Whereas the Governments of the United States and Mexico engage in bilateral cooperation on a broad range of issues that directly benefit each country’s national security and economic well-being;

Whereas the United States and Mexico enjoy close diplomatic cooperation and Mexico has consistently voted with the United States in the United Nations on initiatives related to Syria, North Korea, and Ukraine, as well as at the Organization of American States on issues related to Venezuela;

Whereas Mexico is an important security and defense partner to the United States, and regularly participates in training activities in coordination with United States Northrop Command (NORTHCOM) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD);

Whereas consecutive United States and Mexican administrations have increased bilateral defense and law enforcement cooperation on counterterrorism and counter narcotics issues, including the illicit trafficking of weapons, money, people, and drugs across the United States Southern Border;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has utilized its military and Federal Police to combat the transnational criminal organizations by deploying military personnel as a direct response to violence against the Mexican people and trafficked an immeasurable quantity of illegal drugs and money to the United States that have been the lives of far too many Americans;

Whereas the administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto has extradited more than 270 individuals facing criminal charges to the United States, including Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzman on January 19, 2017;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has initiated an effort to reduce the growing domestic production of heroin through the eradication of poppy and destruction of labs used to make heroin;

Whereas Mexico has sought to improve anti-corruption efforts at the local, State, and Federal level by adopting a national anticorruption system and starting a transition from a presidentially appointed attorney general’s office to a more independent prosecutor general’s office selected by the Mexican Senate;

Whereas, through the Merida Initiative, which was launched in 2008, the Governments of the United States and Mexico have collaborated to combat organized crime, strengthen Mexican law, advance democratic reform, and address challenges to human rights in Mexico, including the involvement of security forces in extrajudicial killings of civilians, disappearances of more than 23,000 individuals, and the unresolved forced disappearance of 43 students in Guerrero State in 2014;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Mexico collaborate on a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the bilateral commercial and economic relationship, including High-Level Economic Dialogue, launched in 2013 to bring together cabinet officials from both countries to promote economic growth, job creation, a modern and efficient border, and competitiveness;

Whereas the United States and Mexico conducted $838,600,000,000 in trade in goods and services, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative;

Whereas Mexico is the United States’ second largest export market and third largest trading partner;

Whereas trade with Mexico and Canada supports nearly 14,000,000 United States jobs; and

Whereas United States and Mexican citizens collaborate on a broad range of initiatives to foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and educational exchanges; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strategic partnership between the United States and Mexico, which is vital for the national security and economic well-being of both nations;

(2) supports continued diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the United States and Mexico, including undertaking joint efforts to address the common security challenges and opportunities for improved commerce that exist across their nearly 2,000 mile border;

(3) encourages enhanced security cooperation between the United States and Mexican governments and law enforcement agencies to address common challenges such as counter-terrorism and counternarcotics, including the increased trafficking of heroin and fentanyl;

(4) commits to continue the United States Government’s partnership with the Government of Mexico to combat the transnational criminal organizations that are undermining the rule of law in Mexico and projecting their influence in the form of illicit trafficking of weapons, money, people, and drugs across the United States-Mexico border;

(5) supports efforts by the Government of Mexico to strengthen the rule of law, reduce corruption, and advance civil and human rights; and

(6) remains committed to a relationship between the United States and Mexico that is based on mutual respect and the promotion of shared democratic values and principles.

SENATE Resolution 103—Designating March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”

Mr. Burr (for himself and Mr. Manchin) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 103

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from 1955 to 1975 and involved regular forces from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the United States Armed Forces, the armed forces of allies of the United States, and the armed forces of several South-East Asian countries;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct support to the armed forces of South Vietnam and protect the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to defend against the growing threat of Communism from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of South Vietnam in 1955; and

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress in 1964, enacted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88–408) on August 7, 1964, which provided the President of the United States with authority to use armed forces to assist the Republic of Vietnam in the defense of its freedom against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; and

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control; and

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded in Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam; whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue for the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of those veterans;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully in Vietnam and who died in service to their country during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the decisions of policymakers that were beyond the control of those members of the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”; and

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of individuals who served in the Vietnam War;

(3) encourages States and local governments to designate March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that:

(A) provide the appreciation that veterans of the Vietnam War deserve;

(B) demonstrate the resolve that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices and service of a generation of veterans who served in the Vietnam War;

(C) promote awareness of the important contribution and service of the veterans of the Vietnam War;

(D) provide meaningful recognition and service in the United States Armed Forces; and

(E) promote opportunities for veterans of the Vietnam War—
(i) to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in re-
habilitation from wounds, both seen and un-
seen; and
(ii) to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 204. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 353, to improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s weather research through a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observ-
tional, computing, and modeling capa-
tibilities to support substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, to expand commercial opportu-
nities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes.

