The Senate met at 4 p.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.
Eternal Lord God, we bless Your Holy Name. Provide our lawmakers with the wisdom to obey You completely and receive Your guidance. May Your guiding presence inspire them so that they can find, even in troubles, opportunities for joy.

Lord, remind them of the blessings that come from being challenged, as they learn from experience that the things that test them produce endurance. When their endurance is fully developed, give them the satisfaction of possessing such integrity that their faith will not shrink, though pressed by many foes.

Lord, help our Senators to seek You repeatedly each day with their prayers, fully expecting You to answer their intercession and direct their lives.

We pray in Your mighty 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Ernst). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Gingrich nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Holy See.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

If no one yields time, the time will be equally divided.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as I discussed with the President and the Vice President at our working lunch today, the Senate has a full schedule of important work ahead of us.

The Senate’s fall agenda includes confirming more nominees to the judiciary, administration, and other important positions. Later today we will resume consideration of another nominee, Callista Gingrich, who has been nominated to serve as our Ambassador to the Vatican. That agenda includes providing continued assistance to communities affected by the recent hurricanes, and we will process the President’s supplemental funding request to do just that. The Senate’s agenda also includes completing work on the budget resolution and advancing tax reform—two things that are critical to helping our economy finally realize its true potential after the stagnation of the last decade.

This budget will be the next step to spurring growth in our economy. It provides a pathway to balance, it reins in Federal spending, and it honors our commitments to Social Security and provides for the national defense.

In addition to these important aspects of this budget, it will also provide the legislative tools to advance tax reform. As I have said before, tax reform is the single most important thing we can do today to get our economy moving again.

We think taxes should be lower, simpler, and fairer for middle-class workers so that Americans can keep more of their own hard-earned money in their paychecks. We think taxes should be reformed to end the perverse incentives that help keep American jobs and profits offshore and so it is easier to make and keep American jobs where they belong—right here at home.

We think it is time to take more money out of Washington’s pockets and put more money in the pockets of the American middle class. That is why we know it is time for tax reform.

The tax reform goals I just mentioned are shared by many, including the President, his team, Chairman ORIN HATCH, and Chairman MIKE ENZI. As I said, to get there, we first need to pass the budget before us. I want to thank Chairman Enzi and the members of the Senate Budget Committee for all of their work in getting us to this point. As we advance that budget on the Senate floor this week, Senators on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer their input.

I look forward to putting our finances on a better path with this budget, just as I look forward to continuing with the other important initiatives on the Senate’s fall agenda.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, on the issue of healthcare, last week, President Trump committed two
acts of pointless sabotage of our Na-
tion's healthcare system. He signed an
Executive order that would give insur-
ers more latitude to sell temporary,
junk plans that are not only incredibly
risky to the consumer but undermine
the very beliefs the healthcare market by
drawing health Americans out the
pool. Even worse, President Trump de-
cided to stop the cost-sharing program,
which reduces premiums, deductibles,
and copays for 7 million Americans a
year. There is literally no upside to the
President's decision to end the cost-
sharing program.

Because of the President's actions,
premiums will go up between 20 and 25
percent, according to the CBO. Just
today in Pennsylvania, we saw pre-
miums rise by 30 percent as a direct re-
sult of the President's actions. Deductibles and out-of-pocket costs will
go up by thousands of dollars. Deficits will rise by $194 billion because the
government will have to pay more in
subsidies to help those who are left up
for the cost-sharing program, and the
marketplaces will become less stable be-
cause more people will go uninsured.

The Republican Governor of Nevada,
Brian Sandoval, may have said it best:
"It's going to hurt people. It’s going to hurt families. It’s going to hurt individu-
als. It’s going to hurt people with mental health issues. It’s going to hurt veterans. It’s going to hurt everybody."

That is from Republican Governor
Brian Sandoval.

Another point that the President
should hear is that nearly 70 percent of
the Americans who benefit from these
cost-sharing payments live in States
that Donald Trump won in the elec-
tion.

Make no mistake about it—the Presi-
dent is deliberately undermining our
healthcare system with these two ac-
tions. When premiums go up because of
this action, the blame will fall on his
shoulders.

There is a way out. The way out of
all of this is for Congress to aggres-
sively pursue a bipartisan healthcare
bill that will take cost-sharing out of
the President's hands by locking in the
payments. For many months, Demo-
crats have been pushing to stabilize the
markets and to work toward a bipar-
tisan agreement that would keep pre-
miums down for millions of Americans.

Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY have
been asking for this for a long time. We
hope that our colleagues on the other
side of the aisle, in their realizing the
damage the President has done, will
join us in strengthening, not in sabo-
taging, the healthcare system.

President Trump, now a word on the
Republican tax plan.

This week, the Republican majority
will likely move to pass a budget reso-
lution that includes reconciliation in-
structions to increase the deficit by
$1.5 trillion. Amazingly, it also in-
cludes a total of $1.5 trillion in cuts to
Medicare and Medicaid. Cutting taxes on
the wealthy to be paid for by cut-
ning Medicare and Medicaid? How
many Americans want that—Democ-
rat, Republican, Independent, liberal,
conservative? The GOP budget makes
it as clear as day that the Republicans
will try to pay for a massive tax cut for
the wealthy by cutting Medicare and
Medicaid. It is the same formula they
used directly to help the middle class
by cutting healthcare to pay for tax cuts for the rich. The American people rose up
against that plan, and it failed. This
plan should fail for the same exact rea-
sons.

Now the White House is out with a
new report today, which reads that a
 giant tax cut for big corporations will
increase wages for middle-class Ameri-
cans. President Trump complains about fake news. Well, this is fake
news, as the White House has waved
away the so-called fake news the President has complained about. This is a deliberate
manipulation of numbers and facts that,
quite frankly, is appalling. His-
tory shows that tax cuts like these
benefit the wealthy and the powerful to
the exclusion of the middle class. His-
tory shows that corporations will use
tax cuts for CEO bonuses, stock
buybacks, and dividends rather than
for increasing worker pay or creating
new jobs.

In fact, none other than Goldman
Sachs concluded that shareholders, not
workers, "typically get most of the
benefits of tax cuts.” This is not a lib-
eral think tank or CHUCK SCHUMER
talking; this is Goldman Sachs, which
represents shareholders—a lot of them.
The two authors of this plan, Gary
Cohn and Steve Mnuchin, who are from
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"tive that companies already have the
cash reserves but do not use them to
boost wages.

To assert the opposite, which is that
giving corporations and the wealthy a
tax cut leads to higher middle-class
wages, belies the facts and the history,
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it as clear as day that the Republicans
will try to pay for a massive tax cut for
the wealthy by cutting Medicare and
Medicaid. It is the same formula they
used directly to help the middle class,
but the Republican tax plan slashes a key middle-class deduction in
the form of the State and local deduct-
ability.

Now let's talk about Vice President
PENCE. He is visiting Buffalo, NY—a
city I love in my home State. Since
Vice President PENCE is traveling to
Buffalo, I thought that I would share
some numbers about how the elimi-
nation of the State and local deduction
affects Western New York.

In Representative COLLINS’ district,
which stretches from East Buffalo to-
ward Rochester, 29 percent of the resi-
dents claim the State and local deduc-
tion. They get an average deduction of
$12,125. In Representative REED’s dis-
trict, which is in the heart of Buffalo,
27 percent of the residents claim the
State and local deduction, with an
average deduction of $12,083. In Rep-
resentative RIEDEL’s district, which is
on the South and East side of Buffalo,
11 percent of the residents claim the
State and local deduction, with an aver-
age deduction of $11,716. Their constituents get clobbered, as do just about all New
Yorkers and so many in the rest of the
country, when you eliminate the State
and local deductibility. It affects the
middle class and the upper class. The
State and local deduction elimination
is a dagger to the heart, not just to
Buffalo but to Rochester, Syracuse, Al-
bany and all of Upstate New York.

Will Vice President PENCE have the
courage to answer questions about this
deduction elimination? Will he tell
middle-class New Yorkers that they
are going to get a huge tax increase
under this bill? When the Vice Presi-
dent arrives in Buffalo tomorrow, I
hope he is prepared to explain why he
wants to hike taxes on thousands of
middle-class families in the Buffalo
area, in the Rochester area, in the Syr-
acuse area, and in the Albany area.

Eliminating the State and local de-
duction hurts the middle class, and it
hammers the New York economy. Busi-
nesses, if they do not have this State
and local deduction, are not likely to relocate in Buffalo or Rochester or Syracuse or Albany. It also hurts homeowners. Make no mistake about it—if we get rid of the State and local deduction, the values of homes will go down. That is why the retailers are so opposed to this elimination. It is not just true in New York or in California or in Connecticut or in New Jersey; it is true across the whole country.

As for my dear friend and chairman of the Appropriations Committee of Utah, because of the great charity of his people—and so many tithe—35 percent of the taxpayers will get a huge, huge increase in their taxes with the elimination of State and local deductibility. So many of them do not use the standard deduction because they are so charitable, but they are penalized for that charity.

Eliminating the State and local deduction, while slashing taxes for the wealthy and huge corporations, will hurt middle-class taxpayers. Now there are some efforts to compromise State and local deductibility. They don't work. Some have proposed letting taxpayers make a choice between getting rid of the mortgage deduction and getting rid of the State and local deduction. That is like saying: Should I chop off my left hand or my right hand, Mr. Middle-Class Taxpayer?

Others have said: Let's limit it to people who earn below $100,000. That still leaves lots of people at risk, particularly in high-priced areas like Long Island, and it doesn't reduce the deficit by much. It is estimated that a large percentage of the deficit will still go up.

It makes no sense to eliminate State and local deductibility. Vice President Pence ought to go to western New York, but instead of going just to a small business—and we want to lower small business taxes—and we want to lower the corporate tax rate, he should also go to a middle-class family in Amherst or in Orchard Park or Tonawanda and tell them that he is there to raise their taxes.

NOMINATION OF TOM MARINO

Madam President, I want to address the President's nominee to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Representative MARINO.

An article in yesterday’s Washington Post described Representative MARINO's advocacy for a law that may have prevented the DEA from freezing suspicious narcotic shipments. Confirming Representative MARINO as our Nation's drug czar would be like putting a wolf in charge of the henhouse.

The American people deserve someone totally committed to fighting the opioid crisis, not someone who has labored on behalf of the drug industry. So tonight I am calling on President Trump to withdraw the nomination of Representative MARINO for the ONDCP. We can do better. Senator MANCHIN has made such a call, and he is right. President Trump ought to withdraw Representative MARINO's nomination.

If the President presses forward with Representative MARINO, it will be another betrayal in a long line of betrayals on issues near and dear to rural America. The President's healthcare proposals—working with Congress to keep the heart of rural America, decimating Medicaid and rural hospitals. The President's tax plan lavishes the wealthy and the big corporations but does little for the working man or woman in rural America. President Trump promised several months ago to label the opioid crisis a national emergency, yet he still hasn't done it. He said this afternoon that he will finally do it next week. We will see.

By now, the idea that the President is sticking up for the forgotten man and woman in the forgotten parts of rural America should be dismissed. President Trump seems to have forgotten the forgotten parts of America, and his lack of action—we don't need talk; we need action—on the opioid crisis and his nomination of Representative MARINO is just another example.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE

Madam President, over the weekend, several parts of California were swept by some of the most devastating wildfires the region has seen. At least 40 people have died, thousands of homes and businesses have been utterly destroyed, and at one point over 100,000 people were evacuated. As Governor Jerry Brown said, "This is truly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, tragedies that California has ever faced."

Our thoughts are with everyone affected by these wildfires. We are enduringly grateful for the firefighters and all our first responders. Our response here in the Senate must be to send aid where aid is needed.

For our country, this has been a devastating few months of fires and floods. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma buffeted Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are contending with a humanitarian crisis on an unprecedented scale in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Our job is to speedily send aid, and I am hopeful that we can pass another supplemental aid package this week as well as another more comprehensive package later in the year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

TAX REFORM AND THE BUDGET

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, today I want to talk to you about time and how little of it we have to accomplish incredibly important legislative priorities, one that is national in scope and potentially historic in impact. The first of those priorities is tax reform. We have a target date on the calendar, and now the clock is ticking. We have to get to work.

The budget resolution that we will consider this week sets November 13 as our deadline for the Finance Committee to report a bill, and of course the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator Hatch, is on the floor, and that is a commitment I know he takes very seriously.

This bill, I hope, will broadly cut taxes on individuals and businesses alike and put more money in the pockets of the hard-working families across the country. What I like most about the plan I have seen so far is that it is bold. We are not trimming a little here and a tiny bit there. We are slashing rates, consolidating brackets, and eliminating the alternative minimum tax. This is not JV tax reform. This is tax reform that is serious and based upon our commitment to get the economy growing again.

Two weeks ago, the House approved its version of the resolution, and the Senate Budget Committee reported out its version. Now the Senate will consider the committee's resolution in the coming days. Why do we need that budget resolution? How is this all going to work?

Well, these resolutions from each Chamber are the first step in passing pro-growth tax reform. They authorize the use of a tool called budget reconciliation. That means when the tax reform legislation is considered, it can't be stopped by less than a majority of the Senate. Of course, this isn't our first choice.

I wish our colleagues across the aisle, our Democratic friends, would join us in passing tax reform, but that is not the case. The budget resolution in the Senate is a must because this is something we can hold in reserve if our friends across the aisle simply refuse to participate in the process of pro-growth tax reform. It is a key procedural step because we have fundamental changes to the Tax Code before the end of the year.

How well our economy does next year, how many jobs are created, and how much investment occurs here in the United States will depend largely upon our success in passing pro-growth tax reform this year. The clock is ticking, and we have to act with dispatch and with determination.

I yield back the balance of my time.
As the President said last week in Pennsylvania, “we want lower taxes, bigger paychecks, and more jobs for . . . American workers.” He is absolutely right. Lower taxes, bigger paychecks, and more jobs are the things we all ought to want, and they are worth the fight.

