, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall post a text-based, searchable version of the description required by subparagraph (A) on a publicly available Internet website of that Office.''.

SEC. 302. ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 4(b) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(b)) is amended by striking ''in which the United States participates as a member'' and inserting '', including—

''(1) the amount of such contributions that were assessed by an international organization and the amount of such contributions that were voluntary; and

''(2) the ratio of United States contributions to total contributions received for—

''(A) the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and other United Nations funds, programs, and organizations;

''(B) peacekeeping;

''(C) inter-American organizations;

''(D) regional organizations; and

''(E) other international organizations.''.

SEC. 303. REPORT ON PEACEKEEPING ARREARS, CREDITS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Section 4(c) of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287b(c)), as amended by section 301(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A complete and full accounting of United States peacekeeping assessments and contributions for United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the following:

''(i) A tabulation of annual United Nations peacekeeping assessment rates, the peacekeeping contribution rate authorized by the United States, and the United States public law that authorized the contribution rate for the United Nations peacekeeping budget for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 1995 through the fiscal year following the date of the report.

''(ii) A tabulation of current United States accrued shortfalls and arrears in each respective ongoing or closed United Nations peacekeeping mission.

''(iii) A tabulation of all peacekeeping credits, including—

''(I) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States;

''(II) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States;

''(III) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

''(IV) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be unavailable to the United States from each open and closed peacekeeping mission;

''(V) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward shortfalls from previous years that are apportioned to the United States;

''(VI) the total amount of peacekeeping credits applied by the United Nations toward offsetting future contributions of the United States; and

''(VII) the total amount of peacekeeping credits determined by the United Nations to be available to the United States that could be applied toward offsetting United States contributions in the following fiscal year.

''(iv) An explanation of any claim of unavailability by the United Nations of any peacekeeping credits described in clause (iii)(IV).

''(v) A description of any efforts by the United States to obtain reimbursement in accordance with the requirements of this Act, including Department of Defense materiel and services, and an explanation of any failure to obtain any such reimbursement.

''(B) PEACEKEEPING CREDITS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'peacekeeping credits' means the amounts by which, during a United Nations peacekeeping fiscal year, the contributions of the United States to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations exceed the actual expenditures for peacekeeping operations by the United Nations that are apportioned to the United States.''.

SEC. 304. ASSESSMENT RATE TRANSPARENCY.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after each time the United Nations General Assembly modifies the assessment levels for peacekeeping operations, the Secretary shall submit a report, which may include a classified annex, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the change, by amount and percentage, of the peacekeeping assessment charged to each member state; and

(B) how the economic and strategic interests of each of the permanent members of the Security Council is being served by each peacekeeping mission currently in force.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF PEACEKEEPING ASSESSMENT DATA.—The Secretary shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to urge the United Nations—

(1) to share the raw data used to calculate member state peacekeeping assessment rates; and

(2) to make available the formula for determining peacekeeping assessments.

Subtitle B—Accountability at International Organizations

SEC. 311. PREVENTING ABUSE IN PEACEKEEPING.

Not later than 15 days before the anticipated date of a vote (or, in the case of exigent circumstances, as far in advance of the vote as is practicable) on a resolution approving a new peacekeeping mission under the auspices of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or any other multilateral organization in which the United States participates, or to reauthorize an existing such mission, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on that mission that includes the following:

(1) A description of the specific measures taken and planned to be taken by the organization related to the mission—

(A) to prevent individuals who are employees or contractor personnel of the organization, or members of the forces serving in the mission from engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation or abuse; and

(B) to hold accountable any such individuals who engage in any such acts while participating in the mission.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of each of the measures described in paragraph (1).

(3) An accounting and assessment of all cases in which the organization has taken action to investigate allegations that individuals described in paragraph (1)(A) have engaged in acts described in that paragraph, including a description of the status of all such cases as of the date of the report.

SEC. 312. INCLUSION OF PEACEKEEPING ABUSES IN COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

Section 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(13) for each country that contributes personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, a description of—

''(A) any allegations of such personnel engaging in acts of trafficking in persons, exploitation of victims of trafficking, or sexual exploitation and abuse while participating in such a peacekeeping mission;

''(B) any repatriations of such personnel resulting from an allegation described in subparagraph (A);

''(C) any actions taken by such country with respect to personnel repatriated as a result of allegations described in subparagraph (A), including whether such personnel faced prosecution related to such allegations; and

''(D) the extent to which any actions taken as described in subparagraph (C) have been communicated by such country to the United Nations.''.

SEC. 313. EVALUATION OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) a comprehensive evaluation of current United Nations peacekeeping missions;

(2) a prioritization of the peacekeeping missions;

(3) plans for phasing out and ending any mission that—

(A) has substantially met its objectives and goals; or

(B) will not be able to meet its objectives and goals; and

(4) a plan for reviewing the status of open-ended mandates for—

(A) the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK);

(B) the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO); and

(C) the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

(b) APPROVAL OF FUTURE PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to ensure that no new United Nations peacekeeping mission is approved without a periodic mandate renewal.

(c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—The United States shall not provide funding for any United Nations peacekeeping mission beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act unless the mission has a periodic mandate renewal.

Subtitle C—Personnel Matters

SEC. 321. ENCOURAGING EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

Section 181 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (22 U.S.C. 276c–4) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 181. EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS BY CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

''Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report that provides—

''(1) for each international organization that had a geographic distribution formula in effect on January 1, 1991, an assessment of whether that organization—

''(A) is taking good faith steps to increase the staffing of United States citizens, including, as appropriate, as assessment of any additional steps the organization could be taking to increase such staffing; and

''(B) has met the requirements of its geographic distribution formula; and

''(2) an assessment of United States representation among professional and senior-level positions at the United Nations, including—

''(A) an assessment of the proportion of United States citizens employed at the United Nations Secretariat and at all United Nations specialized agencies, funds, and programs relative to the total employment at the United Nations Secretariat and at all such agencies, funds, and programs;

''(B) as assessment of compliance by the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds, and programs with any applicable geographic distribution formula; and

''(C) a description of any steps taken or planned to be taken by the United States to increase the staffing of United States citizens at the United Nations Secretariat and such agencies, funds and programs.''.

SEC. 322. ENSURING APPROPRIATE UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL SALARIES.

(a) COMPENSATION OF UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations—

(1) to establish appropriate policies, procedures, and assumptions for—

(A) determining comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) calculating the margin between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) determining the appropriate margin for adoption by the United Nations to govern compensation for such officials;

(2) to make all policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1) available to the public; and

(3) to limit increases in the compensation of United Nations officials to ensure that such officials remain within the margin range established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials.

(b) REPORT ON SALARY MARGINS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees, at the time of the submission of the budget of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, that

(1) describes the policies, procedures, and assumptions established or used by the United Nations—

(A) to determine comparable positions between officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations headquarters in New York, New York, and in the United States Federal civil service;

(B) to calculate the percentage difference, or margin, between the compensation of such officials at the United Nations headquarters and the civil service; and

(C) to determine the margin range established in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/40/244, or any subsequent margin range adopted by the United Nations to govern compensation for United Nations officials;

(2) assesses, in accordance with the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1), the margin between net salaries of officials in the professional and higher categories of employment at the United Nations in New York and those of comparable positions in the United States Federal civil service;

(3) assesses any changes in the margin described in paragraph (2) from the previous year;

(4) assesses the extent to which any changes in that margin resulted from modifications to the policies, procedures, and assumptions described in paragraph (1); and

(5) provides the views of the Secretary on any changes in that margin and any such modifications.

TITLE IV—CONSULAR AUTHORITIES

SEC. 401. VISA INELIGIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTORS.

Section 212(a)(10)(C)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by adding ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking ''; or'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subclause (III).

SEC. 402. PRESUMPTION OF IMMIGRANT INTENT FOR H AND L VISA CLASSIFICATIONS.

Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(other than a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (L) or (V) of section 101(a)(15), and other than a nonimmigrant described in any provision of section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except subclause (b1) of such section)'';

(2) by striking ''under section 101(a)(15).'' and inserting ''under the immigration laws.''; and

(3) by striking ''he'' each place such term appears and inserting ''the alien''.

SEC. 403. VISA INFORMATION SHARING.

Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''issuance or refusal'' and inserting ''issuance, refusal, or revocation''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''and on the basis of reciprocity'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''illicit weapons; or'' and inserting ''illicit weapons, or in determining the removability or eligibility for a visa, admission, or another immigration benefit of persons who would be inadmissible to, or removable from, the United States;'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''for the purposes'' and inserting ''for 1 of the purposes''; and

(ii) by striking ''or to deny visas to persons who would be inadmissible to the United States.'' and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) with regard to any or all aliens in the database, specified data elements from each record, if the Secretary of State determines that it is in the national interest to provide such information to a foreign government.''.

TITLE V—EMBASSY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Allocation of Authorized Security Appropriations.

SEC. 501. WORLDWIDE SECURITY PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for worldwide security protection shall to the extent practicable, before any such funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated for—

(1) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) immediate threat mitigation support in accordance with subsection (b) at other facilities; and

(3) locations with high vulnerabilities.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for

immediate threat mitigation support pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for—

(1) the purchasing of additional security equipment, including additional defensive weaponry;

(2) the paying of expenses of additional security forces; and

(3) any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

SEC. 502. EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available in fiscal year 2016 for Worldwide Security Upgrades within ''embassy security, construction and maintenance'' shall to the extent practicable, before any funds may be allocated to any other authorized purpose, be allocated in the prioritized order of—

(1) immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b) at facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(2) other security upgrades to facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531;

(3) all other immediate threat mitigation projects in accordance with subsection (b); and

(4) security upgrades to all other facilities or new construction for facilities determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531.

(b) IMMEDIATE THREAT MITIGATION PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION.—In allocating funding for immediate threat mitigation projects pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for the construction of safeguards that provide immediate security benefits and any other purposes necessary to mitigate immediate threats to United States personnel serving overseas.

(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated shall be obligated for new embassy construction, other than for high threat, high risk facilities, unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department has fully complied with the requirements of subsection (a);

(2) high threat, high risk facilities are being secured to the best of the United States Government's ability; and

(3) the Secretary will make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on—

(1) funding for the priorities described in subsection (a);

(2) efforts to secure high threat, high risk facilities as well as high vulnerability locations facilities; and

(3) plans to make funds available from the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account or other sources to address any changed security threats or new or emergent security needs, including new immediate threat mitigation projects.

Subtitle B—Contracting and Other Matters.

SEC. 511. LOCAL GUARD CONTRACTS ABROAD UNDER DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (22 U.S.C. 4864(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) in evaluating proposals for such contracts, award contracts to technically acceptable firms offering the lowest evaluated price, except that—

''(A) the Secretary may award contracts on the basis of best value (as determined by a cost-technical tradeoff analysis), especially for posts determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to section 531 of the Department of State Operations Authorization and Embassy Security Act, Fiscal Year 2016; and

''(B) proposals received from United States persons and qualified United States joint venture persons shall be evaluated by reducing the bid price by 10 percent;''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) an explanation of the implementation of section 136(c)(3) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, as amended by subsection (a); and

(2) for each instance in which a contract is awarded pursuant to subparagraph (A) of such section, a written justification and approval that describes the basis for such award and an explanation of the inability of the Secretary to satisfy the needs of the Department by awarding a contract to the technically acceptable firm offering the lowest evaluated price.

SEC. 512. DISCIPLINARY ACTION RESULTING FROM UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP IN RELATION TO A SECURITY INCIDENT.

Section 304(c) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834 (c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking ''Whenever'' in the first sentence immediately following the subsection heading and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever''; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

''(2) CERTAIN SECURITY INCIDENTS.—

''(A) UNSATISFACTORY LEADERSHIP.—Unsatisfactory leadership by a senior official with respect to a security incident involving loss of life, serious injury, or significant destruction of property at or related to a United States Government mission abroad may be grounds for disciplinary action.

''(B) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—If a Board finds reasonable cause to believe that a senior official provided such unsatisfactory leadership, the Board may recommend disciplinary action subject to the procedures in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 513. MANAGEMENT AND STAFF ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—Nothing in this Act or in any other provision of law may be construed to prevent the Secretary from using all authorities invested in the office of Secretary to take personnel action against any employee or official of the Department that the Secretary determines has breached the duty of that individual or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or a serious breach of security, even if such action is the subject of an Accountability Review Board's examination under section 304(a) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834(a)).

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Section 304 of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4834) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting ''or has engaged in misconduct or unsatisfactorily performed the duties of employment of that individual, and such misconduct or unsatisfactory performance has significantly contributed to the serious injury, loss of life, or significant destruction of property, or the serious breach of security that is the subject of the Board's examination as described in subsection (a),'' after ''breached the duty of that individual'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.—Whenever a Board determines that an individual has engaged in any conduct described in subsection (c), the Board shall evaluate the level and effectiveness of management and oversight conducted by employees or officials in the management chain of such individual.''.

SEC. 514. SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR SOFT TARGETS.

Section 29 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2701) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting ''physical security enhancements and'' after ''Such assistance may include''.

Subtitle C—Marine Corps Security Guard Program

SEC. 521. ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF MARINE CORPS SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM.

Section 1269(a)(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 10 U.S.C. 5983 note) is amended by inserting ''and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is three years after such date'' after ''of this Act''.

Subtitle D—Defending High Threat, High Risk Posts

SEC. 531. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, a classified report, with an unclassified summary, evaluating Department facilities that the Secretary determines to be high threat, high risk in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) CONTENTS.—For each facility determined to be high threat, high risk pursuant to subsection (a), the report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a narrative assessment describing the security threats and risks facing posts overseas and the overall threat level to United States personnel under chief of mission authority;

(2) the number of diplomatic security personnel, Marine Corps security guards, and other Department personnel dedicated to providing security for United States personnel, information, and facilities;

(3) an assessment of host nation willingness and capability to provide protection in the event of a security threat or incident, pursuant to the obligations of the United States under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961;

(4) an assessment of the quality and experience level of the team of United States senior security personnel assigned to the facility, considering collectively the assignment

durations and lengths of government experience;

(5) the number of Foreign Service Officers who have received Foreign Affairs Counter Threat training;

(6) a summary of the requests made during the previous calendar year for additional resources, equipment, or personnel related to the security of the facility and the status of such requests;

(7) an assessment of the ability of United States personnel to respond to and survive a fire attack, including—

(A) whether the facility has adequate fire safety and security equipment for safe havens and safe areas; and

(B) whether the employees working at the facility have been adequately trained on the equipment available;

(8) if it is a new facility, a detailed description of the steps taken to provide security for the new facility, including whether a dedicated support cell was established in the Department to ensure proper and timely resourcing of security; and

(9) a listing of any high threat, high risk facilities where the facilities of the Department and other government agencies are not collocated, including—

(A) a rationale for the lack of collocation; and

(B) a description of what steps, if any, are being taken to mitigate potential security vulnerabilities associated with the lack of collocation.

(c) DETERMINATION OF HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK FACILITY.—In determining which facilities of the Department constitute high threat, high risk facilities under this section, the Secretary shall take into account with respect to each facility whether there are—

(1) high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism;

(2) national or local governments with inadequate capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection; and

(3) in locations where there are high to critical levels of political violence or terrorism or where national or local governments lack the capacity or political will to provide appropriate protection—

(A) mission physical security platforms that fall well below the Department's established standards; or

(B) security personnel levels that are insufficient for the circumstances.

(d) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW AND REPORT.—The Inspector General for the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall annually—

(1) review the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including the basis for making such determinations;

(2) review contingency planning for high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures in place to respond to attacks on such facilities;

(3) review the risk mitigation measures in place at high threat, high risk facilities to determine how the Secretary evaluates risk and whether the measures put in place sufficiently address the relevant risks;

(4) review early warning systems in place at high threat, high risk facilities and evaluate the measures being taken to preempt and disrupt threats to such facilities; and

(5) provide to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) an assessment of the determinations of the Secretary with respect to high threat, high risk facilities, including recommendations for additions or changes to the list of such facilities; and

(B) a report on the reviews and evaluations undertaken pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4).

SEC. 532. DESIGNATION AND REPORTING FOR HIGH-RISK COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT POSTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

(2) PRIORITY 1 COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREAT NATION.—The term ''Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nation'' means a country designated as such by the October 2012 National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF).