SA 205. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to amend-
ment SA 204 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) to the bill H.R. 353, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 204. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 353, to improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s weather research through a fo-
cused program of investment on afford-
able and attainable advances in observ-
vational, computing, and modeling ca-
tibilities to support substantial im-
provement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, to expand commercial opportu-
nities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes; as fol-
 lows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and in-
sert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Weather Research and Forecasting In-
novation Act of 2017.”

(b) Jointly Submitted.—The table of con-
 tents for this Act is as follows:

| Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents. |
| Sec. 2. Definitions. |
| Sec. 101. Public safety priority. |
| Sec. 102. Weather research and forecasting innovation. |
| Sec. 103. Tornado warning improvement and extension program. |
| Sec. 104. Hurricane forecast improvement program. |
| Sec. 105. Weather research and development planning. |
| Sec. 106. Observing system planning. |
| Sec. 107. Observing system simulation experiments. |
| Sec. 108. Annual report on computing resource prioritization. |
| Sec. 109. United States Weather Research program. |
| Sec. 110. Authorization of appropriations. |
| Sec. 101. Public safety priority. |
| Sec. 102. Weather research and forecasting innovation. |
| Sec. 103. Tornado warning improvement and seasonal forecasts. |
| Sec. 104. Hurricane forecast improvement program. |
| Sec. 105. Weather research and development planning. |
| Sec. 106. Observing system planning. |
| Sec. 107. Observing system simulation experiments. |
| Sec. 108. Annual report on computing resource prioritization. |
| Sec. 109. United States Weather Research program. |
| Sec. 110. Authorization of appropriations. |

TITLE I—UNITED STATES WEATHER RE-
SEARCH AND FORECASTING IMPRO-
VEMENT

Sec. 101. Public safety priority.

In conducting research, the Under Sec-
retary shall prioritize improving weather data, modeling, computing, forecasting, and warning for the protection of life and prop-
erty and for the enhancement of the national economy.

Sec. 102. WEATHER RESEARCH AND FOR-
EASTING INNOVATION.

(a) Program.—The Assistant Admin-
istrator for the Office of Oceanic and Atmo-
ospheric Research shall conduct a program to de-
velop improved understanding of and fore-
cast capabilities for atmospheric events and their impacts, placing priority on developing more accurate, timely, and effective warn-
ings and forecast products for high impact weather events that endanger life and property.

(b) Program Elements.—The program de-
scribed in subsection (a) shall focus on the following areas:

(1) Improving the fundamental under-
standing of weather consistent with section

101, including the boundary layer and other processes affecting high impact weather events.

(2) Improving the understanding of how the public receives, interprets, and responds to warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and prop-
erty.

(3) Research and development, and transfer of knowledge, technologies, and applications to the National Weather Service and other appropriate agencies and entities, including the United States weather industry and aca-
demic partners, related to—

(A) advanced radar, radar networking tech-
nologies, and other technologies, including those emphasizing rapid, fine-scale sensing of the boundary layer and lower troposphere, and the use of innovative, decadalization, precipitation, and radiative models;

(B) aerial weather observing systems;

(C) high performance computing and in-
formation technology and wireless communica-
tion networks;

(D) advanced numerical weather prediction systems and forecasting tools and techniques that improve the forecasting of timing, track, intensity, and severity of high impact weather, including through—

(i) the development of more effective mesoscale models;

(ii) more effective use of existing, and the development of new, regional and national cloud-resolving models;

(iii) enhanced global weather models; and

(iv) integrated assessment models;

(E) quantitative assessment tools for mea-
suring the impact and value of data and ob-
server systems, including Observing System Simulation Experiments (as described in sec-
tion 107), Observing System Experiments, and Analyses of Alternatives;

(F) atmospheric chemistry and inter-
actions essential to accurately character-
izing atmospheric composition and pre-
dicting meteorological processes, including cloud microphysical, precipitation, and at-
mospheric electrification processes, to more effectively understand their role in severe weather; and

(G) additional sources of weather data and information, including commercial observing systems.

(4) A technology transfer initiative, carried out jointly and in coordination with the Di-
rector of the National Weather Service, and in cooperation with the United States weath-
er industry and academic partners, to ensure that the development and transition of the latest scientific and technological ad-
vances into operations of the National Weather Service and to establish a process to sunset outdated and expensive operational methods and tools to enable cost-effective transfer of new methods and tools into opera-
tions.

(c) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH.—

(1) In general.—In carrying out the pro-
gram under this section, the Assistant Ad-
ministrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Re-
search shall collaborate with and support the non-Federal weather research community, which includes institutions of higher edu-
cation, private entities, and nongovern-
ment organizations, by making funds available through competitive grants, con-
tacts, and cooperative agreements.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that not less than 30 percent of the funds for weather research and development at the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research should be made available for the pur-
puses described in paragraph (1).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year, concur-
rent with the annual budget request sub-
mitted by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric