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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who made the light to shine in the darkness, shine now in our hearts. Forgive us for our transgressions in thoughts, words, and deeds, as You cleanse us from all sin.

We thank You for Your many blessings, for music and laughter and poetry and color.

Lord, strengthen our Senators. Provide them with help in times of need, power for moments of weakness, and hope for the years to come. Lift our lawmakers above suspicion and fears so that they will be Your ambassadors of peace to our Nation and world.

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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### NOMINATIONS AND THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we confirmed yet another well-qualified nominee to the Federal bench. Now Kyle Duncan of Louisiana can get to work serving on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. His qualifica-

tions are truly impressive, but his sterling reputation among colleagues and peers was an even greater testament to Mr. Duncan's fitness. I am glad that the Fifth Circuit will benefit from his expertise.

Speaking of well-qualified nominees, the Senate will vote today on the President's choice for Secretary of State. We will consider an outstanding nominee. Fortunately, we have the votes, and later today we will confirm Mike Pompeo as our Nation's 70th Secretary of State.

We have been discussing Director Pompeo's abundant qualifications all week. In a little over a year, the Senate has had two opportunities to assess his considerable qualifications.

Last January, a bipartisan supermajority of us saw fit to confirm him as CIA Director, and his performance in that role—exemplary by all accounts—has given us even more compelling cause to confirm him to serve as our chief diplomat.

He has earned the trust and the confidence of the Commander in Chief by providing top-notch counsel on critical issues and helping to lead ongoing efforts to lay the groundwork for negotiations aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. Along the way, he deepened his reputation for fairness and discernment.

I am glad President Trump has nominated this distinguished leader to be America's chief diplomat, and I am glad a bipartisan majority of Senators will vote to confirm him today.

It is just too bad that Director Pompeo's confirmation process has offered such a prime example of the historic partisan obstruction that my colleagues across the aisle are visiting on the Senate. All fair observers agree that Mike is up to the job. Here is how the Washington Post—not known as a bastion of Republican thinking—titled their editorial, simply: "Confirm Mike Pompeo."

But despite all this, Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee al-

most took the unprecedented step of voting him out with an unfavorable recommendation. That attempt to play politics with our Nation's security fortunately failed. But even so, according to the Senate Historian, he became just the second Secretary of State nominee in recent memory to clear a committee by a margin of only one vote. The only other time that has happened in all of the Senate's history was also at the hands of Senate Democrats during the Trump administration. Once they got here on the floor, they were also the only two Secretary of State nominees in history who needed cloture to receive confirmation votes.

Let me say that again. From the founding of the Republic until 2017, the Senate never required cloture to confirm a Secretary of State. Now we are at two, both in this administration. I guess Senate Democrats are in a history-making mood, because over the past 15 months, they have embarked on a partisan campaign to block, obstruct, and delay President Trump's nominees that is, quite simply, without precedent in American history.

Let's put things in perspective. In the first 2 years of the last 6 Presidencies combined—the first 2 years of the last 6 Presidencies combined—the Senate subjected nominees to a total of 24 cloture votes during the last 6 Presidencies during the first 2 years—24 cloture votes.

Add up President Carter's first 2 years, President Reagan's first 2 years, and so on, through Presidents Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama and there are 24 total cloture votes on nominees.

For President Trump? There are 88 and counting, just 15 months into his term. By the end of the day, it will be 90—90 cloture votes on nominees. This is partisan obstruction elevated to an art form, and every one of us has seen it firsthand.

It is not just high-profile nominations. Scores of unobjectionable choices for all kinds of posts have languished on the Senate calendar. It took

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



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months and months and several deadly accidents to persuade Senate Democrats to stop obstructing a fully qualified nominee to lead the Federal Railroad Administration.

Or take the example of district court judges. With only one exception, we have had to file cloture on every single district court nominee. It doesn't matter if every Democrat on the Judiciary Committee supported the nominee. It doesn't matter if every Democrat in the whole Senate supports the nominee. No matter what, our colleagues across the aisle are insisting on obstruction, for no apparent reason.

Here are some of the final vote totals for these district judges: 96 to 1; 98 to 0; 97 to 3; 95 to 0; 96 to 0; 98 to 0, once again; 100 to 0.

Back in January, it took more than a week of the Senate's time to confirm four district court judges, and not one Senator voted no on any of them—a whole week to do four district judges, and not one Senator voted no on any of them.

Our problem is not the qualified personnel before us. Our problem is that nearly half of the Senate has decided that resisting for the sake of resistance is more politically advantageous than doing right by this institution or by our constituents. This, regrettably, is where we are: Democrats chewing up hours of Senate time on nominees that literally no Senator opposes.

I understand that my friends on the other side have a number of disagreements with the President. That tends to happen in politics, but that is no excuse at all for this historic obstruction of noncontroversial nominees. It is bad for the Senate. It is unfair to the American people.

That is why I support Senator LANKFORD's efforts to enact the very same rules change—the very same rules change—that a large and bipartisan majority agreed to back in 2013, when the Democrats were in the majority here in the Senate. It would empower the Senate to process nominations more quickly while preserving ample opportunity for debate. It is precisely the rules change that my friend the Democratic leader supported back in 2013. I joined in that bipartisan effort, along with a number of my fellow Republicans. It passed 78 to 16—78 to 16. The White House may have changed hands, but the last time I checked, fair is still fair, and common sense is still common sense.

So Senator LANKFORD is giving my Democratic colleagues their very own chance to show that principled convictions matter more than political convenience. I am proud to back his proposal. I am glad to see the Rules Committee advance it to the floor yesterday. There is no reason why every Senator shouldn't be able to join us.

Otherwise, until our Democratic colleagues put aside their historic obstruction, Republicans continue to do our duty and process the President's nominations, one way or the other. Let

me repeat that. We are processing these nominations, one way or the other.

After Mike Pompeo, I filed cloture on Ric Grenell's nomination to serve as Ambassador to Germany. We will vote on this confirmation later this afternoon.

So why don't we turn over a new leaf together and start rebuilding the comity and customs that ought to define our work here.

Just yesterday, the Rules Committee held a very productive meeting that took a step in that direction. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle took a serious look at what we can do as a body to more efficiently fulfill our responsibilities in the appropriations process. That follows on a productive meeting I had with the Democratic leader, the Appropriations chairman, and the ranking member a few days ago.

So I am hopeful about the prospects of moving forward together. We need to keep this momentum going and extend it—not just to appropriations but to nominations. This Congress has already made great progress implementing a pro-growth, pro-opportunity agenda for the middle-class, including historic tax relief for families and small businesses, but there is a lot more to do.

That is how the Senate should be spending our time—exchanging ideas and fighting for the American public.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks on the floor.

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

#### CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, there is no excuse for the delays in the con-

firmation process except sheer partisanship. It amounts to an ongoing partial government shutdown, and it definitely hurts the American people. Such obstruction is not worthy of the Senate, and the resulting judicial vacancies do great harm to the judicial system.

These are not my words but the words of the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, when he chaired the Judiciary Committee in 2014. Judicial vacancies today are 60 percent higher than when he expressed those concerns back then. Vacancies are 52 percent higher than what he said was a “disaster for our Nation's overburdened courts.”

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts labels some judicial vacancies as judicial emergencies because of their duration and impact on case-loads. On March 12, 2012, the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, said that 35 judicial emergency vacancies would cause the administration of justice to suffer at every level. Today, there are 72 judicial emergency vacancies, more than twice as many as Senator DURBIN warned about.

To be fair, I have to say that the left-wing groups that are such faithful allies of Senate Democrats are no better. In July 2012, for example, the Alliance for Justice proclaimed that 76 vacancies demonstrated “an overall and ongoing vacancy crisis in the federal courts.” Today, vacancies are 88 percent higher than the crisis level, and all we hear from the Alliance for Justice are calls to oppose and obstruct even more. Judicial vacancies today are 74 percent higher than when the Brennan Center for Justice said the Senate was not meeting its obligation to the American people.

If high judicial vacancies harm the judicial system and prevent Americans from seeking justice, why aren't Democrats and their leftwing allies leading the effort to confirm judicial nominees today? If Democrats once said that 79 vacancies constitutes a crisis, why are they silent about 143 vacancies today?

Today we face the highest judicial vacancy total since June of 1991, after Congress had created dozens of new judgeships. It is crystal clear why this dire situation confronts us today. The process for appointing Federal judges, after all, has only three steps: nomination by the President, consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a decision by the full Senate.

The first step in the judicial appointment process is Presidential nominations. President Trump has made more judicial nominations than his predecessors of both parties at this point, so he is not the problem—as you can see from that chart.

The second step is consideration by the Judiciary Committee. Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY has held a hearing on 75 of those nominations—more than under previous Presidents, so the Judiciary Committee is not the problem.

That leaves the third step right here on the Senate floor. Even though President Trump is ahead of the nomination

pace, and the Judiciary Committee is ahead of the hearing pace, the Senate's confirmation pace is half what it was at this point for the past five Presidents.

March 20, I spoke here about some of the below-the-radar obstruction tactics Democrats are using to make this part of the process as time-consuming and cumbersome as possible. Let me offer a brief review. Democrats once complained about U.S. district court nominees being reported from the Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote. That is happening at a rate of more than four times as great today.

Democrats once criticized the failure to cooperate in scheduling floor votes for judicial nominees. So far, Democrats have forced the Senate to take separate votes to end debate, called a cloture vote, on 96 percent—96 percent—of President Trump's judicial nominees. The Senate has been forced to take 16 times as many cloture votes on President Trump's judicial nominees as under the last 12 Presidents combined at this point. You heard me right. The Senate has been forced to take 16 times as many cloture votes on judicial nominees as under the last 12 Presidents combined at this point. That is every President since the cloture rule was first applied to nominations in 1949.

In 2014, with a Democratic President, Democrats said that every time the minority refuses to cooperate in scheduling confirmation votes, every time the majority leader is forced to initiate the cloture process, the Senate is forced to take up scarce floor time, when we know these nominees will be confirmed. Today, Democrats are using that and other tactics on a scale this body has never seen before.