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in conjunction with appropriate officials in the intelligence community and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that assesses the counterintelligence threat to United States diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the use of locally employed staff and guard forces and a listing of diplomatic facilities in Priority 1 Counterintelligence Threat Nations without controlled access areas; and

(B) recommendations for mitigating any counterintelligence threats and for any necessary facility upgrades, including costs assessment of any recommended mitigation or upgrades.

SEC. 533. ENHANCED QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 206 (22 U.S.C. 4824) the following new section:

''SEC. 207. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

''The individual serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for High Threat, High Risk Posts shall have 1 or more of the following qualifications:

''(1) Service during the last 6 years at 1 or more posts designated as high threat, high risk by the Secretary of State at the time of service.

''(2) Previous service as the office director or deputy director of 1 or more of the following Department of State offices or successor entities carrying out substantively equivalent functions:

''(A) The Office of Mobile Security Deployments.

''(B) The Office of Special Programs and Coordination.

''(C) The Office of Overseas Protective Operations.

''(D) The Office of Physical Security Programs.

''(E) The Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis.

''(3) Previous service as the Regional Security Officer at two or more overseas posts.

''(4) Other government or private sector experience substantially equivalent to service in the positions listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).''.

SEC. 534. SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THREAT LIST BRIEFINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and upon each subsequent update of the Security Environment Threat List (SETL), the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security shall provide classified briefings to the appropriate congressional committees on the Security Environment Threat List.

(b) CONTENT.—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an overview of the Security Environment Threat List; and

(2) a summary assessment of the security posture of those facilities where the Security Environment Threat List assesses the threat environment to be most acute, including factors that informed such assessment.

SEC. 535. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BENGHAZI ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes the progress of the Secretary in implementing the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the progress the Secretary has made in implementing each specific recommendation of the Accountability Review Board; and

(2) a description of any impediments to recommended reforms, such as budget constraints, bureaucratic obstacles within the Department or in the broader interagency community, or limitations under current law.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 536. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECURITY TRAINING CENTER.

(a) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to its consideration and analysis concerning the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, and any alternative facilities.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees all documents and materials related to the determination to construct a new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center at Fort Picket, Virginia, including any that are related to the development and adoption of all related training requirements, including any documents and materials related to the consideration and analysis of such facility performed by the Office of Management and Budget.

SEC. 537. LANGUAGE TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 416. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HIGH THREAT, HIGH RISK POSTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Diplomatic security personnel assigned permanently to, or who are

serving in, long-term temporary duty status as designated by the Secretary of State at a high threat, high risk post should receive language training described in subsection (b) in order to prepare such personnel for duty requirements at such post.

''(b) LANGUAGE TRAINING DESCRIBED.—Language training referred to in subsection (a) should prepare personnel described in such subsection—

''(1) to speak the language at issue with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on subjects germane to security; and

''(2) to read within an adequate range of speed and with almost complete comprehension on subjects germane to security.

''(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors shall—

''(1) review the language training conducted pursuant to this section; and

''(2) make the results of such review available to the Secretary of State and the appropriate congressional committees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–399) is amended by inserting after the item relating the section 415 the following:

''Sec. 416. Language requirements for diplomatic security personnel assigned to high threat, high risk posts.''.

Subtitle E—Accountability Review Boards

SEC. 541. PROVISION OF COPIES OF ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 days after an Accountability Review Board provides its report to the Secretary of State in accordance with title III of the Omnibus Diplomatic and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831 et seq.), the Secretary shall provide copies of the report to the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and to the appropriate congressional committees for retention and review by those committees.

SEC. 542. STAFFING.

Section 302(b)(2) of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4832(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Such persons shall be drawn from bureaus or other agency subunits that are not impacted by the incident that is the subject of the Board's review.''.

TITLE VI—MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited at the ''Improving Department of State Oversight Act of 2015''.

SEC. 602. COMPETITIVE HIRING STATUS FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employee of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction who completes at least 12 months of service at any time prior to the date of the termination of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (October 5, 2013), and was not terminated for cause shall acquire competitive status for appointment to any position in the competitive service for which the employee possesses the required qualifications.

SEC. 603. ASSURANCE OF INDEPENDENCE OF IT SYSTEMS.

The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the Department has made reasonable efforts to ensure the integrity and independence of the Office of the Inspector General Information Technology systems.

SEC. 604. PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 209(c)(5) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(c)(5)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) REQUIRED REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each bureau, post or other office (in this subparagraph, an 'entity') of the Department of State shall, within five business days, report to the Inspector General any allegations of—

''(I) waste, fraud, or abuse in a Department program or operation;

''(II) criminal or serious misconduct on the part of a Department employee at the FS–1, GS–15, GM–15 level or higher;

''(III) criminal misconduct on the part of any Department employee; and

''(IV) serious, noncriminal misconduct on the part of any individual who is authorized to carry a weapon, make arrests, or conduct searches, such as conduct that, if proved, would constitute perjury or material dishonesty, warrant suspension as discipline for a first offense, or result in loss of law enforcement authority.

''(ii) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Inspector General may, pursuant to existing authority, investigate matters covered by clause (i).

''(iii) LIMITATION ON INVESTIGATIONS OUTSIDE OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—No entity in the Department of State with concurrent jurisdiction over matters covered by clause (i), including the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, may initiate an investigation of such matter unless it has first reported the allegations to the Inspector General as required by clause (i), except as provided in clause (v) and (vi).

''(iv) COOPERATION.—If an entity in the Department of State initiates an investigation of a matter covered in clause (i) the entity must, except as provided in clause (v), fully cooperate with the Inspector General, including—

''(I) by providing to the Inspector General all data and records obtained in connection with its investigation upon request of the Inspector General;

''(II) by coordinating, at the request of the Inspector General, such entity's investigation with the Inspector General; and

''(III) by providing to the Inspector General requested support in aid of the Inspector General's oversight and investigative responsibilities.

''(v) EXCEPTIONS.—The Inspector General may prescribe general rules under which any requirement of clause (iii) or clause (iv) may be dispensed with.

''(vi) EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.—Compliance with clauses (i), (iii), and (iv) of this subparagraph may be dispensed with by an entity of the Department of State if complying with them in an exigent circumstance would pose an imminent threat to human life, health or safety, or result in the irretrievable loss or destruction of critical evidence or witness testimony, in which case a report of the allegation shall be made not later than 48 hours after an entity begins an investigation under the authority of this clause and cooperation required under clause (iv) shall commence not later than 48 hours after the relevant exigent circumstance has ended.

''(vii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be interpreted to affect any duty or authority of the Inspector General under any provision of law, including the Inspector General's duties or authorities under the Inspector General Act.''.

SEC. 605. REPORT ON INSPECTOR GENERAL INSPECTION AND AUDITING OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS AND BUREAUS AND OPERATING UNITS DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the requirement under section 209(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(a)(1)) that the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors inspect and audit, at least every 5 years, the administration of activities and operations of each Foreign Service post and each bureau and other operating unit of the Department.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF MULTI-TIER SYSTEM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall assess the advisability and feasibility of implementing a multi-tier system for inspecting Foreign Service posts featuring more (or less) frequent inspections and audits of posts based on risk, including security risk, as may be determined by the Inspector General.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include separate portions prepared by the Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the Comptroller General of the United States, respectively.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016, THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, May 2, at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 5, at 11:30 a.m.; I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 5, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, May 9; 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 be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2028, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees; further, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 occur at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that for the purposes of rule XXII, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to the Alexander substitute amendment No. 3801 be at 3:30 p.m. and the second-degree filing deadline occur under rule XXII.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 7:42 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 2, 2016, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS

ANGELA L. KOKOSKO RIPLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

LESLIE GREENE BOWMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE MARTHA WAGNER WEINBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

GEORGE SANCHEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE DOROTHY KOSINSKI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

GAIL H. MARCUS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2018, VICE JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

KENT YOSHIHO HIROZAWA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

PATRICIA D. BARKSDALE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE JOHN E. STEELE, RETIRED.

TODD E. EDELMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE RICHARD W. ROBERTS, RETIRED.

WILLIAM F. JUNG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ANNE C. CONWAY, RETIRED.

PHILIP R. LAMMENS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE JOHN RICHARD SMOAK, RETIRED.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE REGGIE B. WALTON, RETIRED.