Under this administration we are already seeing results. The economy is bouncing back. Unemployment is at a 16-year low. Wages are rising and the stock market is soaring. The slumbering giant, which is the U.S. economy, is now slowly awakening. Our economy reached more than 3.1 percent growth last quarter. Confidence, as the President stressed in Pennsylvania, is back when it comes to our economy and our future, but that confidence will not last long if we let this opportunity pass.

We have to find ways to get companies to stay in America, to expand, and to hire in America. We have to find ways to take the money out of Washington’s pocket and put it back into the pockets of those who earned the money in the first place—American families.

We have to find ways to simplify the Tax Code, which, let’s remember, hits families multiple times each year by taking their earnings, by stealing their time through compliance, and by trying their patience with complexity. Each tax return feels like three.

I find it appalling that a majority of taxpayers are forced to pay someone else to do their taxes for them because they simply don’t have the time or expertise to do it themselves.

The unified framework released a few weeks ago will help. It calls for collapsing seven separate tax brackets down to three. That is what I call simplification. It expands the zero bracket so that if you are a married couple earning less than $24,000 a year, you will pay no taxes. It eliminates the child tax credit. It repeals the death tax and special interest tax breaks, and it reduces the uncompetitive corporate tax rate to 20 percent and cuts tax rates for small businesses to the lowest level in more than 80 years. So let’s make this happen before time runs out.

HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORT

Madam President, the other item I can’t stop thinking about is one that has taken a great toll on my State and our country. I am talking about Hurricane Harvey, the most extreme rain event in the history of the United States. Literally 50 inches of rain fell in 5 days in the Houston area.

Last week, I saw images of the Texas World, it appeared as it was a processing lot. Here is a picture of that.

At its peak, tens of thousands of cars were parked there, awaiting damage assessments by insurance companies. A sea of them had filled the entire speedway, as can be seen on this chart, and it was starting to spill into surrounding areas, too—cars in all directions, as far as the eye could see.

How could Hurricane Harvey damage so many cars? Well, cars these days—the newer ones—are basically computers on wheels, and when they get wet, they essentially become a total loss, like these cars at the Texas World Speedway. It is an amazing picture. All the cars there, mind you, represent only a tiny percentage of all the vehicles damaged in the storm. Some of the estimates I have that as high as one-half million personal vehicles were damaged and even totaled.

The speedway is just one of the images that continue to keep me up at night. How are my constituents, these Texans, going to get to work? How are they going to take their kids to school? When will their car and their house be ready so they can live in their home? When will their highways and driveways be fixed? What is being done to ensure that we don’t ever repeat itself when, year after year, many parts of the Harris County-Houston area are flooded because many of the most important Corps of Engineer projects have not been started, much less completed, which diverted the rain and saved many of these homes and many of these cars.

Last Thursday, the House passed a $35.5 billion hurricane and wildfire relief bill. The vote sends the measure over to the Senate and looks forward to debating the supplemental appropriation in the days ahead.

The House’s emergency measure is intended to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s nearly depleted coffers with $38.7 billion to the Disaster Relief Fund. If we don’t act soon, I am told, FEMA could run out of money as early as October 23.

The House bill will also address the National Flood Insurance Program by forgiving $16 billion of its debt and allowing it to pay more claims for property owners in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Nevertheless, I must say I am more than a little bit disappointed by this piece of legislation. I share the frustrations of Gov. Greg Abbott and Members of the Houston area congressional delegation, who have pointed out that this bill doesn’t come close to fulfilling the very reasonable requests that have been made to the President and to Congress from the State of Texas as well as the Virgin Islands.

I am grateful to him for that assurance from Speaker Paul Ryan and the administration that Texas will get what it needs to rebuild the homes and businesses lost in the hurricane and the funding that it needs to expand bayous and develop critical flood mitigation projects.

Governor Abbott told me the Speaker told him Congress will take up the State’s recent request as soon as November. I am grateful to him for that promise, but we don’t need any more general statements of support. We are not asking for any more expressions of sympathy. We need specifics and a specific commitment to follow through on Texas’s demonstrated need for assistance.

I predict that the House bill will not move through the Senate until the bill provides the sort of commitment we could take to the bank. This isn’t about Hurricane Harvey either. This is about Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

We cannot afford to wait much longer. The Texas families who have been out of their homes since Hurricane Harvey hit can’t afford to wait much longer. The people who have lost their mode of transportation as a result of this flood and this hurricane can’t afford to wait much longer. The small businesses that have been simply wiped out and who have been denied access to the funds they need in order to restart and rebuild their lives cannot afford to wait much longer.

The clock is ticking. And I will continue to work with the Governor and the rest of the Texas delegation, as well as our friends from Florida and other states who were hit by other natural disasters, to make sure that collectively we present our case to the Appropriations Committees and to the Senate. We are not asking to be treated any better than anybody else after a natural disaster like this, but we sure will not accept being treated worse. We are going to work together, on a bipartisan basis, to make sure that is the case.

Let me just close with a few words from my good friend and colleague from Laredo, Representative Henry Cuellar. Now, Henry is what they call a Blue Dog Democrat, somebody I have worked with a lot on border issues in particular. He is on the Appropriations Committee, and he asked whether the most recent bill was going to be the final appropriation to address the losses as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, or Irma. “No,” he said emphatically, “we are going to do more,” and he is absolutely right.

I am here to say that speaking as one Senator, I intend to make sure the U.S. Government keeps its commitments to the people of Texas, to the people in Florida, to our friends from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands when it comes to assisting them to recover from this terrible natural disaster.

I am not going to continue to take the promises of the Office of Management and Budget or the administration or our friends in the leadership in the House, for that matter, that we are going to get to this later. There is an expression in my part of the country that when somebody asks you when are you going to do something, the response is manana—tomorrow. To every question of when, it is manana.
We demand that this problem be dealt with on a timely basis, and we are going to keep the feet to the fire of the administration and our friends in the House to make sure they follow up on their commitments to deal with the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida be granted the floor as soon as I finish.

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

ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS AND EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, over the weekend, the Washington Post ran an article about a piece of legislation I helped negotiate last Congress. It was entitled the ‘Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act’ and was intended to encourage greater collaboration between DEA and the regulated community in the fight against opioid abuse. The Post article was sharply critical of this legislation, suggesting that it effectively gutted DEA’s ability to do its job. It also suggested the pharmaceutical industry put one over on Congress. I rise to set the record straight on these allegations and to provide a fuller account of how this legislation passed the Senate and became law.

First, some background. The Controlled Substances Act requires drug distributors to obtain a “registration” from DEA in order to distribute controlled substances, including prescription drugs. The act further authorizes DEA to suspend a distributor’s registration in certain circumstances, such as where a distributor has been convicted of a crime involving controlled substances or had a State license revoked. Before suspending a registration, DEA must issue a show cause order directing the distributor to explain why its registration should not be suspended. A court then decides whether DEA has met its burden to suspend the registration.

The Controlled Substances Act empowers DEA to bypass this standard suspension process in cases where DEA determines there is “an imminent danger to the public health or safety.” In such cases, DEA may issue an immediate suspension order that immediately and without court process terminates the distributor’s ability to distribute prescription drugs. Prior to last Congress, the Controlled Substances Act did not define what constitutes an imminent danger to the public health or safety. This left DEA’s ability to immediately suspend a party’s ability to distribute prescription drugs essentially unfettered. Such unfettered discretion concerned the patient advocacy and regulatory community because an immediate suspension order cuts off all drugs from a distributor, including those intended for legitimate users. A balance is needed to ensure that individuals who need prescription drugs for treatment receive them but that such drugs are not diverted for improper purposes.

So the bill I helped negotiate last Congress, for the first time, defined what constitutes an imminent danger to the public health or safety. In doing so, it created a standard for when DEA may suspend a party’s registration to distribute prescription drugs without any prior court process, and that standard is that there is a “substantial likelihood of an immediate threat” that death, serious bodily harm, or abuse of a controlled substance will occur in the absence of an immediate suspension.

In both committee and floor statements, I made clear that this standard is intended to cover situations where evidence of diversion indicates there is a substantial likelihood that abuse of a controlled substance or of any controlled substance will occur. The Washington Post article glosses over much of this background. It does not explain that the immediate suspension order is intended to be an extraordinary measure. It does not explain that prior to the bill, DEA had basically carte blanche authority to impose this measure. It does not explain that DEA has other enforcement tools available, including show cause orders which are supposed to be the agency’s standard operating procedure. Equally problematic, the article barely even mentions the patient advocacy concerns that motivated the bill to begin with.

I want to quote from a letter that a coalition of patient and health advocacy groups sent to Congress in support of the legislation:

Federal agencies, law enforcement, pharmaceutical industry participants and prescribers each play a role in working diligently to prevent drug abuse and diversion. However, it is also imperative that legitimate patients are able to obtain their prescriptions without disruption. Your legislation addresses both goals by fostering greater collaboration, communication and transparency between industry stakeholders and regulators, leading to more effective efforts to combat abuse while protecting patients. We commend you for including a report to Congress on the operation of this legislation.

We commend you for including a report to Congress on the operation of this legislation. We concur that this important issue.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Patient Access; American Academy of Pain Management; American Pain Society; American Society of Consultant Pharmacists; American Society for Pain Management Nursing; Center for Chain Drug Stores; Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.; Fibro Warriors Living Life; Fibro Friends of Tennessee; Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Support Network; Fibromyalgia Support Center, Inc; Florida Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Network; Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association; Intestinal Cystitis Association; Kentuckiana Fibromyalgia Support Group; Lake Oswego Health Center; National Association of Chain Drug Stores; National Community Pharmacists Association; National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Foundation; The Pain Community; Pain Connection-Chronic Pain Outreach Center, Inc.; Project Lazarus; Richmond Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association; Save Our Society From Drugs; U.S. Pain Foundation; Virginia Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Support Group.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, the Washington Post article discusses virtually none of this. Rather, it baldly asserts that Congress cut out DEA’s legs from underneath it through a single process of deep-pocketed drug companies and their cunning allies in Congress. Nothing could be further from the truth.
To begin with, I have spent 40 years of my life in the Senate fighting the scourge of drug abuse. I stood side by side with Ronald Reagan in the War on Drugs. In 2000, I coauthored the Drug Addiction Treatment Act, or DATA 2000, one of the first efforts in Congress to address the opioid epidemic. Last year, I led conference negotiations on the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, a landmark piece of legislation that is making a real difference in the fight against opioid and heroin abuse. Currently working on legislation to address opioid addiction in the veteran community. I am no patsy when it comes to drug abuse—prescription or otherwise—and neither are my colleagues.

Indeed, let me begin by noting that the DEA and DOJ wrote, inserted it into the bill, and now Congress is the bad guy? I should note that other aspects of DEA and DOJ’s proposed language changed, but that key phrase “substantial likelihood of an immediate threat”—the phrase that critics now point to as gutting DEA’s enforcement authority—came from DEA and DOJ. And lest we forget, President Obama signed the bill into law on the advice of his own DEA Administrator.

I think we need to be candid about what is going on here. Opponents of the current administration are trying to derail the President’s nominee to be head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Representative Tom Marino, by mischaracterizing and trying to rewrite the history of a bill that he co-wrote, sponsored, and did not oppose when it was enacted. Let’s be clear that the DEA’s enforcement power—that is, the authority to prove that there is a substantial likelihood of immediate threat—is one of the most important tools in the federal government’s arsenal against illegal drugs. It has been an effective tool since Congress first created DEA in 1970. The DEA and DOJ have worked closely with Congress for decades to craft the language that allows DEA to take strong enforcement action against drug companies, and now critics want to weaken it.

Let’s at least be honest. Let’s not gin up a one-sided narrative based entirely on headlines and clever framing. This bill is not a sop to the drug industry; it is a bill that would actually help people get treatment. Let’s not ignore the very real patient concerns that motivated this bill and motivated my personal involvement with it. You think this bill was a sop to the drug industry? Tell that to the Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Society. Tell that to the American Academy of Pain Management. Tell that to the Drug Free America Foundation.

If we are going to make this bill a political football and try to use it to sink Representative Marino’s nomination, let’s tell the full story. Let’s be fair. Let’s at least be honest. Let’s not gin up a one-sided narrative based entirely on the statements of former Agency officials who disagreed with the change of leadership.

No matter how you try to spin it, this is not the latest episode of “House of Cards.” Rather, let’s be clear that Members of this body negotiated this bill in good faith with the DEA and the Department of Justice. Let’s be clear—DEA and DOJ themselves generated the language that critics now claim is so problematic. Let’s remember that this bill passed by unanimous consent and that every single Member of this body and the House of Representatives supported it. Let’s remember, too, that the DEA and DOJ could have stopped this bill at any time if they had wanted to but instead chose to allow it to proceed. After all, they stopped an earlier version in 2014 that had different language. They could have stopped it again. And even after the bill passed Congress, they could have advised President Obama not to sign on. Don’t forget that the bill was ultimately signed into law by President Obama himself, and that DEA, both Houses of Congress, and the Obama White House all somehow wilted under Representative Marino’s nefarious influences.

Provocative headlines and clever framing may drive page hits, but this body’s decisions should be based on the full story. It should be based on all the facts. A single news article that tells only one side of the story should not derail a nominee who has a long history of fighting illegal drug use and of helping individuals with chronic conditions obtain treatment. Let’s not ignore the full story here in the rush toward easy politics.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to come back and make this bill a priority, not a political football. I urge the Administration to come back and make this bill a priority, not a political football. I urge the American people to come back and make this bill a priority, not a political football.

I want to show you some pictures, but I want you to realize that today is Monday. Next Wednesday will be 4 weeks since the hurricane hit. Can you imagine going into a State with 3.5 million people and 85 percent of the people do not have electricity? And by the way, these are our fellow American citizens; they are just in a territory. Can you imagine going into a State where a month after the hurricane, 50
percent of the people do not have potable water? It is an absolute outrage. And I don’t think the American people realize what is happening.

Let me be your eyes by what I saw yesterday. This is a river bottom in the little town of Utuado. This side of the river is cut off from this side of the river because the one bridge washed out. If you look at this structure, the question is, How long is this going to last? It is tilting to the left. Any major rush of water is going to take out this structure completely.