Democrats once objected to voting against confirming U.S. district court nominees who were supported by their own two Senators. At this point, President Obama's confirmed district court nominees had received a total of zero negative votes—zero. President Trump's district court nominees have received 73 negative votes—73. Think about that. Think about the unfairness of it.

Each of these, and more besides, is a tactic that Democrats once condemned but are today pushing to record levels of obstruction. Even more important than seeing where we are and how we got here is understanding why the Democrats and their leftwing allies are working so hard to prevent President Trump from appointing judges.

I have served in this body and on the Judiciary Committee for nearly 42 years. I have participated in the confirmation of half of all article III judges who have ever served in this country, from the beginning. In all that time, the conflict over judicial appointments has never been over judicial nominees; it has always been over judicial power. The vacancy crisis we face today is a consequence of the broader, ongoing conflict over the kind of judge America needs on the bench.

America's Founders gave us a system of government that includes a judiciary with a role defined by three important principles. First, as Founder James Wilson put it, the people are masters of the government. Second, the Constitution is the primary way that the people set rules for government. Third, among those rules is the separation of powers into three coequal but different branches.

Judges acting consistent with these principles, what I have called impartial judges, fit the design of our system of government and the liberty it makes possible. Judges who depart from those principles, what I have called political judges, are at odds with that design and undermine our liberty. President Trump is committed to appointing impartial judges, while those working so hard to obstruct his his nominees favor political judges.

President Obama led the way in the quest for a political judiciary. First, as a Senator evaluating judicial nominees and then as a President choosing them, he said judges decide cases based on their empathy, their vision of how the world works, their core concerns, and their deeply held beliefs. If judges make decisions on their personal views, then it is no wonder the Democrats want so badly to know a judicial nominee's personal views.

I will never forget the confirmation hearing for Chief Justice John Roberts in 2005. Democrats pressed him to commit, in advance and under oath, to particular results in different categories of cases. They asked repeatedly: Whose side will you be on? Political judges take sides, even before cases come before them, because their main objective is to ensure that the favored side wins and that the preferred political interest is served.

We see this in plain view today. Democrats observe a judicial nominee's personal views, or his legal views on behalf of a client, and insist that those views will dictate his judicial views. This is why many Democrats will oppose any nominee who has conservative personal beliefs or who has advocated for conservative clients. To them, there is no difference between politics and law.

Democrats oppose judicial nominees because of their personal views, even when the American Bar Association—which has never been accused of being conservative—gives those nominees its highest rating. The appeals court nominee confirmed this week, for example, received that rating only after the ABA considered, in its words, his “compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.”

In their heart of hearts, those who favor political judges have no problem with judicial minds being closed or biased so long as that leads to results they like. They seek politically correct results by any judicial means.

That judiciary is very different from the one contemplated by the Founders

of this great country. That judiciary is very different from the one described by the oath of judicial office, by which a judge commits to do justice without respect to identities or interests. That judiciary is very different from the one that makes our liberty possible.

The liberty we enjoy is by design, not by accident. That design requires judges with a limited and defined role. Impartial judges support the liberty our system of government was designed to provide while political judges undermine it. Impartial judges take the law as it is and apply it fairly to decide cases, leaving decisions about what the law should be to the American people and their elected representatives. Political judges take decisions about what the law should be away from the American people, manipulating the meaning of statutes and the Constitution to follow their own views and their own agenda.

The conflict over judicial appointments is, and will remain, a conflict over judicial power and, therefore, a conflict over the system of government crafted by America's Founders. Remember the three principles I mentioned earlier. Impartial judges allow the American people to remain the masters of government; political judges become the masters of the people. Impartial judges follow the rules the American people put in the Constitution; political judges change the meaning of those rules to suit their own ends. Impartial judges respect the separation of powers while political judges breach it.

The unprecedented obstruction of judicial nominees today is a tool in the campaign for an increasingly politicized judiciary. The rhetoric of that campaign is all about desirable objectives, all about good intentions. I close with the words of Daniel Webster, who represented two different States in the House and represented Massachusetts in the Senate before serving as Secretary of State under three different presidents. He said:

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

That is Daniel Webster. Let me repeat that again because Webster is one of the greatest people who ever served in this government.

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

America needs impartial judges so that the American people can be the masters of government and so that liberty can thrive.

Let me go over that quote again from Daniel Webster. I will end with this.

Daniel Webster said:

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

Some of those Founding Fathers really knew what they were talking about, and Webster was certainly one of them in many respects.

All I can say is that we have a chance to work together to do what is right and in the best interest of the American people. I intend to see that we do that, and I hope we can because this country is worth it. Our system of government is the best this world has ever seen, and I want to see it continue to be.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### SPECIAL COUNSEL LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I watched the President on TV this morning, and like most Americans, so many Americans, I was aghast. The President seems to live in an alternative reality. He says things that are patently false, and he thinks that just by saying them, they become true. With the number of 180-degree turns—direct contradictions to what he has said before—the name-calling, and blaming, if you watched the President this morning and the way he acted, it was so unbecoming of a President, unbecoming of a democracy.

We believe in truth. People may have different value systems, but to just make up things as he goes along and to, without blinking an eye, contradict things that he said that were exactly the opposite a few hours, a few days, a few weeks ago is not who any President of any party of any ideology should be.

What the President said this morning was embarrassing to America, to democracy, and to any American who prizes truth.

One of the things the President said this morning was that he has decided not to be involved in the Russia probe but may change his mind. That is why it is so good this morning that the Judiciary Committee is marking up bipartisan legislation that will protect Special Counsel Mueller from political interference.

From the very beginning, Special Counsel Mueller's investigation has been about following the facts of how a

foreign, hostile power interfered with our free and fair elections—the wellspring of our democracy. That investigation must be allowed to proceed safely from the President's heavy hand. The President can't make this go away by name-calling. He can't dispute facts. He can't dispute the fact that Russia's interfering in our election is very dangerous and must be investigated no matter where it leads.

It is so abundantly clear from the President's remarks this morning and from so many other things he has said that he has little regard for the rule of law. He seems to have this view that the purpose of the Justice Department is to protect his interests and persecute his enemies. That is not a democracy. The purpose of the Justice Department is to defend the rule of law, and no man or woman is above the law. It is not, simply, to go after his friends. He is angry when the Justice Department does something he doesn't like even though it is following the law. Again, that is not the hallmark of our democracy.

I am so proud of our Judiciary Committee and Chairman GRASSLEY in their rising to the occasion—proposing and hopefully passing legislation that says we will protect the rule of law and that we will protect our democracy by not allowing the President to fire the special counsel at will because he simply doesn't like the results he comes up with.

Again, the Judiciary Committee, this morning, makes us proud. It rises to the occasion to tell the President that he cannot tamper with the very wellsprings of our democracy and that he will pay a bipartisan price if he does.

I particularly praise Chairman GRASSLEY. We have worked together on many things, and we have had our differences on many things, but this morning he is rising to the occasion. History regards such moments very favorably. I hope we will get a large vote this morning.

#### APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Madam President, while we are speaking about bipartisanship, there is another bit of good news. There are two shoots of bipartisanship springing up today—the Judiciary Committee's action on preventing the President from firing Mueller and an agreement between Senator SHELBY, Leader MCCONNELL, and me to try to begin moving appropriations bills the way we used to—in a bipartisan way.

We had a very good meeting yesterday in which we laid out the parameters of how to do this. We talked about not letting extraneous amendments disrupt the process. We talked about doing our job the way it used to be done—doing all of the appropriations bills this year and doing them in a bipartisan way, having the chairs and ranking members of the subcommittees work together to craft a bill that both sides can be happy with even though neither side will be happy with everything in it.

I hope that it moves forward. I pledge to the Members of this body and to the American people that I am committed to making that process move forward in a fair, bipartisan way and to trying to restore some of the semblance of bipartisanship that we used to have in this place and bring it back to actual action and reality, not just verbiage.

#### VA SECRETARY NOMINATION

Madam President, we just received word that the President's nominee to be the next Secretary of the VA has withdrawn his nomination. The allegations swirling around the nomination of Dr. Jackson were troubling and raised lots of questions, but the real blame here falls on the administration for once again being sloppy and careless in the vetting process. Dr. Jackson didn't go through a careful vetting. Some of these things might have been discovered beforehand, and he wouldn't have had to go through the process he went through.

The Veterans' Affairs Committee did the right thing. They didn't seek to go after Jackson; people came to them. When people come to them—particularly military folks—with serious and troubling allegations, they have an obligation to investigate. I salute Chairman ISAKSON and Ranking Member TESTER for pursuing those allegations.

Dr. Jackson went through a maelstrom, and he should tell his patient, I guess, the President, that he, the President, caused this problem by not properly vetting, by making these decisions on the fly, by making sure they don't count.

Our obligation above all is not to any one individual but to the millions of veterans in America. They deserve a department that treats them well. They deserve the best healthcare, and we need someone to run the VA who is up to the job.

I hope the President learns his lesson. I hope the next nominee is thoroughly vetted before he or she is sent to the Congress. Most of all, I hope our veterans can get the kind of leader they deserve.

#### HEALTHCARE

Madam President, finally, on another matter—healthcare—next week, health insurance companies will begin to announce their initial proposed rates for 2019 in each State across the country. When they do, every American should remember that President Trump and congressional Republicans have spent the last 1½ years trying to sabotage our healthcare system in a way that would increase costs and decrease access to quality healthcare.

It is true that last summer the Senate Republican effort to repeal our current healthcare system and gut Medicaid—an effort that would have left tens of millions uninsured and raised costs on millions more—ended, thankfully for the American people, in failure.

Despite that legislative failure, President Trump, his administration, and congressional Republicans have

committed several other acts of sabotage—raising premiums and hurting healthcare—all, it seems to me, for a political vendetta.

For a long time, the President refused to guarantee that the administration will honor the cost-sharing program, which reduces premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for low-income Americans. He eventually canceled payments for that program, causing major uncertainty and confusion in the markets.

Then, Republicans repealed the healthcare coverage requirement as a part of their tax bill and put nothing in its place. The CBO projects that repealing the coverage requirement could cause rates to increase by as much as 10 percent and result in millions more people without insurance. So if you can't get insurance, Mr. or Mrs. American, or if your premiums are going up, you know who caused it—the President and congressional Republicans by sabotaging the law that a majority of Americans want to see stay on the books.

Making things worse, earlier this week, the comment period ended for a proposed Trump administration rule that is perhaps the most radical sabotage of our healthcare system yet—a rule that would expand the availability of junk insurance plans. These junk insurance plans would force higher premiums on people with preexisting conditions, impose an age tax on older Americans, and once again could subject Americans to the devastating effects of medical bankruptcy, which too many people go through now. Many plans might not cover essential services, such as prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health services.

Each of these actions taken by President Trump and Republicans in Congress will raise costs and reduce access. We are truly living under TrumpCare today, with no effort by the President or congressional Republicans to make it better.

Unfortunately, starting next week, the American people could well see the devastating consequences of 1½ years of healthcare sabotage reflected in the 2019 rates.

#### NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Finally, Madam President, I would like to add a word about an event taking place today in Montgomery, AL. Today in Montgomery, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, victims of lynching, and African Americans who have been victimized by White supremacy, will open its doors.

I read about the new memorial in the newspaper. It was touching. It was moving. So many innocent people were lynched for no reason—walking behind a White woman, other kinds of things like that. Having read and watched the accounts about the memorial, it will be a harrowing experience. Much like the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, it forces visitors to confront the

human toll of racism, America's original sin. And it allows each county to get a replica of a list on a block—sort of like a tombstone—of who was lynched. So maybe those counties can look into their souls, too, and do better, as we all can, at trying to eliminate racism.

America's original sin is racism and the vast and terrible numbers of African Americans who were brutally murdered for simply being Black. This museum forces us, as Martin Luther King did, to look into the mirror and see what the country has done wrong and move to correct it.

I truly salute all the folks who put this wonderful, wonderful museum together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I would like to make a very short comment with regard to the distinguished minority leader's remarks this morning.

In the midst of his remarks, Mr. SCHUMER mentioned something that I think is terribly important. Yesterday, the Rules Committee—and the distinguished Senator used to be the chairman of the Rules Committee. I think I was ranking member at that particular time. He spoke of an agreement to move appropriations bills. I want to thank him for that, and also Senator DURBIN, who indicated that as of yesterday.

We did reach an agreement in a bipartisan way to do something about filing cloture 86 times and other things going on and reducing that time period. We will get to that.

The breakthrough could be an agreement that Mr. SCHUMER has agreed to with regard to appropriations bills. If we can do that, we might be able to get back to the regular order that both of us experienced when we first came to the Senate. Many Members here have not experienced that.

Mr. SCHUMER. The majority, I think.

Mr. ROBERTS. Yes. Consequently, I want to thank you for that. And I know Senator SHELBY is eager to do the 12 appropriations bills, and I know Senator DURBIN is as well. I think that one statement in the midst of your comments, sir, is terribly important, and I want people to be aware of it, and I thank you.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you. I appreciate very much the remarks of my friend from Kansas. I hope these sprouts of bipartisanship can grow into mighty oaks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time because I know that shortly we are going to be voting on Mr. Pompeo's nomination as Secretary of State, and I want to explain to my colleagues why I cannot support his nomination.

As I said in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his nomination hearing, I appreciate Mr. Pompeo's public service throughout his career—his service in the military and his service in Congress and as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I also appreciate the fact that he is willing to serve our Nation in this most important post as Secretary of State.

In the United States, we urgently need a confirmed Secretary of State, but it is our responsibility in the U.S. Senate to advise and consent on the President's nominations and to act as an independent branch of government.

I must state that we are in this urgent need because of Mr. Trump's abrupt dismissal of our former Secretary of State in the midst of many international challenges. In my view, though, Mr. Pompeo is not the right person. I reached that conclusion by his actions and his rhetoric.

If Mr. Pompeo is confirmed, he will be the top diplomat for the United States. He must be an independent voice in the White House. I have questions as to whether he will be that independent voice. He needs to engage our allies. That is how our diplomacy works. He has to be the loudest voice for diplomacy in our national security, in the use of our tools, and the military needs to be a matter of last resort.

I was reminded of this challenge for America when President Macron addressed the joint session of Congress yesterday. President Macron pointed out that the United States established multinational world order in the aftermath of World War II, which is embodied in the transatlantic partnership, and we, the United States, must lead in order to preserve that national security blanket. So it is incumbent upon the Secretary of State to work with our allies—particularly our European allies but all of our allies.

As just one example, when I look at Mr. Pompeo's record in regard to the nuclear agreement with Iran, during that discussion as to whether we would have diplomacy, it was Mr. Pompeo who said that the solution rests with 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iran nuclear capacity. That is not diplomacy. That is not leading with diplomacy. Now he is espousing that, if necessary, we should pull out of the agreement if we can't change it, even though Iran is in compliance with the agreement. That is not diplomacy, and that is certainly not working with our European allies.

Yesterday, we heard President Macron assert that it is critically important that that agreement move forward if Iran is in compliance. Yes, we can build on it, but to walk away from it would be wrong.

Another example that gives me great concern is Mr. Pompeo's position in regard to the Paris climate talks. I know we all have different views about climate and what our individual policy should be in order to deal with the realities of climate change, but one thing should be clear: that we want to be in

the discussions with the international community.

In regard to Iran, Mr. Pompeo would isolate us from our European allies, but in regard to withdrawing from the Paris climate talks, he would isolate America from every other nation in the world. We would be the only nation not a part of that discussion. Let me remind my colleagues that the commitments made in Paris are only enforceable by us. There is no international enforcement mechanism.

Words matter. A top diplomat needs to engage a very diverse global community. Mr. Pompeo's words unfortunately make it very challenging for him to be able to have the confidence of the international community.

He associated American Muslims with terrorism by stating that their perceived silence in condemning attacks "has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit." I know that after each of the horrible terrorist activities we have seen in America, Muslim leaders in Maryland and Muslim leaders around the world have stood up and said that they condemn in the strongest possible terms those terrorist acts.

That should have no space. Unfortunately, those types of comments give space to those who are promoting a form of nationalism that allows for hate-mongering, and that cannot be tolerated in our country.

The LGBTQ community is rightly concerned. I go to Mr. Pompeo citing verbatim the following passage from a sermon castrating members of the LGBTQ community.

America has worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

That type of language should have no place for someone who wants to be the top diplomat of America.

So I have come to the conclusion, based upon the necessity of the Secretary of State to engage the national community, to provide leadership and the use of diplomacy, that based upon those—my priorities, policy priorities, not politics or partisanship—that I cannot support Mr. Pompeo for Secretary of State.

I want to conclude with this. I have had the chance to lead the Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have been a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee my entire 12 years in this institution. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its leaders have had a long tradition of bipartisanship, of recognizing the independent role of the legislative branch and the critical role played by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and we are always stronger when we act in unity.

That is a tradition of our committee. I want to just point out that I don't question anyone's motives on how they vote on the nominee for the Secretary of State, but I have great confidence that we in the Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee will continue the great tradition we have established as an independent voice and as a voice that tries to work in unity in the best interest of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, it was an honor for me to speak in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this month in support of my Kansas friend and colleague, Mike Pompeo, as the President's nominee for Secretary of State. I come to the floor to urge all of my colleagues, despite the previous remarks, to vote in favor of this uniquely qualified nominee in such a vital role in our administration's Cabinet.

The point I would like to make, as we go into the very important topics we have to discuss on an international basis, is that we need Mike Pompeo, and we need him now.

As our Nation's most senior diplomat, Mike, I know, will be forthright, will be forceful and thoughtful and, yes, he will be diplomatic. He will give the President and the Congress very candid counsel. He is a man of his word.

Now, I say all of this because I think I, at least, have the credentials to know Mike and to know who he is and what he is about because I have known him for more than a decade, first as a friend and a business leader, then as a congressional colleague, and most recently as a leader of our intelligence community. We had some long talks before he accepted that offer by the President, and I thought he was very well suited.

Mike will represent American ideals and values backed by the strength of leadership of the free world—yes, the free world and the allies that have been referred to by my colleagues across the aisle. The point is, whenever there is a void, the world pays a price. That is why we need Mike, and that is why we need him now.

I am going to again urge all of my colleagues—all of those who voted in support of his intelligence post last year and those who now have the opportunity to support this extremely qualified candidate—to vote yes and to send our senior diplomat to work on the many challenges that face our Nation.

#### NOMINATIONS AND THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Madam President, now, let me talk a little bit about bipartisanship and what I have stated with regard to my friend and colleague, the minority leader. I have encouraging news. We met yesterday in the Rules Committee and voted to reduce postcloture debate from 30 hours to 8 hours for certain nominations. I am not sure we have the 60 votes to pass that, but it is something at least we are moving toward with regard to the problem of having 86 cloture votes and delaying the time; that is, 3 months, by the way, with re-

gard to time lost that we could have been working on other issues.

We still have to consider this change to the rules on the Senate floor, but in the course of our debate, the minority whip, Senator DURBIN, who is an appropriator par excellence, has supported Chairman SHELBY's commitment to do all 12 appropriations bills—how long, how long, how long has it been since we have done appropriations bills and voted on amendments on appropriations bills?

The leadership has apparently decided to recommend that we actually return to being a Senate voting on amendments. Many Senators, as I said earlier, do not even know what it is like to serve in a functioning Senate. They hardly know what it is like to operate under regular order, where bills are referred to committee, amended, brought to the floor, debated, amended, and then passed when appropriations bills were on time. Goodness knows we need to get back to that.

Members of the Appropriations Committee, without this agreement—prior to this agreement—were standing on the sidelines, wounded cardinals, if you will, with a shrinking slice of the discretionary pie. So thank you to the minority whip and thank you to the leadership on both sides for our efforts to get back to regular order.

Now you can take one step further and vote for Mike Pompeo, a qualified and honorable candidate to serve as Secretary of State. Most of the statements I have heard—I have not paid too much attention to the colloquy on the floor or the statements on the floor—but people who have reservations have a "while I" speech: while I understand his qualifications, while I understand he has a great background, first in his class at West Point, and while I, and while I, and while I.

Then, there is the catch: But then, on the other hand, I have some concerns. Most of the concerns are in regard to whether Mike Pompeo can be diplomatic. I know him. He can be forceful—sometimes he can be a little stubborn, but he can be forceful. He is well qualified for the job and, yes, he can be diplomatic.

So I hope we can take this step toward a bipartisan Senate and take one further vote and vote for Mike Pompeo, who is certainly qualified. I say that because the cloth of comity in this Senate is pretty threadbare. We have a situation where we need to return to a sense of comity and at least some bipartisanship. Certainly, it would be also to set aside personal and partisan concerns and vote for Mr. Pompeo.

As I said again, we have a void right now. We have a good man to be Secretary of State. I urge my colleagues to vote yes, and let's put a few threads back into the cloth of comity in the Senate and recommit to being the world's greatest deliberative body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise to express my strong opposition to President Trump's nomination of Mike Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State. There are many reasons to oppose this nomination, but the main reason for me is pretty straightforward. Mike Pompeo is completely unfit to serve as America's chief diplomat.

During his time as a public servant, Mike Pompeo has embraced a variety of views that betray America's values. Whether it is his support for interrogation techniques that amount to torture, his preference for war over diplomatic solutions, or his hateful, blatantly discriminatory views about Muslim and LGBTQ Americans, Mike Pompeo's confirmation would degrade America's diplomacy and erode our moral standing on the world stage.

Let's start with his evolving position on torture. In 2014, then-Congressman Pompeo praised the interrogators who used torture as "patriots" and "heroes," but when seeking confirmation to become CIA Director, Mr. Pompeo suddenly said he would "always comply with the law" prohibiting torture.

When asked if he would comply with a request from the President to use torture, he said he couldn't "imagine being asked to do so." Never mind that as a candidate Donald Trump boasted about his desire to bring back waterboarding and "a hell of a lot worse." In his later written answers, Mr. Pompeo suggested he could support bringing back waterboarding and other torture techniques if he thought they were necessary.

So, first, Mike Pompeo was for torture, but when he wanted to be CIA Director, he miraculously changed his position. Now he thinks the United States should reserve the right to torture people in the future. This position undermines our core values as Americans, and that alone should disqualify him from being America's Secretary of State, but there is more.

Mike Pompeo's hawkish views could quite literally lead us into another war. Just look at his views on Iran. The Iranian Government is a bad actor, no doubt about it. That is why the Iran nuclear deal was so important. It is easier to counter Iran's bad behavior if it has no nuclear weapons than it would be to keep Iran in check if it could threaten the region and threaten the world with a nuclear bomb.

The deal with Iran imposed strong limits and intrusive inspections on Iran's nuclear program so it cannot develop a nuclear weapon, and our intelligence community tells us it is working. That is very important to the security of our allies and the security of the whole world.

The Iran nuclear deal is a negotiated solution designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and it was accomplished without resorting to military action. The deal is the product of putting diplomacy first. That is good for the security of the United

States, good for our allies, and good for the world.

Mike Pompeo doesn't seem to understand that. He has called the Iran nuclear deal a "surrender," and he has said the United States should walk away. Pompeo has even publicly contemplated regime change. How can we expect countries to trust America's word when our chief diplomat believes we have the right to break our word and violate international agreements at any moment?

Think for a minute about what it would mean for negotiating any deal with North Korea about their nuclear weapons if Mr. Pompeo is in charge. He said we can tear up our agreement with Iran, even though they have followed through on their part, just because Mr. Trump and Mr. Pompeo have decided they don't like it. Who would negotiate with a United States that has so little respect for the standing of its promises? I cannot in good faith vote in favor of Mr. Pompeo for the reasons I have outlined, but there is another reason I cannot vote for him, one that is deeply personal to me.

Shortly after the Boston Marathon attack, then-Congressman Pompeo accused Muslim leaders of being silent about the bombing and even said they were potentially complicit in the attack. After the marathon bombings, all of Boston grieved together, including our Muslim leaders. Our Muslim communities helped Massachusetts emerge stronger and more united. To suggest otherwise is insulting to the Boston Marathon bombing victims and to our Muslim American brothers and sisters. When he was shown to be wrong, Mike Pompeo refused to apologize. His comments were ignorant, offensive, and just plain wrong. They certainly aren't the words of someone who is fit to be America's chief diplomat.

But there is more. Mike Pompeo's longstanding attacks on the LGBTQ community also make him unfit to serve as Secretary of State. He supported legislation in Congress to allow States not to recognize equal marriage, and he relied on financial contributions from hateful groups like the Family Research Council. His public record paints a deeply disturbing world view.