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE ROBERT E. BLACKBURN, RETIRED.

PATRICIA ANN TIMMONS–GOODSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE MALCOLM J. HOWARD, RETIRED.

ANNE RACHEL TRAUM, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE ROBERT CLIVE JONES, RETIRED.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

KATHLEEN MARIE MARSHALL, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2019, VICE ROSEMARY E. RODRIGUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL D. LUNDY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JEFFREY S. BUCHANAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DEAN OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 4335:

To be brigadier general

COL. CINDY R. JEBB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHELLE M. AGPALZA
MATTHEW H. ALEXANDER
NICOLE D. ALEXANDER
CHRISTOPHER J. ANDERSON
ERIC W. ANDERSON
REGINALD J. ANDERSON
CORY D. ARMSTEAD
ALEXANDER C. BABINGTON
CHRISTOPHER R. BAILEY
KATRESHA M. BAILEY
SCOTT A. BAILEY
JASON A. BALLARD
ROBERT J. BARTRUFF, JR.
DANIEL B. BATEMAN
DAVID J. BENJAMIN III
ADAM C. BERLEW
DUSTIN G. BISHOP
JONATHAN A. BODENHAMER
BRYAN M. BOGARDUS
ANTWAN D. BROWN
CARLA A. BROWN
FRANKLIN J. BUKOSKI
JAMES R. BURKES
JEFFREY M. BURNETT
MARK S. CAMPBELL
CHRISTOPHER L. CAMPHOR
DEBBIE Y. CASE
TIMOTHY J. CATALANO
CARYDANIEL CEGLEDI
CHRISTOPHER L. CENTER
ANTHONY F. CERELLA
MARCOS A. CERVANTES
INDERA Z. L. CHANDLER
THOMAS W. CHANDLER III
CHRISTOPHER G. CHAPMAN
GEORGE W. CHILDS III
VICTOR J. CINTRONVELEZ
NATASHA S. CLARKE
TORRANCE G. CLEVELAND
JASON A. COLE
JAMES I. COLLAZO
JOHN E. COOPER
MATTHEW D. COX
JAMES L. CROCKER
RONNIE C. CROSBY
MALENM CRUZSEGARRA
JOHN M. CULLEN, JR.
DAMIAN R. CUNNINGHAM
WADE R. CUNNINGHAM
MICHAEL J. CUPP
CRAIG A. DANIEL
GREGORY S. DARLING
KYLE D. DAVIDSON
JUSTIN L. DEARMOND
FABIENNE DENNERY
HOWARD R. DONALDSON
STEVEN M. DUBUC
NELSON E. DUCKSON
EMANUEL M. DUDLEY
CHARLES D. ECKSTROM
STACY M. ENYEART
JACQUELINE S. L. ESCOBAR
GILBERTO ESCOBEDO
JANA K. FAJARDO
PATRICK D. FARRELL
PHOEBE E. FLYNN
SCOTT A. FRANCIS
RICHARD D. FRANK
RYAN B. GALLION
CHRISTOPHER J. GARVIN
JOSHUA S. GINN
JOEL P. GLEASON
ALEXANDER J. GONZALES
JEREMY C. GOTTSHALL
THOMAS E. GOYETTE
JOHN E. GRAY, JR.
ADAM W. GREIN
WILLIAM J. GRIFFIN
ROSE A. GUERRERO
DAVID G. GUIDA
DION HALL
CHRISTOPHER P. HAMMAN
KEVIN M. HARRIS
MICHAEL J. HARRIS
TRAVIS HARRIS
THOMAS J. HEILMAN
CYNTHIA P. HENDERSON
TRACIE M. HENRYNEILL
JON A. HERMESCH
JOSE HERNANDEZ
UCHE T. HEYWARD
TIMOTHY R. HICKMAN
RACHAEL M. HOAGLAND
NORMAN B. HODGES IV
DEREK W. HOFFMAN
KENNETH A. HOISINGTON
CASEY J. HOLLER
PAUL C. HUBBARD
JOEL A. HUFT
MICHAEL F. IANNUCCILLI
ALANA R. JACKMAN
IRVIN W. JACKSON
THOMAS D. JAGIELSKI
ANDRE J. JOHNSON
PATRICE N. JOHNSON
SCOTT R. JOHNSON
BRIAN K. JONES
CENTRELL A. JONES
CHRISTOPHER S. JONES
LEAH N. JONES
MATTHEW S. JONES
RANDY F. JONES
RICARDO D. JONES
SAMUEL J. JUNGMAN
JEET H. KAJI
BRATCHA J. KELLUM
PATRICK L. KENDRICK
ALI A. KHANHERNANDEZ
GRACE H. KIM
PATRICK L. KNIGHT
JULIA M. KOBISKA
EVERETT LACROIX
DANIEL A. LANCASTER
JOHN W. LANKFORD, JR.
MARIWIN B. LARA
RENANTE L. LASALA
ANTHONY L. LEACH
MOSES J. LEE
RANDY P. LEFEBVRE
JOHN J. LIANG
KAREN F. LIEB
MICHAEL P. LILES
JAMES A. LINDH II
TASHA N. LOWERY
GAVIN O. LUHER
RANDALL A. LUMMER
REBEKAH S. LUST
ANDREW J. LYNCH
PAUL B. MADDEN
ALINA C. MARTINEZ
JUAN C. MARTINEZBERNARD
BYRON C. MATTHEWS
NATHAN G. MCDOUGLE
JAMES M. MCGEE
STEPHEN P. MCGOWAN
JOHN W. MCGRADY
KENNETH W. MCGRAW
MATTHEW J. MCGRAW
JOSEPH V. MESSINA
DWAYNE S. MILBURN
ADAM M. MILLER
JADE P. MILLER
RICHARD P. MILLOY
JOHN D. MITCHEL
THOMAS R. MONAGHAN, JR.
CHARLES L. MONTGOMERY
PHILLIP E. MOORE
JOHANNA L. MORA
DAVID B. MOSER
DONYEILL A. MOZER
SHAWN P. MUDER
AIMEE C. MYRICK
CHRISTOPHER M. NEAL
RYAN C. NESRSTA
ROBERT W. NEWSOM IV
JENNIFER L. NEWSOME
PETER D. NIENHAUS
MATTHEW P. NISCHWITZ
RYAN E. OCAMPO
JEREMIAH S. OCONNOR
DEANNE M. OJEDA
JAMES U. OKEKE
ANGEL R. ORTIZMEDINA
JOHN A. PADGETT
WILLIAM J. PARKER III
TERRELL D. PASLEY
THOMAS J. PATTERSON III
CHAD A. PEDIGO
PATRICIA A. PEELER
FRANCISCO PENA
GERALDO A. PERALTA
ROLANDO PEREZCRUZ
CURTIS S. PERKINS
WILLIAM C. PERKINS
THEODORE J. PETERS
TERRY A. PHILLIPS
JEREMIAH D. POPE
JEFFREY A. POQUETTE
ANTONIO V. A. PRESSLEY
RICHARD A. PRIER
GABRIEL W. PRYOR
EDGARDO A. PUENTE
ELIZABETH S. PURA
JENNIFER L. RADER
DOUGLAS N. RALPH
STEPHEN D. RAMELLA
JONATHAN P. RAMIREZ
DANIEL O. RAMOS
RACINE R. RANDOLPH
SHERDRICK S. RANKIN
MICHAEL S. RASCO
ALEXANDER P. RASMUSSEN
JOSE L. RAYAESCUTIA
WILLIAM A. REKER
TIMOTHY M. RENAHAN
MATTHEW O. REYNOLDS
THURMAN C. REYNOLDS
JOHN V. RIOS
LUIS R. RIVERA
LILLIAN A. ROBINSON
MICHAEL P. RODER
MCKEAL L. RODGERS
ANTHONY B. ROGERS
ARTURO ROQUE
ROBERT J. ROWE
JOHN M. RUTHS
JOHN V. SALLING
JUAN R. SANTIAGO, JR.
ROY M. SARAVIA
MICHELLE L. SCHAUMBURG
JASON W. SCHULTZ
WILLIAM S. SCHUYLER, JR.
CLARISSE SCOTT
JEFFREY J. SCOTT
SHAWN M. SEFFERNICK
TRAVIS L. SEPT
JAVIER SEPULVEDATORRES
JESSICA R. SEXTON
DERRICK N. SHAW
JEFF A. SHEARIN
KEVIN P. SHILLEY
ALPHONSO SIMMONS, JR.

QUINTINA V. SMILEY
DONALD D. SMITH
JEFFREY A. SMITH
KEVIN L. SMITH
CALINA M. SNYDER
EDGARDO SOSTRE
LAVERNE O. STANLEY
ROSHUN A. STEELE
GEORGE C. STEPHAN IV
KYLE L. STEVENS
KELLY M. STEWART
CECIL D. STINNIE
LAKICIA R. STOKES
JEFFREY R. STRAUSS
MARTIN L. STUFFLEBEAM
COURTNEY M. SUGAI
TERRENCE J. SULLIVAN
CHRISTINE M. TAKATS
JOSEPH E. TAYLOR
JENNIFER V. THIBEAULT
LYDIA Y. THORNTON
LOREN D. TODD
KEITH D. TOLER
PAUL A. TOMCIK
ISAAC M. TORRES
CARITA K. TOWNS
NOBLE TURNER, JR.
LEILANI M. TYDINGCO
JOHN F. VANN
THOMAS A. VELAZQUEZ II
BRADLEY S. WAITE
KEVIN J. WARD
MOLLY J. WEAVER
THOMAS J. WHIPPLE
BRIAN A. WHITE
OSHEA J. WHITE
GARY D. WHITTACRE
SONDRA L. WILKERSON
BARRY L. WILLIAMS
JAMAL T. WILLIAMS
LATORRIS E. WILLIAMS
TERRENCE D. WILLIAMS
COREY D. WOODS
CURTIS L. YANKIE
ANDRE M. C. YEE
CHRISTINE R. YOUNGQUIST
BROCK A. ZIMMERMAN
D010800
D012116
D012924
D012925
D012971

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JACOB I. ABRAMI
ERIC R. ADAMS
BENJAMIN K. AFEKU
JAY H. ANSON
CHARLES M. AZOTEA
TERENCE W. BACON
HOSSEIN D. BAHAGHIGHAT
ROBERT J. BAKER
PAUL W. BALDWIN
SEAN A. BARBARAS
MICHAEL A. BARKER
KURT M. BARNEY
CHRISTINA A. BEMBENEK
JASON R. BIERKORTTE
JASON D. BILLINGTON
CHRISTIAN C. BJORNSON
DAVID J. BLACK
JEREMY S. BOARDMAN
VINCENT J. BONCICH
THOMAS J. BOUCHILLON
ANDREW S. BROKHOFF
ERICKA M. BROOKS
JASON C. BROWN
JARED L. BUCHANAN
STEPHEN A. BULTMANN
JOSHUA M. BUNDT
RYAN H. BURKE
MICHAEL P. BURNS
RETT B. BURROUGHS
MICHAEL R. BUSH
ROGER M. CABINESS II
JAMES D. CAHILL
ANDREW J. CAMP
JAYSON R. CAMPBELL
EDWARD W. CARDINALE
VERONICA A. CARROLL
WILLIAM H. CARROLL
CHRISTOPHER R. CARSON
NATALIE K. CASEY
MICHAEL W. CERCHIO
LATRICE K. CLARK
NICHOLAS J. CLARK
MICHAEL D. CLAYTON
BRYAN M. CLEARY
JEREMY L. CLICK
ENARDO R. COLLAZOALICEA
BRIAN T. COLLINS
CASEY D. CONNORS
KRISTINA J. CORNWELL
CASEY D. COYLE
ANDREW D. CROY
RICHARD M. CRUZ, JR.
EDWARD D. CUEVAS
PATRICK J. CULPEPPER
TIMOTHY M. CULPEPPER
KEVIN F. CUMMISKEY
ANDREW D. DAMICO
JASON N. DAUGHERTY
HEIDI B. DEMAREST
TRAVIS P. DETTMER
PETER DIGIORGIO
WILLIAM A. DONALDSON
WILLIAM R. DUFFY
TIMOTHY J. DUGAN
NATHANIEL DURANT III
JOHN N. DVORAK
RUSSELL J. EDMISTON
ROBERT A. ERICKSON
KENNETH C. EVANS
JASON C. FARMER
WILLIAM A. FERRARO
JOHN D. FINCH
MICHAEL A. FINDLAY
JEFFREY D. FISH
MARK A. FISHER
HEATHER M. FISK
CHRISTOPHER P. FOLK
DAVID FORD, JR.
FLOYD C. FORREST
DANIEL L. FOX
SAMUEL T. FULLER
RANDALL M. GABLE
JASON J. GALUI
JOSEPH N. GARDNER
RICHARD C. GERMANN
RONNIE E. GERONIMO
TIMOTHY M. GIBBONS
JOSEPH I. GILBERT
ROBERT B. GILLESPIE
DAVID M. GOHLICH
JAMES T. GOLBY
LESLIE D. GORMAN
MATTHEW W. GRAHAM
WILLIAM B. GREEN
STEVEN J. GRIBSCHAW
KEVIN J. GROPPEL
STEVEN D. GUNTER
HEATHER N. GUNTHER
ROBERT A. HAMMACK
JENNIFER K. HAN
JOHN J. HANES
LEIF A. HANSEN
EDD D. HARRISON, JR.
JONPAUL J. HART
RICHARD E. HARTNEY III
JARED B. HARTY
RACHELLE T. HATHAWAY
CHRISTINA HAYES
PATRICK T. HEMMER
ROBERTO HERNANDEZ
WILLIAM M. HIGGINS
THOMAS W. HIGGINSON
NINA L. HILL
JENNIFER A. HINKLE
ANTONIO A. HINOJOSA
DEAN L. HINRICHSEN
BINH T. HO
DEVIN M. HOLLINGSWORTH
DAVID T. HORD
MICHAEL J. HOSLER
BENJAMIN W. K. HUNG