I want you to see how creative these people are. It is hard to see at this distance, but they erected a cable system going over to the other side. They took the basket of a grocery cart, took the wheels and handles off, and this is on a pulley, and these guys are pulling it over here and then they pull it back. This is how people on this side of the river are getting food and water and medicine if they can’t walk across. This is not easy. People are surviving. If this section of the bridge goes—and it is just a matter of time—they are going to try to hook up a cable over here at the top of this riverbank over to the top of this riverbank and do the same kind of thing.

Here in the States, on the mainland, if something like this happened, the Corps of Engineers would be there. We would be rebuilding. The Department of Transportation would be rebuilding that section of the bridge. We are our fellow American citizens, and they are going without.

Let me show you another picture. This is the bank of another river. Let me show you the result. This is what happened. You see this whole house right behind here. I will show you the church in a minute. I asked the pastor: Did the people survive? He said that one was trapped in the house. They were able to get that person out. The others had already fled. But you can see that with the force of the extra rain and the water coming down, houses like that are history.

Here is that same section of the river with the church in the background. The church survived. I talked to the pastor of the church. Here I am having a conversation with the people who live on this side. I asked the pastor whether he lost any parishioners. He did not. On the side of his church, he has a dish, and because he has a generator, he is the only person in this town who has any kind of communication—in this case, through the satellite dish for television. Everything else is being run on generators because there is no electricity. As you know, these generators are not powerful enough to run air-conditioners; therefore, the water accumulates. Mold and mildew start to accumulate, with all the health effects as a result of that.

Do you look like something we would have in this country, or does this look like a third world country? Do the images in these photographs bring to mind other Caribbean nations that we have seen that have been devastated by earthquakes and hurricanes? Think about what happened to Haiti.

When people go to San Juan—by the way, 85 percent of San Juan is without power. You see these little pockets, and you also get the generators going in the hospitals for obvious reasons. They need the generators to go to stations where people are getting their dialysis treatments. That is obvious. But what about the wear and tear on the generators and the replacements?

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Governor Rossello, has a very ambitious schedule: He wants to restore 85 percent of power by the middle of December. I hope the Governor is right. It has been turned over to the Army Corps of Engineers to get the electrical grid and structures up and running. I am afraid it is going to be a lot longer. I asked for estimates going to have the needs, especially rebuilding the grid. He said $4 billion. Are we going to be able to get that for them?

What are going to be the ultimate needs of Puerto Rico? We just heard the Senator from Texas talk about his State and the estimates that you heard out of Texas being as much as $100 billion. What about the needs of Puerto Rico? What about the needs of Florida? What about the needs of the Virgin Islands?

We have a supplemental coming up, but is that going to take care of the needs of all of those four areas that have been hit hard? If Texas is $100 billion, a long-term Puerto Rico may well be $80 billion to $90 billion. And who knows what it is going to be for Florida and the Virgin Islands. Therefore, are we in this Congress, with or without the leadership of the White House, going to have the stomach to help our fellow American citizens? I am sure we are going to help Texas, and I certainly hope we will help my State of Florida, but are we willing to help the American citizens in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico? Is it not a rosy picture, but we hear some Members of Congress come back and say they didn’t see a lot of damage. It is people using a pulley they have jury-rigged across a river to survive with daily supply of food and fuel and water. You can’t see that from the air. If you have no power, you have no water, and you have no sewer systems, then, what you have is chaos.

It has been a month since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico. The hospitals are rationing services while they struggle to get the medicines and the fuel they need to power the generators. The dialysis centers are struggling to get the water and fuel they need to operate.

Like many, I have written, in this case, to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to urge the Department to do more to help these dialysis centers obtain the supplies they need. I wanted to come to the floor of the Senate, having gotten back very late last night from Puerto Rico, and tell the Senate that more needs to be done, and it is going to have to be done for a very long period of time. We have to do more to ensure that the supplies that are reaching the island are getting to those who need them. Furthermore, things got piled up in the ports in the first week, and they didn’t get out to be distributed. Senator RUBIO and I were saying at the time that it is going to take the U.S. military, which is uniquely organized and capable of distribution on a long logistical line. It wasn’t until a week after the hurricane that three-star General Buchanan was put in charge. I met with him and the head of FEMA down in the Puerto Rico area. Finally, those supplies are getting out. These are supplies for survival.

We need to pass a disaster relief package that fully funds Puerto Rico’s recovery. We need to provide Puerto Rico with the community development block grant money that Governor Rossello has requested, just like we need the CDBGs for Texas and Florida and the Virgin Islands as well. We need to make Puerto Rico eligible for permanent work assistance so they can start to rebuild their infrastructure immediately.

I want to make something fairly clear. There should be absolutely no ambiguity about what is going on in Puerto Rico. It isn’t rosy. It isn’t that they are sitting in comfortable seats in a helicopter looking down from 1,500 or 2,000 feet on structures that look like they are intact, when, in fact, the reality on the ground below is completely different. Certainly, they didn’t go up there and see all those bridges washed out in the mountains. They didn’t see people scrambling for food. They didn’t see the Puerto Rican National Guard rebuilding that little narrow dirt road winding along the banks of that river. They didn’t see or walk through buildings you could almost be overwhelmed with the smells—the smells, particularly, of mold and mildew.

People have died as a result of this hurricane. People have died because of the lack of supplies and power. Our fellow Americans are dying, and they desperately need our help.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I have seen it with my own eyes on the ground, and I am here to urge this Congress and the administration that we have to act and act for a very long period of time.

Our citizens in Puerto Rico need our help. We have the responsibility to help fellow citizens in need. Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays were ordered.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gingrich nomination?

The yeas and nays have been previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk will record the roll.

Mr. CORKY, the Senator from Kansas, in response to the roll call, announced that the nays were 23, as follows:

- Cassidy
- Cornyn
- Cotton
- Cortez Masto
- Cotton
- Doles
- Dunn
- Emperor
- Ernst
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that the drug epidemic is, at its heart, a public health emergency and an illness. A reversion to law enforcement harshness in dealing with this problem will simply not be effective.

Climate Change

Mr. President, now, if I may, I turn to my 182nd appearance to remind us of the global crisis of climate change, which has recently come so perilously close to our American shores.

This recent graphic from NOAA shows the temperature change in our oceans. Anything that is pink is above average; if it is reddish, it is much warmer than average; and if it is really red, like here, that is a record. That is the warmest record.

As one can see, from 2015, 2016, and 2017, the oceans have warmed significantly, and warmer oceans mean stronger storms. It is as simple as that.

In this hurricane season, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have all struck the United States. It is the first time in United States history that has been hit by three category 4 Atlantic storms in 1 year. Hurricane Ophelia, now out in the Atlantic, has become the 10th consecutive hurricane-strength storm. That ties a record that was set in the 1890s, when the United States has gone more than a century without having this kind of storm activity. It is a rarity, but it is going to be less and less of a rarity because the oceans are warmer. That powers up those big storms, and big storms bring damage to property and infrastructure. They destroy businesses and homes.

Away from the coastline, other aspects of climate change bring an array of other harms, like longer and fiercer wildfire seasons, as California is experiencing; depleted fish stocks, as our Rhode Island fishermen are experiencing; decreased agricultural yields, as the Midwest is experiencing; acidifying seas, as the northwest coast is experiencing; and risks to human health from new disease vectors and hotter heat waves felt across our country. All of these harms carry costs. Together, these costs are known as the social cost of carbon. It is the cost to people and to communities of carbon pollution and climate change.

During the Obama administration, by scientists and economists from across the Federal Government who relied on scientific literature and well-vetted models, the cost of carbon was put at around $50 per ton of carbon dioxide. There is a new book out by a number of conservative economists and scientists that looks at the climate change problem and recommends a revenue-neutral, border-adjustable carbon fee as a solution. In that book, the exemplar carbon price also runs at about $50 per ton of emitted carbon. It tracks from the Obama administration to conservative analyses as well.

This social cost of carbon is well established. Over and over, courts have instructed Federal agencies to factor the social cost of carbon into their permits and regulations. States are using a social cost of carbon in their policymaking.

Major American corporations—even ExxonMobil—factor a social cost of carbon into their planning and accounting, and the social cost of carbon is at the heart of the International Monetary Fund’s calculation that the social cost of carbon is an annual subsidy in the United States of $700 billion—that is “$700 billion” with a “b.”

The point of this particular speech is that we can do something about it, not just of the harm of carbon pollution, but of how individual fossil fuel companies have contributed to that harm. This was not just some op-ed, nor was it the phony hack science that the fossil fuel industry crafts out to propagate climate denial on the talk show circuit. This is a peer-reviewed study that was published in the scientific journal Climatic Change.

The study tells us that major fossil fuel producers are responsible for as much as 85% of the greenhouse gases that have warmed the planet, and yet, they have virtually no cost accounting. This means that 85% of the warming is happening for free. This study puts the cost of this warming at $185 trillion for the year 2100. That is the warmest record.

As nature has so powerfully shown us this year, taxpayers, communities, and local businesses, especially those in vulnerable coastal areas, bear the cost of the irresponsible choices these big polluters have made. This is the cost these companies transferred to us by spending millions of dollars in deceiving the public about climate science and in using millions more in political spending in order to block sensible limits on carbon emissions. They spent millions to dodge billions, and we let them get away with it.

Perhaps judges and juries will be less manipulable. After all, one of the reasons that the Founding Fathers set up an independent judiciary and independent juries is that, in their being experienced politicians, they had seen that the political branches of government could be captured by special interests—which is what the Founders would have called factions—just as we now are captured by the fossil fuel industry here in Congress.

The average number of billion-dollar weather disasters is about five per year. That is the average in any given year, about five over the long term. Here we are, and it is only October, and 2017 has already seen 15 billion-dollar weather disasters—15 of them just this year, so far.

But the real multibillion-dollar disaster is a captured Congress. We actually have a remedy right before us that ought to be a bipartisan remedy: a carbon fee like the one Senator SCHATZ and I introduced in our American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act. Virtually every Republican who has thought the climate change problem through to a solution comes to the same place. They all come to the same place: Put a price on carbon.

I introduced the emissions tax and the social cost of carbon, we can calculate, for instance, the carbon pollution cost for which ExxonMobil is accountable. If one does this for 2010—just that 1-year’s worth—the cost to the rest of us was over $22 billion. For Chevron, in 2010, it was $14.5 billion. For BP, it was $18.6 billion just for the harm that they caused in 2010. What of all of these major coal companies, like Peabody and Arch? Pollution attributable to Peabody Energy had a cost of $17.8 billion just for 2010. For Arch Coal, it was $11.7 billion. For Peabody Energy, it was $3 billion in 2010. What one may remember, is the company whose lobbying letter EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt put on his official Oklahoma attorney general letterhead, in the masquerade of official duty on behalf of special interests, which is still his hallmark now that he is at the EPA. If we add up all of this, we are looking at $88 billion in attributable damages—attributable to ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, Peabody, Arch, and Devon—for just 2010. That is a 1-year cost just for these big polluters to pollute our air and oceans for free. That is why the IMF said that the subsidy was $700 billion.

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The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

(At the request of SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for roll call vote No. 217, on the nomination of Callista Gingrich to be Ambassador to the Holy See. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 360(c) of the Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which are available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which are available to the full Senate.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 164.

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

The clerk will report nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Henry Kerner, of California, to be Special Counsel, Ofﬁce of Special Counsel, for the term of ﬁve years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if conﬁrmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notiﬁed of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

Is there any further debate? Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kerner nomination?

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,


Hon. BOB CORRER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 360(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-26, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost $342.6 million. After this letter is delivered to your ofﬁce, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director,
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-26

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance under section 360(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $0.0 million. Other $326.6 million. Total $326.6 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.
Non-MDE: Non-MDE items and services for three years (with option for two additional years) for follow-on support C-17 aircraft includes participation in the Globemaster III Integrated Sustainment Program (GISP), contract logistic support, major modification and retrofit, in-country contractor support, alternate mission equipment, major modification and retrofit, software support, aircraft maintenance and technical support equipment, personnel training and training equipment, additional spare and repair parts, technical orders and publications, airworthiness certification support, engine spares, engine maintenance and logistics support, inspections support, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance and other U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics and program support. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode S, plus installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (XT-D-QAR)

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KU-D—SAA

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.


*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Continuation of C-17 Logistics Support Services and Equipment

The Government of Kuwait has requested three years (with option for two additional years) of follow-on support of two (2) C-17 aircraft, which includes participation in the Globemaster III Integrated Sustainment Program (GISP), contract logistic support, Class I modifications and kits support, in-country contractor support, alternate mission equipment, major modification and retrofit, software support, airworthiness certification and technical support, support equipment, personnel training and training equipment, additional spare and repair parts, technical orders and publications, airworthiness certification support, engine spares, engine maintenance and logistics support, inspections support, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance and other U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and program support. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode S, plus installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is $342.6 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to enhance the security of a friendly country. Kuwait plays a large role in U.S. efforts to advance stability in the Middle East, providing basing, access, and support for U.S. forces in the region.

This proposed sale is required to maintain the operational readiness of the Kuwaiti Air Force C-17 aircraft. Kuwait’s current FMS contract supporting these requirements will expire in September of 2017. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this support.
The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Company. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

The Foreign Military Sale (FMS) case providing C-17 sustainment services. There are currently nine (9) contractors from Boeing Company (aircraft) in-country provision and nine (9) contractors from CETI (Technical Services) on a continuing basis.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

7. Kuwait is both willing and able to protect United States Classified Military Information (CMI). Kuwait physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. Kuwait demonstrated its willingness and capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past. Kuwait is firmly committed to its relationship with the U.S. and to its promise to protect CMI and prevent its transfer to a third party. The Government of Kuwait signed a Technical Security Agreement (TSA) with the U.S. on 01 January 1989 that commits them to the protection of CMI.

8. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advanced capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed.

9. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA, October 11, 2017.