STEPHEN E. HUNT, JR.
YESENIA HUTCHER
RONALD IAMMARTINO, JR.
PAUL E. IRELAND
BRADLEY J. ISLER
JASON E. ISON
ERICA R. IVERSON
LASHAUNDA R. JACKSON
MICHAEL T. JACKSON
JEFFREY S. JAGER
JUNEL R. JEFFREY
BIJI T. JOHN
EUGENE L. JOLLY III
COURTNEY E. JONES
KEVIN T. JOYCE
BRIAN F. KAMMERER
JOSHUA D. KASER
SCOTT W. KEY
ANDREW R. KICK
NADINE M. C. KING
JILLIAN M. KLUG
KENNETH S. KONDO, JR.
JOSEPH T. KOSEK III
PHILLIP M. LACASSE
THOMAS LAFLASH
JOSEPH T. LATENDRESSE
PAUL B. LEMIEUX
MICHAEL P. LENART
EDWARD B. LERZ II
CONWAY LIN
SCOTT D. LINKER
CHYLON E. LONGMOSES
DAVID W. LOWE
PAUL L. MAHER
RYNELE M. MARDIS
BRADLEY J. MAROYKA
ALEXANDER MARRONE
VINCENT P. MARSCHEAN
STEPHEN M. MARSHALL
ARNULFO J. MARTINEZ
TOM O. MATCHIN III
LATASHA M. MATTHEWS
JASON A. MCANALLY
SEAN P. MCCAFFERTY
SEAN M. MCCLURE
MATTHEW M. MCCREARY
JOHN W. MCFARLIN, JR.
JAY G. MCGEE
CORY T. MCKOY
SCOTT D. MCLEARN
MEGAN A. MCSWAIN
JASON S. MEISEL
JOHN J. MELO
JENNIFER S. MENDEL
CHRISTOPHER L. MENG
PHILIP A. MESSER
MARK P. MICHELS
APRIL D. MILLER
JOSHUA T. MILLER
LAUREN J. S. MILLER
PATRICK J. MILLER
RICHARD S. MILLS II
KRISTOPHER S. MITCHELL
KELLY D. MONTGOMERY
RONANDO D. MOORE
DYLAN M. MORELLE
CHRISTOPHER F. MORRELL
JASON D. MOULTON
AIMEE J. MOWRY
DWAYNE A. MURRAY
JONATHAN C. NARVAES
PETER C. NELSON
RYAN L. NENABER
RICHARD A. NESSEL
LOUIS V. NETHERLAND
AARON M. NEWCOMER
RUSSELL G. NOWELS
RUSSELL F. NUNLEY
KEVIN P. OCONNELL
JOSEPH M. ODORIZZI
AMMILEE A. OLIVA
STEVEN J. OLSON
JOHN P. OPLADEN
ROGER B. ORDONEZ
DUSTIN R. ORNATOWSKI
RANDY T. OVERSTREET
THOMAS J. PAFF
MARCELO V. PAJO
MICHAEL A. PANARO III
JIN W. PARK
GABRIEL R. PARSLEY
WILLIAM W. PARSONS
KERI A. PASQUINI
RODRIC G. PAULETTO
ALEXIS A. PEAKE
HERIBERTO PEREZRIVERA
DAVID A. PHEASANT
CLINDON J. PHILLIPS
THOMAS D. PIKE
JAMES C. PILKAUSKAS
CHAD M. PILLAI
DALE L. PITTMAN
DANIEL J. POOLE
ELIZABETH M. POPIAK
ROSALBA POULOS
SUKHDEV S. PUREWAL
PHILLIP RADZIKOWSKI
SIEGFRIED T. RAMIL
GEORGE C. RANDOLPH, JR.
NATHAN T. REED
JAYNA B. REICHERT
JEREMY M. RIEHL
JOHN P. RINGQUIST
ADELISSE RIOJAS
RYAN M. ROBERTS
JOSE N. RODRIGUEZOCASIO
ADALBERTO RODRIGUEZOLIVERA
MICHAEL P. ROGOWSKI
ANDREA M. ROSALES
ROBERT RUBIANO
ROBERTO J. SANTIAGO
DONALD W. SAPP
NATHAN C. SAUL
ASSLAN SAYYAR
JOSEPH E. SCHAEFER
NATHAN G. SCHMIDT
CLIFTON D. SCHMITT
PETER L. SCHNEIDER
JEFFREY F. SCHROEDER
KEVIN A. SCOTT
IAN P. SEIN
BENJAMIN K. SELZER
ROBERT J. SHADOWENS
BENJAMIN J. SHAHA
CHRISTOPHER M. SIMCOE
CRAYTON E. SIMMONS
STEPHEN T. SKELLS
BENJAMIN M. SMITH
WILLIAM T. SMITH
JARED W. SNAWDER
RICHARD J. SONNENFELD
PATRICK L. SOULE
JOHN M. SOVA
JOEL C. SPINNEY
CHRISTOPHER M. STAUDER
JENNIFER D. STCLAIR
KEVIN L. STEELE
CHRISTOPHER N. STELLE
JOSHUA N. STEPHENSON
GEOFFROY E. STGALDEPONS
MICHAEL K. STINCHFIELD
ORRIN G. STITT
ANDREW S. STLAURENT
POVILAS J. STRAZDAS
OLIVER D. STREET
MARK C. STURGEON
DANIEL P. SUKMAN
JERMAINE L. SUTTON
ANDREW D. SWEDBERG
ANDREW D. SWEDLOW
KERT L. SWITZER
THOMAS B. TABAKA
BRENDAN S. TAYLOR
BENJAMIN R. THOMAS
THAD M. THOME
BRANDON S. THOMPSON
JOSEF THRASH III
DAVID J. TIER
MANDIE A. TIJERINA
MICHAEL W. TILTON
JOHN D. TINCHER
ROBERT S. TOMPKINS

AKEMI A. TORBERT
ROBERT L. TRENT
JASON G. TULLIUS
JOHN E. TURNER, JR.
COLEY D. TYLER
NALONIE J. TYRRELL
BRADLEY C. VELOTTA
RANDALL S. VERDE
TREVOR E. VOECKS
BRIAN M. WADE
NEIL R. WALKER
WAYNE B. WALL II
JONATHAN B. WARR
JASON W. WARREN
DENNIS J. WEAVER
HANS J. WEBER
CHRISTOPHER E. WELD
JASON E. WILLIAMS
JOSEPH B. WOOLSEY
STEPHEN F. WRIGHT
CHARLES R. ZIPPERER, JR.
D001312
D004904
D005748
D010396
D012123
D012483
D012692
D012735
G010002
G010041
G010065
G010080
G010400

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD R. AARON
JASON E. ALBRIGHT
DANIEL C. ALDER
MICHAEL F. ALEXANDER
CHRISTOPHER M. ALMAGUER
LEE E. AMBROSE
TYLER K. ANDERSEN
BRIAN C. ANGELL
CURTIS M. ARMSTRONG
MATTHEW R. ARROL
DANIEL S. ARTINO
SHANNON P. ASERON
MICHAEL C. ATHANASAKIS
JASON W. ATKINSON
MARC J. AUSTIN
JOHN R. BACON
DEREK R. BAIRD
HAILEYESUS BAIRU
CHRISTINE M. BAKER
REGAN M. BALDWIN
ALHAJI S. BANGURA
KEITH A. BARANOW
JAMES A. BARLOW
RYAN D. BARNETT
STEVEN S. BARTLEY
JAMES A. BEAULIEU
RALPH L. BECKI
JONATHAN S. BENDER
KEITH W. BENEDICT
TOBIAS A. BENNETT
RYAN M. BERDINER
JOSHUA P. BERRYHILL
JAY A. BESSEY
BRIAN E. BETTIS
KEVIN T. BLACK
PATRICK D. BLANKENSHIP
JONATHAN G. BLEAKLEY
PENNY M. BLOEDEL
KELLY O. C. BOIAN
LANE A. BOMAR
LORETO V. BORCE, JR.
RYAN P. BORTNYK
BRIAN J. BOSTON
STEPHEN E. BOURDON
WILLIAM H. BOWERS
JASON M. BRADLEY
THOMAS K. BRENTON
MATTHEW A. BRODERICK
DIOSABELLE T. BUACK
BOYCE R. BUCKNER
MICHAEL R. BUNDT
ANDREW E. BURGESS
RYAN T. BURKERT
JOHN J. BURRESCIA, JR.
MICHAEL J. BUSTOS
PHILIP A. BUSWELL
JASON L. BUURSMA
VAUGHAN M. BYRUM
ELIZABETHANNE M. CAIN
ADAM S. CAMARANO
BRIAN C. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM R. CANDA III
ADAM M. CANNON
DON L. CANTERNA, JR.
MELISSA M. CANTWELL
MATTHEW P. CAPOBIANCO
MICHAEL H. CAPPS
ARGOT CARBERRY
ERIC D. CARLSON
JASON C. CARTER
JACOB L. CECKA
THOMAS D. CHAPEAU
GEORGE A. CHIGI
CHRIS C. CHOI
DAVID A. CIESZYNSKI
STEVEN D. CLAY
MICHAEL P. COCHRAN
NATHANIEL F. CONKEY
CHRISTOPHER J. G. COOK
JOHN W. COPELAND
CHAD P. CORRIGAN
BENJAMIN C. CROOM
RAMON J. CRUZSANCHEZ
GREGORY E. CURRY II
CLAYTON D. CURTIS
DOUGLAS J. CURTIS
NICHOLAS K. DALL
ARNEL P. DAVID
IAN S. DAVIS
JOSHUA M. DAVIS
MARK A. DAVIS
CHRISTOPHER J. DAWSON
JASON W. DAY
ROGER T. DELAHUNT
CHRISTOPHER M. DEMPSEY
THURMAN S. DICKERSON III
CHRISTIAN N. DIETZ
ADAM B. DIGAUDIO
DANIEL C. DINICOLA
BRYAN J. DODD
EDWARD M. DOWNS, JR.
CLARA C. DRISCOLL
RICHARD E. DUNNING
ERIC N. DURRANT
JASON R. DYE
WILLIAM W. EARL
MICHAEL T. ELIASSEN
MATHEW D. ELLIOTT
MICHAEL J. ENGLIS
DAVID E. ESCOBAR
MICHAEL S. FARMER
BENJAMIN A. FIELDING
BRADFORD A. FISHER
JAMES D. FITZGERALD
PATRICK M. FLOOD
FRANKIE L. FLOWERS
WAYNE A. FOGEL
ROBERT L. FOSTER
DARREN B. FOWLER
JOHN T. FRANZ
BRYAN W. FRIZZELLE
THOMAS D. FROHNHOEFER
DAVID A. FULTON
MICHAEL R. FUNCHES
BRENDAN R. GALLAGHER
CASEY J. GALLIGAN
ANDREW A. GALLO
MICHAEL R. GARRY
JOSHUA M. GASPARD
MICHAEL E. GATES
RICHARD B. GEBHARDT
SHAWN H. GEIB
JONATHON M. GENGE
STEPHEN R. GIBBS
BRIAN D. GILBERT
JARROD J. H. GILLAM
ANTHONY W. GORE
LAWERENCE L. GRANT
ROBERT L. GREEN
WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH IV
JOHN R. B. GUNTER
DAVID W. GUNTHER
NATHAN A. GUTHRIE
RYAN A. GUTHRIE
MICHAEL B. HALE
MARK D. HALL
THOMAS J. HANIFEN
TIMOTHY J. HANLEY
JAMES C. HARBRIDGE
ADAM W. HARLESS
JOSEPH G. HAROSKY
JUSTIN D. HARPER
PAUL G. HARRELL
WILLIAM B. HARRINGTON
PAUL D. HARRISON
JONATHAN T. HARTSOCK
KEITH A. HASKIN
ANDREW M. HENNING
DAVID F. HENNING, JR.
KYLE D. HENSON
MICHAEL S. HEQUEMBOURG
JOHNATHAN W. HESTER
LAWRENCE A. M. HICKS
RICHARD S. HILDEN
TERRY N. HILDERBRAND, JR.
TERRY L. HILT
WESLEY H. HIRAOKA
DAVID J. HODGES
JOSEPH E. HOFFMAN
DAVID T. HOLSTEAD
CHRISTOPHER T. HORMEL
SCOTT W. HORRIGAN
JAMES C. HOWELL
SEAN K. HUBBARD
DAVID M. HUDSON
JUSTIN D. HUFNAGEL
BRIAN M. HUMMEL
MARCUS S. HUNTER
GALEN L. HUSS
THOMAS L. HUSSEY
JEFFREY W. IRVING
ERICA D. JACKSON
JONATHAN B. JACKSON
KEITH L. JACOBS
BENJAMIN D. JAHN
KEVIN L. JAMES
WILLIAM F. JENNINGS
DEREK E. JOHNSON
JESSE R. JOHNSON
STEPHEN M. JOHNSON
TIMOTHY C. JOHNSON
JONATHAN J. JOHNSTON
JAMON K. JUNIUS
STEVEN L. KANE
LOUIS M. KANGAS
AARON J. KAUFMAN
JANETTE L. KAUTZMAN
ALLEN L. KEHOE
ANTHONY A. KELLER
TIMOTHY P. KELLY
EDWARD E. KENNEDY
KEVIN R. KILBRIDE
THOMAS J. KILBRIDE
RUSTIE W. KIM
JASON A. KING
DONALD L. KINGSTON, JR.
JONATHAN E. KLINK
CHARLES M. KNOLL
RYAN F. KOVARIK
FRANK K. KRAMMER, JR.
STEVEN L. KREH
CALVIN A. KROEGER
WILLIAM A. KRON
MATTHEW M. KUHN
DANIEL J. LAFOUNTAIN
CHRISTOPHER C. LANE
MICHAEL LANZAFAMA
JAMIE R. LAVALLEY
DOUGLAS A. LAXSON
TRI D. LE
CEDRIC G. LEE
CHONG Y. LEE
MATTHEW D. R. LEE
MARK A. LEGASPI
LEVIAS L. LEWIS
SAMUEL E. LINN
JEREMY F. LINNEY
RYAN D. LONG
CLIFTON J. LOPEZ III
JAY T. LUCKRITZ
KEITH P. MADERE
COLIN P. MAHLE
PATRICK J. MALONE
LISA R. MANN
TIMOTHY B. MANTON
NED B. MARSH
JONATHAN R. MARTIN
DOUGLAS A. MASSIE
RODRIC M. MCCLAIN
MARK R. MCCLELLAN
JESS MCCONNELL
RODNEY D. MCCUTCHEON
ARTHUR L. MCGRUE III
ALISSA A. MCKAIG
IAN J. MCKENNA
ERIC D. MCKINNEY
GREGORY W. MCLEAN
JOHN H. MCNAMARA
TIMOTHY P. MEADORS
JORGE J. MENDOZA
GABRIEL M. MESA
MATTHEW C. MILETICH
JOEL MILLAN
JOHN P. MILLER III
MARY K. MILLER
RICHARD A. MILLER
ERIC S. MINOR
AARON J. MOCK
JAMES M. MODLIN, JR.
TRAVIS F. MOLLIERE
DARREN R. MONIOT
BRIAN J. MOORE
ERICK J. MORALES
PAUL W. MORESHEAD
BRAD A. MORGAN
JAYSON B. MORGAN
CHRISTOPHER J. MORRIS
SEAN M. MORROW
CHRISTOPHER T. MORTON
DUANE L. MOSIER
BRIAN G. MULHERN
PHILIP J. MUNDWEIL
MICHAEL D. NELSON
JACE R. NEUENSCHWANDER
ROBERT J. NEWBAUER
KENNETH E. NIELSEN II
JEFFREY D. NOLL
WILLIAM F. NORDAI
PETER J. NORRIS
ERIC W. NYLANDER
MARK J. OBRIEN
ERIK C. OKSENVAAG
BRANDON L. OLIVEIRA
ANDREW L. OLSON
EDGAR J. OTALORA
ELIAS D. OTOSHI
JUSTIN R. PABIS
NATHAN A. PALISCA
BRADLY S. PARKER
MATTHEW L. PARKER
BRANDON W. PARRISH
ERIC A. PARTHEMORE
JATHAN R. PAYNE
KEVIN M. PELLEY
ALEXIS PEREZCRUZ
ERIK S. PETERSON
HIEU T. PHAM
DUSTIN E. PHILLIPS
KENNETH J. PHILLIPS
NICHOLAS J. PLOETZ
STEPHEN D. POE
TODD F. POLK
JEFFREY D. PORTER
GREGORY J. POVENSKI
DAVID W. PRESTON
ERIC R. PRIBYLA
JAMES D. PRITCHETT
THOMAS T. PUTNAM
JAMES A. RAINES, JR.
ANDREA RANDLE
JASON S. RAUB