Hon. Bob Corker, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Corker:

In accordance with the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–47, concerning the proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Czech Republic for defense articles and services estimated to cost $575 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–47

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

The Czech Republic intends to use these systems in conjunction with this potential sale to improve United States and other NATO allies. The Czech Republic will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Bell Helicopter, Textron, Fort Worth, Texas, and General Electric Company, Lynn, Massachusetts. There are no known offset agreements proposed in conjunction with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government and contractor representatives to participate in program and technical reviews plus training and maintenance of these helicopters to reside in country for a period of two (2) years to support this program.
There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–47
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The following components and technical documentation for the program are classified as listed below:
   a. The UH–1Y model has an Integrated Avionics System (IAS) which includes two (2) mission computers and an automatic flight control system. Each crew station has two (2) 8 x 6-inch multifunction liquid crystal displays (LCD) and one (1) 4.2 x 4.2-inch dual function LCD display. The communications suite will have COMSEC ARC–210 Ultra High Frequency Very High Frequency (UHF/VHF) radios with associated communications equipment. The navigation suite includes Honeywell Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) w/Precision Positioning Service (PPS), a digital map system, a low-airspeed data subsystem, and an AN/APX-123(A(V) IFP Transponder.
   b. The crew is equipped with the Optimized Top Owl (OTO) helmet-mounted sight and display system. The OTO has a Day Display Module (DDM) and a Night Display Module (NDM). The UH–1Y has a survivability equipment including the AN/AAR–47 Missile Warning and Laser Detection System, AN/ALE–47 Counter Measure Dispensing System (CMDS) and the AN/APS–39 Warning Receiver (RWR) to cover countermeasure dispensers, radar warning, incoming/on-way missile warning and on-fuselage laser-spot warning systems.
   c. The following performance data and technical characteristics are classified as follows for the UH–1Y Airframe: countermeasure capability—up to SECRET, counter-countermeasures capability—SECRET, vulnerability to countermeasures—SECRET, vulnerability to electromagnetic pulse from nuclear environmental effects—SECRET.
2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information contained in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Czech Republic.
3. The consequences of the loss of this technology to a technologically advanced or competent adversary could result in the compromise of equivalent systems, which in turn could reduce those weapons systems' effectiveness, or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.
4. A determination has been made that the Czech Republic can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale of the UH–1Y helicopter and associated weapons will further U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.
5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Czech Republic.

DEFEENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY
Hon. Bob Corker,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–46, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost $53 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOFER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–46
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. AIM–120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a radar-guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM case articles include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high flying/low flying/airborne targets. The AMRAAM is classified CONFIDENTIAL, major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technology data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.
2. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information contained in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Netherlands.

DEFEENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY
Hon. Bob Corker,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17–28, concerning the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) proposed Letter of Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost $15 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOFER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–28
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to the specific Letter(s) of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Saudi Arabia.
(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $8 billion. Other $6 billion.
Total $15 billion.
Enclosure.

Three hundred sixty (360) THAAD Interceptor Missiles.

Sixteen (16) THAAD Fire Control and Communications Mobile Tactical Station Group.

Seventy (7) AN/TPY-2 THAAD Radars.

Non-MDE:

Also included are THAAD Battery maintenance equipment, forty-three (43) prime movers (trucks), generators, electrical power units, trailers, telecommunications equipment, tools, and test maintenance equipment, repair and return, system integration and checkout parts, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, construction, facilities, studies, and other related elements of logistics and support.

Military Departments: Missile Defense Agency (XX–M–AAG), generators, electrical power units, trailers, telecommunications equipment, tools, test maintenance equipment, repair and return, system integration and checkout parts, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, construction, facilities, studies, and other related elements of logistics and support.

Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, construction, facilities, studies, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

The Government of Saudi Arabia has requested a possible sale of forty-four (44) Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launchers, three hundred sixty (360) THAAD Interceptor Missiles, sixteen (16) THAAD Fire Control and Communications Mobile Tactical Station Group, seven (7) AN/TPY-2 THAAD radars. Also included are THAAD Battery maintenance equipment, forty-three (43) prime movers (trucks), generators, electrical power units, trailers, telecommunications equipment, tools, test maintenance equipment, repair and return, system integration and checkout parts, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, construction, facilities, studies, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is $15 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a friendly country. This sale furthers U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, and supports the long-term security of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region in the face of Iranian and other regional threats. This potential sale will substantially increase Saudi Arabia’s capability to defend itself against the growing ballistic missile threat in the region. THAAD’s exo-atmospheric, hit-to-kill capability will add an upper-tier defense to Saudi Arabia’s layered missile defense architecture and will support modernization of the Royal Saudi Air Defense Force (RSADF). Saudi Arabia has no difficulty in acquiring and absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors for the THAAD system are Lockheed Martin Space Systems Corporation, Dallas, TX; Camden, AR; Troy, AL and Huntsville, AL; and Raytheon Corporation, Andover, MA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this proposed sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require one hundred eleven (111) contractor representatives and eighteen (18) U.S. Government employees in-country for an extended period of time.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17–28
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

United States of America

Isotope: THAAD

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD) Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System contains classified CONFIDENTIAL/SECRET components and critical/sensitive technology. The THAAD Fire Unit is a ground-based, forward deployable terminal missile defense system that represents significant technological advances. The THAAD system continues to hold a unique, multi-layer defense capability developed specifically to defend against ballistic missiles. The higher altitude and the geolocation covered by THAAD provides more protection of larger areas than lower-tier systems alone. THAAD is designed to defend against short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles. The THAAD system consists of four major components: Fire Control/Communications, Radar, Launchers, and Interceptor Missiles.

The THAAD system contains sensitive/critical technology, primarily in the area of defense and production know-how and primarily inherent in the design, development and/or manufacturing data related to certain critical components. Information on operational effectiveness with respect to countermeasures and counter-countermeasures, low observable technologies, selected cryptographic items, software documentation and test data are classified up to and including SECRET.

3. The THAAD BMD System Contains Controlled Cryptographic Items (CCI) that are used for both system internal links and for external communications. These items consist of government network encryptors, secure telephones, voice radios, tactical data radios, and mission data radios. Specific CCI used for the Saudi Arabia case will be determined through the COMSEC Review and Authorization Request (CRR) process, initiated through USCENTCOM once an interoperability requirement has been established. NSA will identify releasable items, in parallel with staffing and validation of the CRR by the Joint Staff. The Committee for National Security Systems (CNSS) reviews and provides final approval of the items and quantities.

4. AN/VCR–90, AN/VCR–91, AN/VCR–92 are different configurations of the Single Channel Anti-Jam (SCI/AIDS) System (SINCgars) family. SINCgars is a tactical radio providing secure jam-resistant secure communications for exchange of command, control, and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information.

2. As with the SINCGARS family of radios, the AN/PRC–117 is a tactical radio providing ECCM jam-resistant secure communications for exchange of command, control, and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information. This system is used to provide secure communications and targeting information.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors for the THAAD system are Lockheed Martin Space Systems Corporation, Dallas, TX; Camden, AR; Troy, AL and Huntsville, AL; and Raytheon Corporation, Andover, MA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this proposed sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require one hundred eleven (111) contractor representatives and eighteen (18) U.S. Government employees in-country for an extended period of time.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.
I want to ensure that these opportunities abound, in Delaware and around the country. A small annual investment in the refuge system volunteer and partnerships program goes a long way. Every $1 appropriated to coordinate these volunteer translates to $10 worth of volunteer hours.

These appropriations also help cut government costs. In fiscal year 2016, 40,000 volunteers donated 1.4 million hours, with donated time equaling that of 648 full-time employees.

I want to thank Senator Barrasso for cospowering this commonsense legislation. I look forward to working with him and our colleagues in the House to pass the Keep America's Refuges Operational Act and enact it into law.

Thank you.

CONFIRMATION OF AJIT PAI

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I do not believe Chairman Pai should have been confirmed to serve a full 5-year term as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, FCC.

Chairman Pai’s decision to open an NPRM that will eventually reverse the 2015 open internet order is an egregious example of his misplaced priorities. In 2016, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit confirmed that the open internet order was a lawful exercise of the Commission’s regulatory authority. Broadband service providers must provide fair and equal access to all users, regardless of socioeconomic status. Over 18 million Americans have submitted comments urging the Commission to maintain regulations that impose transparency and prevent ISPs from throttling or promoting services against certain data. Numerous polls have shown that Americans, across the political spectrum, overwhelmingly support regulations that would prevent broadband companies from discriminating against certain data.

Chairman Pai claims that the 2015 order caused a decrease in broadband investment, but the evidence suggests otherwise. I wrote to Chairman Pai about the evidence that he frequently cites to support his allegations of depressed investment—evidence, which I believe, is incomplete and inconclusive. As technology develops and consumers become even more dependent upon internet access, it is imperative that the FCC ensures that the internet is not divided between the have and the have-nots.

I was also disappointed by Chairman Pai’s support for Congress’s actions to repeal the Federal Communications Commission’s broadband privacy rules. These rules are important in light of recent data breaches. Every website we visit and every link we click leaves an unintended trail that tells a story about our lives. ISPs can collect information about our location, children, sensitive information, family status, financial information, Social Security Numbers, web browsing history, and even the content of communications. ISPs sell this highly sensitive and highly personal data to the highest bidder without consumer’s consent or knowledge. The Commission’s rules empowered consumers and gave them tools to protect their privacy through transparency, choice, and data security. In supporting the rule’s repeal, Chairman Pai demonstrated that he does not believe that Americans should have control over their data.

The rise of the internet of things, telehealth, and smart agriculture means that American consumers need an FCC that is on watch and committed to protecting their interests. I hope that Chairman Pai will reverse course and will stop putting the interests of big corporations ahead of the interests of American consumers.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT THOMAS F. BURKHART AND VETERANS OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this week my constituent Caroline Burkhardt, of Baltimore, Maryland, is embarking on a historic trip to Japan of remembrance and reconciliation. A guest of the Japanese Government, she will follow the journey of her father, Thomas F. Burkhardt, who was a prisoner of war of Imperial Japan. Her trip will include a visit to the site of the camp in which her father was held as a POW.

At the start of WWII, Lieutenant Burkhart served in the Philippines with the Headquarters Company of the 45th Infantry, Philippine Scouts, an elite U.S. Army unit composed of American officers and Filipino enlisted men. After Japan’s December 8, 1941, invasion of the Philippines, his battalion helped defend a coastal line of American forces on Luzon to the Bataan Peninsula. Barely a month after being promoted to first lieutenant, on January 21, 1942, Lieutenant Burkhart earned a Silver Star for “Gallantry in Action” at the Battle of Abucay Hacienda, January 15 to 25, 1942, which maintained the first battle position on Bataan.

Sick with malaria, Lieutenant Burkhart was in the open-air general hospital No. 1 near the tip of Bataan when Major General Edward King surrendered the peninsula to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942. Soon thereafter, the patients were taken by truck, boxcar, and foot up to Camp O’Donnell, an overcrowded makeshift POW camp. In early June, the Japanese, fearing the deaths of the prisoners from the horrific conditions in the camp, began to release their Filipino POWs and transfer the others to a new facility at Cabanatuan. It is estimated that 1,550 Americans and 22,000 Filipinos died at Camp O’Donnell, the overwhelming majority in the first 8 weeks.
On November 6, 1942, Lieutenant Burkhart was among 1,500 prisoners packed into the coal bunker of the unmarked “hell ship” Nagato Maru to Japan. It took three torturous weeks for the ship to make its way from the tropics to the shores of Northeast Asia. Lieutenant Burkhart, nearly blind from malnutrition, was used as a slave laborer for the construction company Toshima Group—today’s Tobishima Corporation. He was soon moved to the Hiroshima No. 1-B Zentsuji POW Camp on the island of Honshu. The emaciated men at Zentsuji were slave stavedores for Nippon Express Co.—Nippon Tsuun—at Sakaide Rail Yards and the Port of Takamatsu. As an officer, Lieutenant Burkhart worked in the camp garden. On June 23, 1945, he and 334 officers were transferred to POW Camp 11-B Rokuroshi, deep in the Japanese Alps. Food was scarce, conditions were overcrowded, and winter clothes were unavailable, leading many to fear that they would not survive the harsh winter. Burkhart was liberated from this camp in early September.

Lieutenant Burkhart remained in the Army and had a distinguished career with the quartermaster corps, retiring in 1967 as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Throughout his life, he was plagued by health problems most likely caused by the illnesses and hardships of being a POW. In 1972, at age 57, he passed away and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomas Burkhart’s daughter Caroline has honored his memory by working tirelessly to preserve the history of the POW experience and to teach its lessons of American perseverance and grit. Ms. Burkhart is an active member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society. In this year, the 75th anniversary of the fall of the Philippines, we appreciate the effort by Japan to reach out to Ms. Burkhart and the American POWs in the spirit of conciliation and healing. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Caroline Burkhart a safe and happy Valentine’s Day.

George James Wright was born on June 14, 1923, in Hinsdale, MT.

Like many Montanans from Valley County, he made a living off the land farming and ranching. He worked hard alongside his older brother, where he remembers driving the tractor and looking up into the big blue Montana sky.

Also, like many Montanans, he did not back down from answering the call to serve his Nation when we needed him most.

In 1943, George enlisted in the Army, making him the first in his family to serve in the military.

He spent over 2 years fighting in the jungles and on the beaches of the Philippines and New Guinea as a proud member of the 32nd Infantry Division.

He braved the surf, braved the rain. He braved the bugs, and he braved the bullets.

He saw the unimaginable, as Japanese kamikaze pilots slammed their airplanes into American ships.

He did the unbelievable, driving Army bulldozers into the unknown, making sure our soldiers got the supplies and food they desperately needed.

He served our Nation with bravery, courage, and dignity, working his way up to the rank of TS.

After America’s victory, George came home, and returned to those same Montana fields and skies.

After seeing the war’s destruction firsthand, he knew that the world needed to be rebuilt, and he knew he was the person for the job. He took what he learned on the battlefield and spent his next years doing construction work.

He married the love of his life, Vivian, who we remember today, and they had two children Roland and Sharon.

At the time, he did not receive the recognition that he was due for his service to our Nation, but we are here today to make that right.

Now, a proud father, grandfather of two, and great-grandfather of seven, he will get that long overdue acknowledgement.

I have the proud honor of presenting him with the following: Bronze Star Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Good Conduct Medal—Army, American Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, and Honorable Service Lapel Pin—WWII.

George, you are a Montana farmer through and through, whether feeding Americans at home or soldiers in the field.

I am proud to call myself a farmer, if only because it means I have something in common with a man like George Wright.

George, you have spent your life providing for Montanans at home and protecting Americans overseas.

These medals serve as a small token of our Nation’s appreciation for your service and your sacrifice. You are an American hero and one of Montana’s best. Thank you for your service.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD ROBERT ZELMER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Gerald Robert Zelmer, a veteran of the Vietnam war.

Gerald, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the State of Montana, and the United States of America, for your service to this Nation.

Gerald, known by his friends and family as Gerry, was born in Bismarck, ND, on June 29, 1947.

He married the love of his life, Dora Jean or D.J., on October 12, 1968, in Worden, MT, at the height of the Vietnam conflict.

Two months later, Gerry was off to war.

He attended boot camp in Fort Lewis, WA, and then moved on to advanced infantryman training in Fort Eustis, VA.

He deployed soon thereafter, serving proudly with the 101st Airborne Division out of Camp Eagle.

Gerry served as a helicopter crew chief, ensuring that pilots and crew were safe as they flew aerial missions. His skills on the battlefield ensured that rotary-wing aircraft were fine-tuned and ready to take off for their missions.

Gerry is a fixer and a problem solver. In Vietnam, he fixed helicopters and kept our birds in the air, covering our soldiers on the ground.

When he returned from war, he worked as a maintenance foreman at Montana Sulphur and Chemical. It is his skills on the battlefield, his bravery and courage, and his service to our Nation that earned him these commendations decades ago. It is my honor to finally deliver them today.

As a father to Carrie and Cody and grandfather to two grandchildren Sienna and Aden, he will get that long overdue acknowledgement.

I have the proud honor of presenting you, Gerry, with the Bronze Star Medal for your meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force.

I am also presenting you with copies of your previous awards: Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Service Star attachment, Expert Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, and sharpshooter badge with rifle bar.

Gerry, these medals are but a small token of our Nation’s appreciation for your service and your sacrifice. You are an American hero, and Montana is proud to call you one of our own.

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, in support of National Forest Products Week and in my role as a cochair of the Senate Paper and Packaging Caucus, I would like to recognize the almost 29,000 men and women employed by the forest products industry in the great State of Arkansas.

Arkansas is home to over 90 wood products, paper, and packaging manufacturing facilities that make over $8 billion in products and contribute over $1.2 billion to the State and local economies through wages and compensation.
The forest products industry plays a valuable role in the life of every American, every day. From paper and packaging to wood products, tissue, and other personal care items, paper and wood products are at the heart of modern life in the United States. In total, the industry employs about 900,000 Americans nationwide and manufactures over $280 billion in products every year. That is nearly 4 percent of the current U.S. manufacturing GDP.

In addition to cochairing the Paper and Packaging Caucus, I am also a co-chair of the Senate Recycling Caucus. In this dual capacity, I have seen the success the forest products industry has had in pairing economic growth with respect for the environment. Be it through the use of carbon-neutral biomass energy or the successful implementation of voluntary recycling programs that now reach 96 percent of Americans, the forest products industry is an example.

Last year, I had the opportunity to see firsthand how the forest industry contributes to the economy of my State. Congressman Bruce Westerman and I had the chance to travel to the rich south Arkansas on our “Seed to Sawmill” tour. We learned about proper forest management and the positive environmental impacts achieved through conservation efforts. We also visited a seedling nursery, working private forests, state-of-the-art processing facilities, and the U.S. Forest Service’s Experimental Forest in Crossett.

It is clear that the forest products industry contributes a great deal to Arkansas and to the U.S. economy overall. That is why it is important for us to highlight how forest products improve our lives, help grow our economy, and promote healthy environmental practices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Forest Products Week and reflect on the many ways this recyclable and renewable resource impacts our daily lives for the better. That is why it is important for us to recognize the hard-working professionals of the forest products industry in the great State of Arkansas.

Incorporated in 1976, Comprehensive Juvenile Services is a private, non-profit community-based youth services agency. It serves 1,000 youth each year in Sebastian, Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Scott, Polk, and Montgomery Counties, and receives guidance from community leaders as it seeks to help children and youth who are susceptible to delinquency or have encountered legal problems and need positive influences to help get them back on the right track and lead a happy and successful adolescence.

CJS provides support to these children and their families in a variety of ways. It employs caseworkers to assess a youth’s individual problems and develop case plans, provides aftercare to those in custody of the Department of Youth Services, offers one-on-one mentoring opportunities, operates an emergency shelter for at-risk youth, and features other programs, including treatment for major behavioral problems, mental health assessments, and therapy and parenting classes.

The commitment that CJS has demonstrated for youth in western Arkansas is inspiring. The men and women of the agency put their hearts and souls into helping children and teens improve their situations and strive for better outcomes at home, at school, and in life generally. In one of many success stories, a former client named Sherry went through a difficult adoption where she experienced major conflict with her adopted family. Through the help of Community Juvenile Services, Sherry completed a program at the Girls Shelter of Fort Smith and is now a Department of Child and Family Services caseworker herself, advocating for children and helping to make a difference in their lives the same way that CJS did in hers.

I am so proud of the work that Comprehensive Juvenile Services has done over the past 40 years. They truly are changing lives, one child at a time. I want to congratulate everyone involved in this worthwhile mission, and I look forward to hearing many more success stories in the years to come.

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**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**RECOGNIZING COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE SERVICES, INC.**

- Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an organization that is committed to redirecting the lives of youth and their families in western Arkansas. Comprehensive Juvenile Services, Inc., of Fort Smith, AR, helps youth who experience difficulty within their families, have problems in school, or face other challenges that result in them being at risk of or referred to the juvenile justice system. Comprehensive Juvenile Services, Inc., of Fort Smith, AR, guides youth successfully to the community, and I want to congratulate them on this milestone.

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**TRIBUTE TO RONALD K. LORENTZEN**

- Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mr. Ronald K. Lorentzen, a dedicated public servant who has spent his career advocating for American workers. Mr. Lorentzen retired on June 30, 2017, after more than three decades of government service.

Born in the blue-collar town of Asher, Oklahoma, a great hometown, as my wife Renee will attest—Mr. Lorentzen’s roots are evident in his life’s work. Too often, especially in trade policy, representatives and policymakers fail to live up to the promises they have made to working families, but Mr. Lorentzen. He never forgot where he came from, and he never forgot the workers who are too often left behind by our trade policy.

In his roles at the International Trade Administration, he has been a leader in our government’s efforts to combat unfair trade practices and hold countries that cheat the rules accountable. He served as lead negotiator for the U.S. and chairman of the Steel Committee at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, where he worked to address steel overcapacity within the U.S. Market. While we know we have a lot more work to do to create a truly level playing field for our steel industry, his work helped shape a more fair international steel market for American companies.

In addition, Mr. Lorentzen led U.S. delegations before the North American Steel Trade Committee, NASITC. He helped ensure the NASITC fulfilled its mission as a forum for NAFTA steel countries to build consensus and develop united positions on areas of common concern. A firm grasp of the facts and diplomatic skill made him a strong and effective advocate for U.S. manufacturers.

Through his many roles in government, Mr. Lorentzen has served this country and its working families. He has stood up for workers in my State, and his efforts have helped save jobs. When we enforce our trade policies and hold accountable those who cheat the international trade system, we are ensuring our workers and businesses have access to a level playing field. Mr. Lorentzen has been a leader in that fight.

Mr. Lorentzen will be remembered for his compassion, work ethic, and integrity. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him all the best on his retirement.

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**125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASHER’S CHOCOLATES**

- Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Chester Asher Candy Co., Inc., “Asher’s Chocolates,” as it celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding in Pennsylvania.

In 1892, Chester A. Asher founded Asher’s Chocolates in the city of Philadelphia, near Independence Hall. A farm boy from Scotland, who had previously lived in Canada, Chester had a passion for chocolates and a “knack for getting to the heart of a sugar craving.” In 1899, he moved the company to the historical area of Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. Chester worked tirelessly to perfect his candies and chocolates and was constantly searching for innovative ways to please his customers.

Following World War II, Chester’s four sons took over the business, and they subsequently passed the company on to their sons in their retirement. After their father’s passing in 1968, the third generation of Ashers, brothers John “Jack” and Bob Asher, assumed leadership of the company. Asher’s Chocolates quickly grew from the
brothers producing each piece of candy individually with just two candy-making machines to building a warehouse and being regarded throughout the East Coast as a well-known candy company. While both of the third-generation brothers have contributed to the company’s increasing success, it was Jack, who became lovingly referred to as, “the Candy Man.”

Jack was very engaged in hands-on management of the company. Where he wasn’t on the ground overseeing production, Jack served as a volunteer firefighter with the Wissahickon and Flourtown fire companies. Jack also became a prominent member of the community, serving on the boards of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown and the historic Cliveden, where he sponsored the Battle of Germantown reenactment for 40 years. Jack’s proactive involvement and dedication to the community did not go unrecognized. In 1988, the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce awarded Jack the Small Business Person of the Year award, and in 2006, he was inducted into the National Confectionery Sales Association Hall of Fame. Though it is with great sadness that Jack Asher passed away in September of 2017, his legacy will undoubtedly continue through the life of Asher’s Chocolates.

While over a century has passed since its founding, Asher’s Chocolates still remains family owned. Currently, Jeff, a fourth-generation Asher, serves as the CEO of Asher’s Chocolates and believes it is his family’s “stubborn, common commitment to providing excellent chocolate at an affordable price” that has allowed Asher’s Chocolates to remain in business for so long. Today, Asher’s Chocolates has expanded its business, selling over 3.3 million pounds of candy each year, employing over 100 people, and supplying delicious treats on a national and worldwide level to Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, South America, and Europe.

As Asher’s Chocolates has reached global success, I am honored it calls Pennsylvania home. Founded by a Scottish man who emigrated from Canada and was devoted to operating a family-run business, Asher’s Chocolates is rich in both diversity and tradition. While their impact is great and long-standing, Asher’s Chocolates hasn’t lost sight of what is important: family and “one of life’s sweetest pleasures . . . [is] a simple box of chocolate.” Asher’s Chocolates serves as a symbol of success, history, and family, and I commend the Asher family and the company’s employees on the 125th anniversary of its founding.

TRIBUTE TO DAN KNUTSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Dan Knutson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Dan is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and a recent graduate of Augustana University, having earned a degree in psychology. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chance Brown for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:34 p.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. 585. An act to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for the Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, 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. 294. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the “Endy Nhobibong Ekpanya Post Office Building”.

H.R. 378. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 452. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the “Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office”.

H.R. 1598. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrom Post Office”.

H.R. 2105. An act to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate guidance to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2196. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2229. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions, for whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2254. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2635 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the “Janet Capello Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2302. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2299 Nassau Street, Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the “Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Post Office”.

H.R. 2464. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the “John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office”.

H.R. 2763. An act to amend the Small Business Innovation Research Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2869. An act to establish the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission.

H.R. 3031. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide authority in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3243. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the sunset of certain provisions relating to information technology, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2015 to extend the sunset relating to the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2019 and the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027.


The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1616) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2266) to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Appropriations:

Messrs. GARAMENDI, MS. PEIER, MR. VEASEY, Mrs. CAROLINA, L. OBIONDO, BISHOP OF UTAH, MR. COURTNEY, MS. TSONGAS, MR. BERNSTEIN, MS. BORDALLO, MR. BORN, WITTMAN, COFFMAN, Mrs. HURTZLER, MS. ASHLEY, MS. SULLIVAN OF NEW YORK, MS. STOKES OF OHIO, BERGMAN, AND YARMUTH.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 221, 551, 555, and 3509 of the House bill, and sections 236, 551–53, 3116, 3508, and 3122 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Ms. FOXX, Messrs. BYRNE, AND SCOTT OF VIRGINIA.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 313, 601, 1263, 1264, 2850, and 3112 of the House bill, and sections 601, 701, 725, 732, 1089A, 1625, and 3114 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. WALDEN, BARTON, AND PALLONE.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of section 862 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. BARR, WILLIAMS, AND MAXINE WATERS OF CALIFORNIA.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 806, 1032, 1039, 1049, 1058, 1201, 1203–05, 1211, 1222, 1223, 1231, 1232, 1234, 1243, 1246, 1247, 1265, 1270A, 1272A, 1276, 1278, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1521, 1522, 1678, 2841, and 3117 of the House bill, and sections 601, 801, 801, 1011, 1023–05, 1212, 1215, 1233–31, 1241–45, 1250, 1261–63, 1270B, 1270C, 1282, 1283, 1301, 1302, 1531, and 1651 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA, DONGOYAN, AND ENGEL.

From the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, for consideration of sections 515, 1002, 1006, 1007, 1069, 1945, 2843, and 3510 of the House bill, and sections 520A, 529, 1035, 1081, 1217, 1264, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. GOODLATTE, ISSA, AND CONYERS.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 601, 1062, 1265, 2827, 2831, 2832, 2844, 2863, subtitle F of title XXVIII, and sections 311, 331, 601, 1263, 1264, 2850, and 12801 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Mr. WESTERMAN, MS. CHENEY, AND MR. GRISOLIA.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 323, 501, 801, 803, 859–860A, 873, and 1101–09 of the House bill, and sections 218, 544, 557, 581, 812, 821, 822, 829, 832, 902, 931, 934, 938, 1045, 1069, 1089, 1119–14, 1941, 2921, 2922, 2605, 6005, 6012, 10804, 11023–25, and 11863 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. MEADOWS, ROSS, AND LYNCH.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 222 of the House bill and sections 897, 899, 1662–64, and 6002 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. SMITH OF TEXAS, LUCAS, AND MS. EDIE BERNICE.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 801, 860B, 867, 1701–04, 1711–13, 1721–23, 1731–37, and 1741 of the House bill, and sections 854, 862, 897, 898, 899C, 10801, and 10802 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. CHABOT, KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI, AND MS. VELAZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 122, 311, 546, 601, 1082, 1617, 1695, 3501, 3562, 3550–10 of the House bill, and sections 331, 601, 1048, 6002, 13501, 13508, 13513, 13607, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. GRAVES OF MISSOURI, HUNTER, AND MRS. BUSTOS.

From the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for consideration of section 572, 573, 578, 577, 1087, 2841 of the House bill, and sections 731, 1049, 1288, 1264, 11001, 11008, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. ROE OF TENNESSEE, BILIRAKIS, AND WALZ.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of section 701 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Mr. TIBERI, MRS. WALORSKI, AND MR. NEAL.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 294. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the “Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 578. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 692. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the “Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1583. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrem Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2105. An act to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate guidance to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the “Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2229. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for the promulgation of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2254. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2853 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the “Janet Capello Post Office Building”, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
H. R. 2302. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 259 Nassau Street, Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the “Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Postal Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H. R. 2464. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2871 St. John's Road in Pembroke, Massachusetts, as the “John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H. R. 2763. An act to amend the Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, in its discretion, to provide for fees and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 6, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 178. An act to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, and improve the justice system’s response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

S. 622. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–3021. A communication from the Acting Director of Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Water and Waste Loans and Grants” (RIN0572–AC36) (7 CFR Part 1760) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3013. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fluoxetine–P–Butyl; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL–9966–09–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3016. A communication from the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey, Chair of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Importation of Fresh Persimmons From New Zealand Into the United States” (RIN0579–AE26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3017. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pecans Grown in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas; Establishment of Assessment Fees; SR–SC–140027) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3018. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s 2017 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3019. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3020. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Frederick S. Rudesheim, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3021. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Failure of Contractors, Participating under the DoD Test Program for a Comprehensive Subcontracting Reporting System, to Achieve Negotiated Goals”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3022. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Assessment of the Recommendations of the National Commission on the Future of the Army”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3023. A communication from the Under Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting a report relative to the Defense Laboratory Modernization Pilot Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3024. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Certain Entities from the Entity List; and Revisions of Entries on the Entity List” (RIN0694–AH3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3025. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wassenaar Arrangement 2016 Plenary Amendments Implementing Draft Amended Annex B (AMH3) (RIN0694–AH38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3026. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations to Include the Continuation of Emergency Declared in Executive Order 13222” (RIN0694–AH38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3027. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3028. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Africa that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3030. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to credit availability for small businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3031. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, May 2017; to the Committee on Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3032. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Negotiated Noncompetitive Agreements for the Use of Sand, Gravel, and/or Shell Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf” (RIN1010–AD90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.


EC–3034. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Certain Entities from the Entity List; and Revisions of Entries on the Entity List” (RIN0694–AH3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
EC–3035. 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 Implementation Plans: Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)” (FRL No. 9968–66–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3036. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Regional Haze SIP Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Baltimore Maryland Nonattainment area” (FRL No. 9968–54–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3037. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)” (FRL No. 9968–62–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3038. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Regional Haze Five-Year Review State Implementation Plan” (FRL No. 9968–64–Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3039. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Enhanced Monitoring; California” (FRL No. 9968–98–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3040. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) Trading Programs” (FRL No. 9968–34–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3041. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to Ozone Offset Require-
EC–3059. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Children and Families, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3060. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Children and Families, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3061. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3062. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3063. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3064. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3065. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3066. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Evaluation of the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3067. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Medicare Payments for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests in 2016: 3 of Online Data”; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of October 5, 2017, the following reports of committees were submitted on October 13, 2017:

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:
S. Con. Res. 25. An original concurrent resolution on the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:
S. 21. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law (Rept. No. 115–169).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:
S. 1238. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may elect to have the United States Postal Service Hold for Pick-up service or the Signature Confirmation service in delivering the document, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–171).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:
S. 1564. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–172).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:
S. Res. 211. A resolution condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:
S. Res. 245. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to release unjustly detained United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens, and for other purposes.

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 (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRUZ:
S. Res. 291. A resolution affirming the historical connection of the Jewish people to the ancient and sacred city of Jerusalem and condemning efforts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to denounce the millennium-old historical, religious, and cultural ties to Jerusalem; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HELLEHER (for himself, Mr. COTESTASTO, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. COLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. Daines, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GLEASON, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HENRICH, Ms. HERTHAMP, Ms. IHRON, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOHUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. MURAN, Ms. MURAWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY
Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. Sasse, Mr. SCHUMATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHEEHAN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STRANGE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG). 

S. Res. 292. A resolution condemning the brutal and senseless attack at a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, honoring the memory of the victims of the deadly shooting, offering condolences to, and expressing support for, the families and friends of the victims and all of the individuals who were affected by the attack, and applauding the dedication and bravery of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, medical professionals, hotel security and staff, and community members in responding to the attack; considered and agreed to. By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCHULTZ, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHEEHAN, Mrs. McCaskill, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MENENDEZ, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. Con. Res. 26. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Chair of Honor; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 58
At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 322
At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 652
At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 872
At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 948
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1064
At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Ms. UNDERWOOD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1113
At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 1430
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance use disorders at certain facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1453
At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1453, a bill to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to designate certain substance use disorder treatment facilities as eligible for National Health Service Corps service.

S. 1496
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1496, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive American women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1568
At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1595
At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1595, a bill to amend the Hizballah Financial Sanctions and Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes.

S. 1690
At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater support to students with dependents, and for other purposes.

S. 1703
At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to provide minimal cybersecurity operational standards for Internet-connected devices purchased by federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1753
At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide a temporary license for loan originators transitioning between employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1806
At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1809
At the request of Mr. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes.

S. 1823
At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes.
S. 1827
At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, a bill to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1829
At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, supra.

S. 1842
At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1842, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 1859
At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to extend the moratorium on the annual fee on health insurance providers.

S. 1911
At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1922
At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a resolution to extend title VIII of the SHARED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSURANCE ACT to extend the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

S. 1939
At the request of Mr. ENZI:
S. Con. Res. 25. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—AFFIRMING THE HISTORICAL CONNECTION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THE ANCIENT AND SACRED CITY OF JERUSALEM, AND DEMNING EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) TO DENY JUDAISM'S MILLENNIA-OLD HISTORICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND CULTURAL TIES TO JERUSALEM
Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 291
Whereas for over 3,000 years, Jerusalem has played a central role in the history and identity of the Jewish people; Whereas Jerusalem is the location of the holiest site for the Jewish people, the Temple Mount, as well as the Western Wall, where Jews from across the world come to pray; Whereas Jerusalem has been a Christian pilgrimage site for over 2,000 years, and holds considerable religious significance for Christians; Whereas Jerusalem is home to the third holiest site in Islam, and holds considerable religious significance for Muslims; Whereas Jerusalem serves as a cultural and religious inspiration to billions of people around the world; Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has passed a series of anti-Israel resolutions in recent years regarding Jerusalem, both at the Committee level and by the Executive Board—a governing body of UNESCO; Whereas these biased resolutions are attempts to erase the Jewish as well as Christian historical and religious ties to Jerusalem, and unjustly single out our close ally Israel with false accusations and criticism; Whereas numerous archaeological excavations, such as those taking place in the City of David, Israel’s most archaeologically excavated site, have uncovered a myriad of antiquities which scientifically reaffirm Jerusalem’s historical significance to Judaism as well as Christianity; Whereas the City of David is the archaeological site of ancient Jerusalem, and is believed to be the very site recorded in the Bible upon which King David established the capital of ancient Israel; Whereas since 1867, there have been archaeological excavations at the site of the City of David, including international delegations of archaeologists from the United States, England, France, and Germany; Whereas these excavations have unearthed antiquities from over 10 different civilizations, including Canaanite, Israelite, Roman, Byzantine, and Persian; Whereas the current excavations of the City of David are carried out under the auspices of the City of David Antiquities Authority, and are held to the highest scientific standards; Whereas among the most significant archaeological discoveries unearthed from the City of David include the Siloam Inscription (8th century B.C.E.), which recounts the preparations made by King Hezekiah of Judah for the impending Assyrian siege against Jerusalem, consistent with the Biblical account from 2 Kings; clay seal impressions/bullae (6th century B.C.E.) bearing the names of two Judean Government officials who are mentioned in the very same verse in the Bible, Jeremiah 39:1; the Pool of Siloam (1st century B.C.E.), which served during the Second Temple period as a ritual bath for the hundreds of thousands of Jewish pilgrims ascending annually to the Temple, which stood atop the Temple Mount; and the Second Temple Pilgrimage Road (1st century B.C.E.), which began at the Pool of Siloam and served as the main thoroughfare of Second Temple period Jerusalem that carried hundreds of thousands of people on their annual pilgrimage to the Temple; Whereas the Pilgrimage Road located within the City of David, which stretches 600 meters from the Pool of Siloam to the footsteps of the Western Wall, will be open to visitors upon completion of the excavation; and Whereas these discoveries affirm the undeniable truth that the City of David, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount are intrinsically linked together—physically, historically, and symbolically—as the bedrock of the connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem, and have been for millennia: Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and affirms the historical connection of the Jewish people to the ancient and sacred city of Jerusalem; (2) recognizes and affirms that the archaeological discoveries from the City of David, the site of ancient Jerusalem, present undeniable scientific evidence of the millennia-old connection of Jerusalem to the Jewish people, and, by extension, to Christianity; and (3) commends the Government of Israel for protecting the freedoms of all faiths in Jerusalem including Jews, Christians, and Muslims, ensuring their access to holy sites so that they may worship freely;

(4) condemns any past, present, or future efforts at UNESCO to delegitimize Israel through attempts to rewrite and deny the history of Jerusalem; and

(5) encourages the United States to continue working with allies to prevent UNESCO from passing biased and unjust anti-Israel resolutions in the future.

Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BATES, Mr. BINGHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURRE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. EINSTEIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARLAND, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISASKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKY, Mr. McCaIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORGAN, Ms. MKWATKWI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. Sasse, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SITAb, Mr. SASKEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

1. (1) hundreds of individuals stood in long lines to donate blood for those who were injured in the attack; and
(2) the people of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the United States expressed overwhelming financial, physical, and emotional support for the victims and the families of the victims;

2. Whereas local organizations, businesses, and caregivers came together with Federal, State, and local emergency medical and health care professionals to support the victims and help the community heal; and

3. Whereas Nevada has a vibrant and renowned tourism economy that will continue to thrive, attracting and welcoming millions of visitors from across the United States and internationally, and emergency management officials will diligently dedicate local and Federal resources to boost public safety and security in Las Vegas, Nevada; Now, therefore,

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the horrific attack at the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 1, 2017, in which 58 innocent individuals were killed and more than 500 innocent individuals were injured;

(2) honors the memory of the victims killed in the attack and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(3) expresses hope for a full and speedy recovery by, and pledges continued support for, those who were injured in the attack;

(4) offers compassion to those who attended the event, but were not physically injured, and are dealing with symptoms of post-traumatic stress or seeking grief counseling;

(5) recognizes the spirit and resilience of the Las Vegas and Nevada communities; and

(6) applauds the dedication and bravery of local, State, and Federal law enforcement and counterterrorism officials and emergency management professionals, for their coordinated efforts in responding to the attack, securing the community, and providing treatment.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POMIA) CHAIR OF HONOR.

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. Rubio, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Rounds, Mrs. Warns, Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. McCaskill, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Markay, Mr. Menendez, and Ms. Cortez Masto) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Con. Res. 26
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SEC. 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION (POMIA) CHAIR OF HONOR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on November 8, 2017, to unveil the American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POMIA) Chair of Honor.

(b) PREPARRATIONS.—Provisions for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1111. Mr. KAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 25, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1112. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 785, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes. which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1113. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 705, supra.

SA 1114. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

SA 1115. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1111. Mr. KAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 25, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 83, line 17, strike “Sections 3205 and” and insert “Section”.

On page 83, line 19, strike “are” and insert “is”.

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4114. PROHIBITION ON AGREEING TO CERTAIN LEGISLATION WITHOUT A SCORE IN THE SENATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to vote on the adoption of a covered amendment to a bill or resolution that requires an estimate under section 402 of the
Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653), unless an estimate described in such section 402 for the covered amendment was made publicly available on the website of the Congressional Budget Office not later than 48 hours before the time the vote commences. *(b) COVERED AMENDMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered amendment’ means an amendment in the nature of a substitute.*

**(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—** *(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be amended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. *(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).*

**SA 1112. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 705, to amend the National Child Protection and Safety Act of 2000—**

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. *(This Act may be cited as the ‘Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017’).*

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROGRAM. *(The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (34 U.S.C. 40101 et seq.) is amended— *(1) in section 3 (34 U.S.C. 40102)— **(A) by striking ‘‘provider’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘covered individual’’; *(B) by striking ‘‘provider’s’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘covered individual’s’’; *(C) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as follows: **‘‘(3) (A) The Attorney General shall establish a program, in accordance with this section, to provide qualified entities located in States that do not have in effect procedures described in paragraph (1), or qualified entities located in States that do not prohibit the use of established procedures under this paragraph, with access to national criminal history background checks on, and criminal history reviews of, covered individuals. **(B) A qualified entity described in subparagraph (A) may submit to the appropriate designated entity a request for a national criminal history background check on, and a criminal history review of, a covered individual. Qualified entities making a request under this paragraph shall comply with the guidelines set forth in section (b), and with any applicable procedures set forth by the Attorney General or by the State in which the entity is located.”; *(D) in subsection (b)— **(1) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking ‘‘unsupervised’’; *(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following: **‘‘(2) (A) the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, ensures that— **(i) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is entitled to obtain a copy of any background check report; *(B) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is provided a process by which the covered individual may appeal the results of the background check to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the background report of the covered individual; *(iii) each covered individual described in clause (ii) will receive instructions on how to complete the appeals process if the covered individual wishes to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the background report of the covered individual; *(B) the appeals process is completed in a timely manner for each covered individual described in clause (ii); *(C) the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, may allow for a review process— **(i) through which the State or designated entity, as the case may be, may determine that a covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is disqualified for a crime specified in subsection (f)(2); *(ii) which is consistent with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.); *(iii) shall be consistent with the requirements of the Attorney General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a manner that ensures the recovery of all costs for providing such services. The designated entity shall remit the appropriate portion of such fee to the Attorney General, which amount is in accordance with the amount published in the Federal Register to be collected for the provision of a criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **(3) ENSURING FEES DO NOT DISCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS.—A fee system under this subsection shall be established in a manner that ensures that fees charged to qualified entities for background checks do not discourage volunteers from participating in programs to care for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. A fee charged to a qualified entity under this subsection shall be at a level that will ensure the recovery of the full costs of providing all such services. The designated entity shall remit the appropriate portion of such fee to the Attorney General, which amount is in accordance with the amount published in the Federal Register to be collected for the provision of a criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **(4) FEES.— **(1) STATE PROGRAM.—In the case of a background check conducted pursuant to a State requirement adopted after December 20, 1993, conducted with fingerprints on a covered individual, the fees collected by authorized State agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may not exceed the actual cost of the background check conducted with fingerprints. **(2) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—In the case of a national criminal history background check and criminal history review conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the fees collected by a designated entity based at a level that will ensure the recovery of the full costs of providing all such services. The designated entity shall remit the appropriate portion of such fee to the Attorney General, which amount is in accordance with the amount published in the Federal Register to be collected for the provision of a criminal history background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **(5) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a). *
“(i) is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, a qualified entity; or

(ii) owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate, a qualified entity.”

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting “and”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) the term ‘designated entity’ means an entity, a qualified entity, or the Attorney General under section 3(3)(2)(A).”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be implemented by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1113. Mr. M CCONNELL (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 705, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, 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 “Child Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017.”

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACK- GROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HIS- TORY REVIEW PROGRAM.

The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (34 U.S.C. 40101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (34 U.S.C. 40102)—

(A) by striking “provider” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual”;

(B) by striking “provider’s” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual’s”;

(C) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as follows:

“(3)(A) The Attorney General shall establish a program, in accordance with this section, to provide qualified entities located in States that do not have in effect procedures described in paragraph (1), or qualified entities located in States that do not prohibit the use of the program established under this paragraph, with access to the national criminal history background checks on, and criminal history reviews of, covered individuals.

(B) A qualified entity described in subparagraph (A) may submit to the appropriate designated entity a request for a national criminal history background check on, and a criminal history review of, a covered individual. Qualified entities making a request under this paragraph shall comply with the guidelines set forth in subsection (b), and shall provide a copy of any background check report referred to the Attorney General by the State in which the entity is located.”;

(D) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking “unsupervised”;

(ii) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2)(A) the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, ensures that—

(i) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is entitled to obtain a copy of any background check report; and

(ii) each covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is entitled to complete the appeals process if the covered individual is given notice of the opportunity to appeal; and

(iii) the appeals process is completed in a timely manner for each covered individual described in clause (ii); and

(B) the State, or in a State that does not have in effect procedures described in subsection (a)(1), the designated entity, may allow for a review process—

(i) through which the State or designated entity, as applicable, may determine that a covered individual who is the subject of a background check under subsection (a) is disqualified for a crime specified in subsection (f)(2)(C); and

(ii) which shall be consistent with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), as applicable.

(ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting after “authorized agency” the following: “or designated entity, as applicable.”;

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(iv) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(v) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(vi) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(vii) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(viii) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(ix) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” and inserting “or”; and

(x) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” and inserting “or”;

(3) ENSURING FEES DO NOT DISCOURAGE VOLUNTEERS.—A fee system under this sub- section shall be established in a manner that ensures that fees to qualified entities for background checks do not discourage volunteers from participating in the provision of care for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. A fee charged to a qualified entity that is not organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 may not be less than the total sum of the costs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the designee that is requested by the entity.

(4) (G) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACK- GROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROGRAM.—

“(1) NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACK- GROUND CHECK.—Upon a designated entity receiving notice of a request submitted by a qualified entity pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the designated entity shall forward the request to the Attorney General, who shall act, through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, complete a fingerprint-based check of the national criminal history background checks system, and provide the information received in response to such national criminal history background check to the appropriate designated entity. The designated entity may, upon request from a qualified entity, complete a check of a State criminal history database.

“(g) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW.—

“(A) Designated entities.—The Attorney General shall designate, and enter into an agreement with, one or more entities to make determinations described in paragraph (2).

(B) Determinations.—A designated entity shall, upon the receipt of the information described in paragraph (1), make a determination of fitness described in subsection (b)(4), using the criteria described in subparagraph (C).

(C) CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW CRITERIA.—

(A) A covered individual shall be determined to be unfit under subsection (b)(4) if the covered individual—

(i) refuses to consent to a criminal back- ground check under this section;

(ii) knowingly makes a materially false statement in connection with a criminal background check under this section;

(iii) is registered, or is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.);

(iv) has been convicted of a felony consist- ing of—

(I) murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;

(II) child abuse or neglect;

(III) a crime against children, including child pornography;

(IV) spousal abuse;

(V) a crime involving rape or sexual assa- ult;

(VI) kidnapping;

(VII) arson;

(VIII) physical assault or battery; or

(IX) a drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years;

(v) has been convicted of a violent mis- demeanor committed as an adult against a child, including—

(I) child abuse;

(II) child endangerment;

(III) sexual assault; or

(IV) a crime involving rape or sexual assa- ult;

(V) murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;
"(IV) of a misdemeanor involving child pornography; or
"(vi) in the case of a covered individual who has, seeks to have, or may have access to the elderly or individuals with disabilities, has been convicted of any criminal offense relating to the abuse, exploitation, or neglect (as those terms are defined in section 2011 of the Child Abuse Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 1397f)) of an elder or an individual with disabilities."; and
(2) in section 5 (34 U.S.C. 40104)—
(a) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:
"(9) the term 'covered individual' means an individual—
"(A) who has, seeks to have, or may have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, served by a qualified entity; and
"(B) who—
"(i) is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, a qualified entity; or
"(ii) owns or operates, or seeks to own or operate, a qualified entity;"
(b) in paragraph (10), by striking "and" at the end;
(c) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and
(d) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:
"(12) the term 'designated entity' means an entity designated by the Attorney General under section 3(f)(2)(A)."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.
This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be fully implemented by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1115. Mr. McConnell (for Mr. Hatch) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes:"

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS
The filing date for the 2017 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Wednesday, October 25, 2017. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable pdf document. If your office did no mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 222 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.
The Senate Office of Public Records is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

APPOINTMENT
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Laura O'Conner of Utah.

RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MURDERED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 99 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 99) recognizing the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

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. 99) was agreed to.
The preamble was agreed to.
The resolution (with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL AND SENSELESS ATTACK AT A COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 292, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 292) condemning the brutal and senseless attack at a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, honoring the memory of the victims of the deadly shooting, offering condolences to, and expressing support for, the families and friends of the victims and all of the individuals who were affected by the attack, and applauding the dedication and bravery of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, medical professionals, hotel security and staff, and community members in responding to the attack.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I 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. 292) was agreed to.
The preamble was agreed to.
The resolution (with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZED USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 26, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of the American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Chair of Honor.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) was agreed to.
The concurrent resolution is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017
Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 218, S. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 705) to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee
on the Judiciary, with amendments, as follows:

'(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 705

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 "Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY REVIEW PROVISIONS.

The National Child Protection Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 5119 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (42 U.S.C. 5119a)—

(A) by striking "provider" each place it appears and inserting "covered individual";

(B) by striking "provider's" each place it appears and inserting "covered individual's";

(C) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as follows:

"(3)(A) The Attorney General shall establish a program, in accordance with this section, to provide qualified entities located in States that do not have in effect procedures described in paragraph (1), or qualified entities located in States that do not prohibit the use of the program established under this paragraph, with access to national criminal history background checks on, and criminal history reviews of, covered individuals.

"(B) A qualified entity described in subparagraph (A) may submit to the appropriate designated entity a request for a national criminal history background check on, and a criminal history review of, a covered individual. Qualified entities making a request under this paragraph shall comply with the guidelines set forth in subsection (b), and with any additional applicable procedures set forth by the Attorney General or by the State in which the entity is located."

(D) in subsection—

(i) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking "unsupervised";

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as so redesignated, by striking "that each covered individual who is the subject of a background check conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(I)" and (III) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) that each covered individual who is the subject of a background check conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the designated entity shall forward to the Attorney General, who shall, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, complete a fingerprint-based check of the national criminal history background check system, and provide the information received in response to the designated entity."

(iii) in paragraph (3), insert after "author-ized agency" the following: "or designated entity, as applicable";

(iv) in paragraph (4), insert after "authorized agency" the following: "or designated entity, as applicable;"

(E) in paragraph (5), insert after "officer or employee thereof," the following: "nor shall any designated entity nor any officer or employee thereof;"

(F) in section 5 (42 U.S.C. 5119c)—

(G) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e) FEES.—

"(1) STATE PROGRAM.—In the case of a background check conducted pursuant to a State requirement adopted after December 20, 1993, conducted with fingerprints on a covered individual by authorized State agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation [may not exceed eighteen dollars, respectively, or the actual cost, whichever is less, of the background check conducted with fingerprints]."

"(2) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—In the case of a national criminal history background check and criminal history review conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the designated entity shall be set at a level that will ensure the recovery of the full costs of providing all such services. The designated entity shall remit the appropriate portion of such fee to the Attorney General, which amount is in accordance with the amount published in the Federal Register to be collected for the provision of a criminal history background check system and criminal history review conducted pursuant to the procedures established pursuant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation."
employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Hatch substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1114) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment is printed in today’s Record under “Text of Amendments.”

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 695), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 1115) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employ- ment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.”

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Trachtenberg nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

KIRSTEN JIELSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JOHN F. KELLY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ALEX A. BEHRER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE KATHERINE Hamm, RESIGNED.

JAMES E. MCPHERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, VICE ALISSA M. STABILE, RESIGNED.

JOHN C. HODG, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY, VICE CHRISTINE E. WORMUTH.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BARRY LEE MYERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERIC PREDICTION AND PROTECTION, VICE RAYMOND J. SCHULTZ.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HANNIBAL WARE, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE FREGIO V. GUERRERO, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN BARTHELT MITCHEL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, VICE NANCY HELEN SELBY.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

GAIL S. ENNES, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, VICE PATRICK F. O’CARROLL, JR., RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEPHEN AKARD, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, VICE ARNOLD A. CHU, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SHOCK D. BIERMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE THOMAS O. MILLA.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PRESTON BUTLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE PHYLLIS CORINE SHEAR, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

JOHN EDWARD DUPUY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, VICE PATRICK K. MCFARLAND, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

JAMES C. BO, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE CAROLYN D. RANDALL, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JON J. RYCKLAGE, OF MONTANA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE HELEN THOMPSON, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED FIGHTER NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DOROTHY A. HOGO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED FIGHTER NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PAUL D. NELSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED FIGHTER NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON

THE FOLLOWING AIR 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. RALPH L. SCHWADER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DONALD B. ABERVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12211:

To be major general

COL. RICHARD E. ANGLE

COL. SELFORD H. BRAGG, JR.

COL. SEAN C. BERNABE

COL. HAROLD A. BLAIN

COL. JAMES P. BERNHARD

COL. JAMES S. BISCHLER

COL. WILLIAM M. BOSUP

COL. RICHARD B. COFFMAN

COL. CHARLES D. COSTANZA

COL. JOEL L. CURRIELLA

COL. ROBERT B. DAVIS

COL. MICHAEL R. EASTMAN

COL. BRIAN S. ELLER

COL. CHRISTOPHER L. KUBANK

COL. THOMAS R. LEWIS

COL. WILLIAM J. HARTMAN

COL. DARREN F. HILLINGER

COL. DAVID M. HONE

COL. JONATHAN E. HOWERTON

COL. RICHARD H. HUNTER

COL. THOMAS L. JAMES

COL. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEV

COL. OTTO K. LILLIE

COL. VINCENT F. MALONE, II

COL. CHARLES B. MILLER

COL. JAMES S. MOORE, JR.

COL. MICHAEL T. MORRISSEY

COL. ANTONIO V. VENEZUELA

COL. FREDERICK M. O’DONNELL

COL. PAUL E. OWEN

COL. WALTER T. RUGEN

COL. MICHELLE A. SCHMIDT

COL. MARK T. SIMBLY

COL. BRIAN E. SLOAN

COL. ROBERT L. STINNET

COL. WILLIAM D. TAYLOR

COL. WILLIAM L. THOMPSON

COL. THOMAS J. TURNER

COL. MATTHEW J. VANWAGENEN

COL. DAREN L. WERNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED 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. DEON J. CRUZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED 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 major general

BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. HEILY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED 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 major general

BRIG. GEN. KEITH Y. TAMASHIRO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED 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 lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SCOTT D. BERGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED 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 lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ERICH P. WINGENT

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12211:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CHRISTOPHER W. GRADY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12211:

To be vice admiral

BRAD ADM. BRUCE H. LINDSEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be vice admiral
IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the regular air force under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Christopher M. Parker
Wayne A. Penneill
Kyle E. Perry
Angela K. Phillips
Elizabeth B. Phillips
Shannon D. Prichard
David E. Proctor
Mark J. Powers
Kimberly Ann Pool
John J. Powell
Krishna A. Prentice
Kevin A. Price
Tiffany J. Prokaska
Gather A. Quesenberry
Michelle M. Bento
Rachel Daniels Rhodes
Cathy A. Riley
Jelisha L. Roberts
Lora S. Ross
Kerry R. Sanders
Jessica N. Sands
Christopher A. Schaefer
Stacey J. Schiener
Jessica M. Schreck
Donald W. Sears, Jr.
Andersen B. Severns
Jonathan Shin
Daniel L. Shubert
Michelle A. Atletta-Campbell
Charisma C. Cinn
Michael P. Stattepole
Thomas K. Stallworth
Demond A. Taylor
Jennifer L. Terrebonne
John J. Thompson
Daniel C. Thibow
Kevin J. Thynne
Brad S. Terpil
Hidalgo L. Toms
Malick B. Traore
Shalopytt Update
Christina A. Valles
Kasindra M. Van Meter
Peter B. Venet
Jonathan Paul Virnig
Catherine A. Volemer
Michael A. Volemer
Carrol D. Walker
Latasia M. Westfall
Joshua V. Williams
Samuel R. Williams
Lawrence J. Wilson
Naimi L. Winterfield
Bart D. Winters
Sarah M. Woodward
Mandeau Loy Tates
June J. Yee
Eric M. Young
Shenika A. Zarebski
Kristina M. Zuccarelli

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as permanent professor at the United States Military Academy in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 4333(B) and 4336(A):

To be colonel

David S. Lyle

To be major

Benjamin A. Barbee
Edward W. Brown
Eleanor E. Finn
Andrew P. Goerk
Jeremiah M. Harvey
Walter L. Hellick
Kenshin K. Hudson
Marshall T. Mcguire
Matthew R. Morgan
Jason L. Oliver
Matthew P. Reff
Matthew A. Riley
Blair D. Tighe

To be colonel (latter half)

George E. Inabinet

To be major

Benjamin A. Barbee
Edward W. Brown
Eleanor E. Finn
Andrew P. Goerk
Jeremiah M. Harvey
Walter L. Hellick
Kenshin K. Hudson
Marshall T. Mcguire
Matthew R. Morgan
Jason L. Oliver
Matthew P. Reff
Matthew A. Riley
Blair D. Tighe

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the regular army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major

Garrett K. Anderson
Jordan A. Lieppest
Roger D. Plaster

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States army dental corps under title 10, U.S.C., sections 424 and 434:

To be major

Joshua A. Akers
Matthew R. Anderson
Pavlove S. Baker
Richard M. Banks
Jared D. Beach

To be major

Tyson T. Beck
Autumn L. Becker
Daniel L. Becker
William J. Bellman
Bonnie R. Boudreaux
Nathan R. Buekner
Natalie A. Campfield
Maribeth Carbonell
James J. Chab
Albert W. Cheng
Jai I. Cho
Robs K. Cook
Mauro Correa, Jr.
Clayton T. Craig
Jonathan L. Czerek
Catharine M. Dixon
Timothy J. Dixon
David T. Ensley
Matthew V. Esteman
Joseph E. Ferguson
Patrick S. Ferguson
Michael D. Gillman
Paul M. Gompert
John M. Goodman
Nadine H. Hajigaj
Allie C. Hamaker
Joshua A. Hant
Bradon J. Hanson
Paul C. Kassman
Jonathan D. Lane
Tiffany R. Lewis
Eric J. Lund
Jonathan A. Mason
Cobi M. Mcclatchy
Billary J. McDermott
James B. McLaughlin
Paiti Mekari
George E. Mitrogoos
Navia T. Mutter
Christoper T. Norman
Mitchell J. L. Oliver
Justin E. Oliver
Kony Park
James J. Parker
Farzard L. Pouranfar
April M. Powers
Jared L. Price
Joshua D. Frudin
Shannah L. Sra
Adhrienne R. Bemritt
Joshua L. Bostrom
Shakanisa L. Suggs
Michael D. Shahill
Jillian D. Silghel
Schuyler B. Sessions
Chao H. Shin
David H. Smith
Brant S. Talbot
Jesse A. Trumpet
Darin F. Tiner
Joseph A. Vondroosch
Joseph R. Waldrum
Ashley W. White
Thomas M. Wilmair
Lucinda J. Young

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Medical corps under title 10, U.S.C., sections 424 and 434:

To be major

Jonathan L. Abbott
Milanjie J. Acuverovale
Mostafa M. Ahmed
Aaron A. Anderson
Raben T. Aurb
Daniel W. Bailey
Micahel B. Bailey
Wayne T. Bailey
Stephen E. Barber
Adam B. Milareki
Jason T. Baitman
Hillery S. Savani
Jess S. Bellino
Rafik Benabda
Michael D. Berkes
Hugh F. Begg
Georgie E. Black I
Lartion L. Blackey
John F. Bynes
Zachary C. Booms
Cyris C. Bowers
Alaia M. Brelin
Matthew E. Brice
Kevin M. Broderick
Robert O. Brotherton
Steven E. Brown
Shawn C. Buckingham
Matthew E. Bynes
Ryan V. Buerkart
Michael A. Bursky
David C. Byrd
Roberto Candelaria-Santiago
Ebonie R. Cantor
Rudolph A. Carpenter III
Christopher L. Case, Jr.
Michael P. Cavender
Ashley D. Cisar
Philip J. Chandler
Edward T. Cheek
To the grade indicated in the United States Army Nurse Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Medical Specialist Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Nurse Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Medical Specialist Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Nurse Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Medical Specialist Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army Nurse Corps under Title 10, U.S.C., Sections 624 and 3064:
The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Michael W. Chung

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Rebecca J. Cooper
Matthew L. Daniels

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Chermita M. Clay
John C. Hubbard

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Charles K. Bergman

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Jason P. Affolter
Kevin J. Agen
Kathy L. Allison
Michael C. Anderson
Wyeth S. Anderson
Christian C. Ayers
Kevin M. Bailey
Leslie A. Barnett
Daniel A. Bartlett
Julia Bredif

To be lieutenant colonel

David J. H. Chang
Fred W. Dixon
Richard J. Fonzi
Daniel A. Holland
Christopher W. Lowe
John M. Perkins
Benjamin A. King
Steve M. Smith
Brady L. Stott
Ian J. Tarasevitch
Michael R. Taylor, Jr.
Matthew J. Vandura

To be colonel

Satavia M. Franklin

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Maureen Q. Barnatt
Aaron C. Barta

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Jennifer A. Mahoney

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Yon T. Chung
Michael B. Payne

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Grant R. Ragar

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

Robert S. Patton, Jr.

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 major

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

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 colonel

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Michael R. Taylor, Jr.
Ian J. Tarasevitch
Brady L. Stott
Steve M. Smith
Benjamin A. King
Michael R. Taylor, Jr.
Matthew J. Vandura

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Grant R. Ragar

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

Robert S. Patton, Jr.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:
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 colonel

W. M. Bochat
Robert G. Bohn
Bradley L. Boyd
John B. Brown
Terri A. Butcher
Tommy L. Cardoue, Jr.
Bradley M. Carey
Shane D. Ceelen
Jonathan M. Chung
Terry L. Clark
Glen K. Clumb
Adam M. Core
Michael W. Cobb
Matthew D. Cothren
James M. Collins

To be lieutenant commander

Winfield A. Atkins
Christopher S. Alferri
Brandon C. Anderson
William C. Ashmore
Bryan L. Babich
Timothy M. Haebe
Mark C. Bailey
Michael R. Bain
Edward J. Ballancio
Daniel T. Baird
John M. Barnfield
Shawn A. Barnes
Jeremy A. Bartel
Gary W. Beard, Jr.
Eric D. Bratty
Anthony J. Behrens
Jeffrey S. Behrmann
Michael R. Binetti
James M. Bird
W. M. Bochat
Robert G. Bohn
Bradley L. Boyd
John B. Brown
Terri A. Butcher
Tommy L. Cardoue, Jr.
Bradley M. Carey
Shane D. Ceelen
Jonathan M. Chung
Terry L. Clark
Glen K. Clumb
Adam M. Core
Michael W. Cobb
Matthew D. Cothren
James M. Collins

S6415

October 16, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
October 16, 2017

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

BRETT E. RICKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

KURT A. BOGART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 342:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER W. BRANDT

To be commander

RACHEL S. JELSMA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 104:

To be lieutenant commander

JORDAN M. WAMBURG

To be lieutenant commander

JASON P. SHAW
To be lieutenant commander

JOSHUA A. ALBRIGHT
KEVIN J. ALMENDAREZ
THOMAS A. BAILLIE
MANUEL B. BENETTE
MARK R. COLLINS
BEVERLY A. S. CRAWFORD
JACOB Z. CLARK
JOEL M. CINCOTTA
SARAH R. CHOMBEAU
ANDREW J. CHESS
MATTHEW R. CHESNEY
JEN C. CHEN
PIA M. CHAPMAN
THOMAS P. CHAMBERAS II
PATRICK M. CERONE
TOMAS G. CAVERO
SEAN C. CASTLE
JOHNATHON A. CASEY
MICHAEL W. CARTER
GREGORY W. CARTER
WILLIAM M. CARSON
JASON A. CARRIER
JARED L. CARLSON
JOHN T. CANNY II
ALEXANDER J. F. CAMPBELL
DAVID M. CAMP
WILSON M. CALLES
JAMES P. CALLAHAN
NATHANIEL C. CALCAMUGGIO
DANIEL K. BYRNE
BRETT A. BUTTERFIELD
MATTHEW A. BURMESTER
WILLIAM R. BURKLAND
JEFFREY S. BUCK
FREDERICK T. BUCKLEY
JEFFREY C. BUESCNAVENDA
DANIEL R. BUCKE, JR.
DAVID M. BURKETT
JEFFREY L. BUEHLER
WILLIAM R. BUEKLAND
JAMISON K. BURKES
MASSACHUS ETTS A. BURMESTER
JOHN A. BURNES
JASON M. BURROWS
ALEXANDER T. BUSCHOR
JONATHAN S. BUSH
AARON B. BUTLER
BRITT A. BUTTERFIELD
MATTTHW D. BYINGTON
DANIEL K. BYRNE
MICHAEL C. CALCAMUGGIO
JAMES P. CALLARAN
WILSON M. CALLE 
DAVID M. CAMP
ALEXANDER J. F. CAMPBELL
SYLVESTER CAMPOSS III
JOHN C. CAIN II
MATTHEW J. CAPALDO
JEREMY M. CAPPALDO
ASHLEY H. CARLINO
CAMERON A. CARLSON
JARRED L. BURBAGE
JASON A. CAROSSER
WILLIAM M. CARSON
GREGORY W. CARTER
MICHAELE W. CARTER
JOHNATHON A. CASEY
ANDREW W. CASSITY
SEAN C. CASTLE
TOMAS G. CAVERO
PATRICK M. CERONE
THOMAS P. CHERNOSS II
IAN C. CHAMBERLIN
NICHOLAS A. CHAMBERS
PIA M. CHAPMAN
MUHLE D. CBURGILL
NICHOLAS S. CHURBAS
JEN C. CHESS
MATTHEW R. CHESSNEY
ANDREW J. CHESY
JONMICHAEL CHOMBAU
SABAH R. CHOMBAU
WILLIAM T. CICERELLO, JR.
JONL M. CINCOUPA
STEPHEN L. CLAGETT
JASON Z. CLARK
ROBERT D. CLARKSON
COLIN M. CLEARY
NICHOLAS J. CLENDENING
MILTON D. COCHRAN
ANDREW C. COE
TIMOTHY J. COONEN
JUDD M. COOKE
JAMES C. COOLEY
JAMES C. COLLIER II
KIRSAN I. COLEMAN
DERRIE U. COLLINS
JOSE L. COLOM
JOHN A. COLVIN
PAUL J. COLLINS
LETA M. COMER
ANDREW W. CONNOR
ARLEN M. CONNOLLY
CHRISTOPHER J. CONWAY
DAVID A. COOK
EVA C. COOK
REEB C. COOK
RUSSELL J. COOK
JEFFREY A. CORNHILL
BRADLEY G. CORREA
KYLE A. CORRIGAN
DAVID S. CRAIG
DUSTIN K. CRAWFORD
CHARLES J. CRAWLEY III
JAMES C. CRICKER
JOSEPH A. CRISTO
ARLEEN V. CREWS
RYAN D. CULIGET
DIWAD L. CUMMINGS
JON D. DAMON
PETER G. DANIHELIS
PAUL MA. DANSO
RICHARD J. DAPIATO
PAUL J. DAUPHIN
JAMES D. DAY
NATHAN C. DAVEY
TYLER M. DAVIES
BRIAN J. DAVIS
DANIEL E. DAVIS
GEORGE C. DAVIS
DANIEL R. DERE
MALCOLY W. DEFILA
STEPHEN J. DEFAZIO
RICHARD R. DELLA
ROBERT J. DENNIS
ERIK A. DENT
RENATO J. DIBRA
ALAN D. DIBRIS
NATHAN E. DISRA
TIMOTHY J. DIVALL
RYAN B. DIELER
TIMOTHY J. DJURJUG
ANDREW J. DIERKES
ANDREW J. DJITZEL
ERIK S. DILL
CALVIN W. DILLARD
CHASE H. DILLARD
BRETT T. DILLON
AMANDA R. DRICKSON
ROGER A. DOMOCKOWSKI
IVAN G. DOREY
CHRISTOPHER H. DOUGLAS
FRANKS C. DORR
RYAN T. DOYLE
MARTA S. DREW
RICHARD T. DUGAN
GABRIEL P. DUGAN
KYLE R. DURBANT
JASON R. DAVIS
NICHOLAS K. EDMONTON
AMLEY E. ELLISON
SCOTTY G. ELLISON
BENJAMIN A. ELZINER
STEPHEN M. EMBRICK
NICOLEMARIS K. A. EKLAND
TIMOTHY D. ERIKSON
WILLIAM C. ERVIN
RICHARD W. ESCAMILLA, JR.
DAVID J. ESHELEMAN
LUIS E. ESTRELLA
ROBERT D. ESSEUGILLA
GREGORY D. EWING
ERIC T. FAIRCHILD
ADAM M. FAIRBROTH
MATTIAS E. FALKENBERGER
WILLIAM M. FAVIA
BRADLEY P. FERRE
JOSHUA D. FENNEBRO
SHANNON C. FETZ
SCOTT N. FEELEY
NATHANIEL C. FFRITTING
JAMISON J. FINCHLY
JASON A. FITZ
PATRICK J. FOLEGNO, JR.
ELY J. FLETCHER
ANDREW C. FLOYD
DANIEL B. FOSS
PETER C. FORDEN
TAYLOR J. FORD
ALLAN J. FORSTIA
CHRISTOPHER N. FOS
MATT THOMAS FOSTER
BRIDGETTE M. FRANZ
SASHA R. FRANKHOUSE
JOHN S. FRANKLIN, JR.
STEVEN FREIS
THOMAS J. FRY
TY T. FRIED
JOSHUA L. FRIED
RUSSELL J. FROST
To be lieutenant commander

To be commander
IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOHN J. STRAUB

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 16, 2017:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HENRY KERNER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CALLISTA L. GINGRICH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HOLY SEE.