DANIEL L. RAUSCH
THEODORE P. REAM
GERALD J. REBESCHINI
JENNIFER D. REED
ARLO J. REESE
SEAN M. REESE
GLEN D. RENFREE
JEFFREY P. RHODES
CHRISTOPHER J. RICCI
CHRISTOPHER O. ROBERTS
STEVEN G. ROBINS
GUYTON L. ROBINSON
MICHAEL R. RODICK
WILLIE RODNEY
ROBERT R. RODOCK
SONNY T. ROSALES
JEFFREY R. ROSENBERG
ANNMARIE D. RUPPERT
STEVEN G. RUSH
ARAYA S. RUTNARAK
JOSEPH W. RUZICKA
KATHRYN P. SANBORN
MARC J. SANBORN
KEITH P. SANDOVAL
JOHANNIE SANMIGUEL
DAVID A. SARRETTE, JR.
CHARCILLEA A. SCHAEFER
MATTHEW J. SCHER
MARTIN D. SCHMIDT
EDWARD B. SCHOENHEIT
STEVEN J. SCHULDT
JAMES D. SCOTT
JOSEPH C. SCOTT
JAMES H. SCULLION
JOSHUA T. SEVERS
MATTHEW D. SHAW
JAMES D. SHEFFIELD
WILLIAM H. SHOEMATE II
DOUGLAS S. SIMMONS
MARNY SKINDRUD
LAURA J. SKINNER
DAVID K. SMITH
STEPHEN T. SMITH
STEPHEN P. SNYDER
HUGH E. SOLLOM
ROBERTO C. SOLORZANO
JEFFREY J. F. SOUTER
DARREN T. SPEARS
JONATHAN C. STAFFORD
ANDREW D. STAPLES
MICHAEL H. STARZ
SHAWN P. STEELE
DAVID J. STEWART
WINCHESTER A. STIENS
KEVIN P. STONEROOK
IVEN T. SUGAI
EDWARD T. SULLIVAN
MARSHALL S. SYBERT
NATHANAEL S. TAGG
JOSHUA A. TAYLOR
MICHAEL D. TEAGUE
RICHARD P. TETA
STEPHEN P. THIBODEAU
JOSEPH F. THOMAS
ANTHONY M. THOMPSON
JARED A. THOMPSON
MICHAEL B. THROCKMORTON
TRAVIS S. TILMAN
LAZANDER C. TOMLINSON
PATRICK R. TOOHEY
BRENDAN P. TOOLAN
JASON A. TOTH
RICHARD A. TOWNER
BRIAN J. TRITTEN
VICTOR E. TRUJILLO II
TIMOTHY A. TRYON
RICARDO A. TURNER
KYLE L. UPSHAW
JEREMY J. USSERY
DAVID A. UTHLAUT
MARCUS R. VARTAN
SETH W. VIEUX
CHRISTOPHER J. VITALE
TREVOR S. VOELKEL
MARK J. WADE
ANDREW J. WAGNER
RUSSELL O. WAGNER
MATTHEW A. WALKER
BRENNAN V. WALLACE
LEE S. WALLACE
STEVEN S. WALLACE
CHADRICK K. WALLEY
GREGORY A. WALLSTEN
SHERMAN C. WATSON
JASON R. WAYNE
MARTIN E. WEAVER
CHRISTOPHER P. WELLMAN
DANIEL E. WELSH
ROBERT J. WEST
AMY M. WHEELER
GRAHAM R. WHITE
REGINALD D. WHITE
NATHAN S. WHITFIELD
ANDREW J. WHITFORD
NATHAN A. WHITLOCK
ANDREW J. WILBRAHAM
AARON M. WILLIAMS
REGINALD E. WILLIAMS, JR.
DAVID R. WILSON
JARED P. WILSON
NATHANIEL B. WILSON
BARRY WINNEGAN
PAUL W. WITKOWSKI
CARL H. WOHLFEIL
MATTHEW S. WOLFE
RICHARD S. WOOLSHLAGER
RYAN K. WORKMAN
GLEN A. WRIGHT
TIMOTHY F. WRIGHT
PAUL M. WUENSCH
LUCAS J. YOHO
ALEXANDER L. YOUNG
SALVADOR M. ZUNIGA
D003125
D004327
D010376
D010394
D010456
D010545
D010570
D010575
D010805
D010826
D011529
D011535
D012181
D012498
D012722
D012779
D012798
D012836
D012873
D012895
D012923

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CARL J. WOJTASZEK

THE FOLLOWING OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

G010339

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. IZZO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

JOSHUA R. POUNDERS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSEPH F. ABRUTZ III
ALDEN Y. ARGANTE
COLBY T. BACON
BERRY T. BROWN
SAMUEL BRYANT
JEREMY K. CARROLL
ANDREW G. CATOIRE
JEREMIAH M. CHASE
BRIAN J. DAVIS
CAMERON D. DENNIS
JAMES A. DIPASQUALE
TREY J. DITTBERNER
KEVIN J. FULLER
EDWARD J. GREWAY, JR.
THOMAS D. GROARK
BRENT J. HOLLOWAY
WILLIAM B. HOWARD
GUILLERMO H. HOWELL
JUAN J. HUIZAR
MATTHEW K. JACOBSON
KYLE W. KILLINGBECK
TONY T. G. LE
MYRON E. LIND
MICHAEL R. MALIN
DAXTON H. MOORE
GARRETT T. MOORE
DANIEL T. OLSON
MATTHEW D. OWENS
TIMOTHY W. ROE
JASON L. ROGERS
JORGE E. ROLDAN
PETER C. SCHUNK
JOHN H. SEEBODE
JEREMIAH S. SHUMWAY
NICHOLAS E. SWANDA
ABDOULAYE SYLLA
JAMES E. TROGDEN III
MICHAEL P. WOLCHKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DAVID H. MCALISTER

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

EMILY M. SCOTT, OF WYOMING

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 28, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERTA S. JACOBSON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK A. BAIRD

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS F. SPENCER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. GREGORY S. CHAMPAGNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MARSHALL B. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL J. SWAIN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES J. KEEFE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANDREA D. TULLOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRADLEY C. SALTZMAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANDREW E. SALAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. CRAIG D. WILLS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. TAMHRA L. HUTCHINS–FRYE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM J. PRENDERGAST IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM P. BARRIAGE
BRIG. GEN. PETER A. BOSSE
BRIG. GEN. TROY D. KOK
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM S. LEE

To be brigadier general

COL. MARILYN S. CHIAFULLO
COL. ALEX B. FINK
COL. JOHN B. HASHEM
COL. SUSAN E. HENDERSON
COL. ANDREW J. JUKNELIS
COL. JEFFREY W. JURASEK
COL. DEBORAH L. KOTULICH
COL. JOHN H. PHILLIPS
COL. STEPHEN T. SAUTER
COL. STEPHEN E. STRAND

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) PAUL J. VERRASTRO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) TIMOTHY J. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) KYLE J. COZAD
REAR ADM. (LH) LISA M. FRANCHETTI
REAR ADM. (LH) ROY J. KELLEY
REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID M. KRIETE
REAR ADM. (LH) BRUCE H. LINDSEY
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES T. LOEBLEIN
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM R. MERZ
REAR ADM. (LH) DEE L. MEWBOURNE
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL T. MORAN
REAR ADM. (LH) STUART B. MUNSCH
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) TIMOTHY G. SZYMANSKI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. VINCENT K. BROOKS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRADLEY A. HEITHOLD

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LEON S. RICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. LORI J. ROBINSON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN M. TWITTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN G. ROSSI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ROBERT B. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH D. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ARLAN M. DEBLIECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. RODNEY L. FAULK

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARTIN T. MITCHELL, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAURA S. BARCHICK AND ENDING WITH KEVIN J. WILKINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHELLE D. AASTROM AND ENDING WITH CYNTHIA J. WEIDMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAIRD S. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER J. ZUHLKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALBERT E. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JONATHAN M. LETSINGER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LLOYD TRAVIS A. ARNOLD AND ENDING WITH KONSTANTINA ZUBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KRISTIE L. PARTIN, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF AIMEE D. SAFFORD, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TRACEY A. GOSSER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TODD R. HOWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LARSS G. CELTNIEKS AND ENDING WITH PAULETTE V. BURTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC DANKO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN N. CAROZZA AND ENDING WITH NOAH C. CLOUD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RAMIT RING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY E. ANDERSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRUCE H. ROBINSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW B. BOOTH AND ENDING WITH DONALD W. MOYER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. CRONYN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DARRELL W. COLLINS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEVON D. NUDELMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALVIN C. THOMAS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN G. CRUYS AND ENDING WITH GREGORY J. LONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD S. BARNETT AND ENDING WITH LYNN J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY G. BONNER AND ENDING WITH JAMES S. WELCH, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRYSTAL D. BEAN AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE A. BARBEE AND ENDING WITH D013078, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GABRIELLE M. ANDREANIFABRONI AND ENDING WITH YOUNG J. YAUGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TERRYL L. AITKEN AND ENDING WITH D010908, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TRAVIS H. OWEN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA T. ADE AND ENDING WITH D012875, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY R. TEAGUE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC E. HALSTROM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN D. BOBO AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY D. FOURNIER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 7, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNIS N. SNELLING, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KODJO S. KNOXLIMBACKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LORI R. SCHANHALS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DREW R. CONOVER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRADLEY D. OSTERMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCISCO J. LOPEZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY D. AIKEN AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. WEAKLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEORGE A. ROLLINS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MCARTHUR WALKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY D. COVINGTON AND ENDING WITH ERIC A. KENNEDY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 14, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NILSON OROZCOOVIEDO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PIERRE E. SAINTFLEUR, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN A. YUKICA, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATRIX W. ELIAS AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS J. TAZZA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 28, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN D. HENNESSY, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD C. KING, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE M. SIMONI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. SHAFER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JUSTIN K. CONROY AND ENDING WITH REBECCA L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 17, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRICE A. GOODWIN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. HAMER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT F. GRUWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SHANNON D. LORIMER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIELLE M. BARNES AND ENDING WITH MARK R. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 5, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM A. HLAVIN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PHILLIP G. CYR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD E. SPEIGHTS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LUIS A. BENCOMO, TO BE COMMANDER.