The risk posed by this nomination is magnified because Mike Pompeo would be teaming up with John Bolton, President Trump's new National Security Advisor. John Bolton has never met a war he didn't like, and Mike Pompeo supported Bolton's disastrous Iraq War. Together, Mike Pompeo and John Bolton will fan the flames of war in President Trump's foreign policy because they both embrace military solutions first.

I hope that, if confirmed, Mr. Pompeo will take real steps to prioritize diplomacy, to improve morale at the State Department, and to fill key diplomatic positions that have been vacant for far too long. But at a time when we are facing enormous global challenges, the State Department needs a leader who

will put diplomacy first to solve problems and to protect our national security. Mike Pompeo is not that leader. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

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

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise to oppose the nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo to be the Secretary of State.

I voted against confirming Mike Pompeo to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency because he lacked the experience and the qualifications for the position. His time at the CIA has done nothing to ensure me that he now has the capabilities to lead the State Department.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, Mike Pompeo made repeated discriminatory remarks about Muslim Americans. He has argued that the Muslim American leaders have a "special obligation" to denounce terrorist attacks, and he has falsely claimed that they have failed to do that. I am proud to represent dynamic Muslim and Arab-American communities in Michigan. I have seen that these patriotic communities are often the first to denounce senseless acts of violence that pervert the Islamic faith.

Mike Pompeo also has close ties to a group that is a Southern Poverty Law Center "designated hate group" because of its anti-Muslim rhetoric and conspiracy theories. I seriously question the judgment of an elected official who would work with such a group, and I do not believe it shows the type of character required in an individual who is nominated to be our country's top diplomat. How can someone with this attitude work effectively with our allies and partners in the Middle East? I don't think he can.

Mr. Pompeo has also supported bringing back waterboarding and other torture measures that do nothing to keep America safe and go against our Nation's core values. We now have a President who has said that he believes that torture "absolutely" works.

We can do better than this. America is better than this. I voted to ban the use of waterboarding and other so-called enhanced interrogation measures because they do not work, and in fact, they violate basic human rights, undermine our Nation's counterterrorism missions, and place our own servicemembers at risk.

Confirming a Secretary of State that has condoned torture is just another step in our Nation's current retreat from being what President Ronald Reagan called "a shining city on the hill."

I am concerned that Mike Pompeo will also continue the United States' retreat from a leadership role in addressing climate change—an existential moral and economic issue that will impact our planet for generations to come. Director Pompeo has criticized the Paris climate agreement and has



made statements that contradict the overwhelming scientific events on climate change.

Our Nation faces serious global challenges: Russian aggression, North Korea's nuclear weapons program, instability in the Middle East, and China's ongoing efforts to expand their power and influence. The world is looking to the United States for leadership. This is a time when skill and experienced diplomacy is essential to advance our interests and our values on the world stage. I do not believe that Director Pompeo has the necessary experience, diplomatic skills, and values required to be the Secretary of State. I will oppose his nomination this afternoon.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### NOMINATION OF RICHARD GRENELL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, in addition to the nomination of the Secretary of State, later today we are considering the nomination of Richard Grenell to be our Ambassador to Germany. I opposed Mr. Grenell's nomination in committee, and I will again oppose his nomination today.

If confirmed, Mr. Grenell will assume the post at a time of strain in the bilateral relationship since the election of President Trump, who has disagreed with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on several key issues.

Germany is one of our most critical partners and a key ally in upholding the post-World War II order responsible for securing peace and prosperity. Germany is a key NATO ally, serving with distinction and sacrifice in Afghanistan. Germany also serves on the frontlines of Europe against an aggressive Russia that is actively seeking to destabilize German democracy in the same way it does American democracy. Germany showed great humanity in accepting so many migrants when that crisis escalated in 2015.

This is a close ally for our security but, more importantly, an ally in championing the values we hold dear as a country. It would have been my hope and desire that for such an important ally as Germany, the President would have put forth a serious, credible, experienced diplomat who could strengthen our relationship with Germany. Instead, President Trump nominated Mr. Grenell.

In a few moments, I will read things that Mr. Grenell has tweeted in the past and that he continues to tweet, even as his nomination has been pending before this body. I do not savor having to read you these tweets because, frankly, I don't think they are suitable to have to say on the floor of the Senate.

But since the majority and the President have prioritized this nominee and the vote will occur a little later, the American people deserve to know exactly who the Trump administration wants to represent the United States to our great friend and ally Germany. So I will read a selection of Mr. Grenell's tweets for the RECORD:

"Did you notice that while Michelle Obama is working out on the Biggest Loser, she is sweating on the East Room's carpet?"

Rachel Maddow should "take a breath and put on a necklace."

He said this about Callista Gingrich: "Callista stands there like she is wife #1."

He said in another quote: "Do you think Callista's hair snaps on?"

This is just a selection—just a selection. I chose not to read some that I consider the most insulting out of respect for this body.

These are not the words of a child or a teenager who does not understand the power of words; these are the words of a grown adult who had previously been a public face of the Bush administration for 8 years. Mr. Grenell's derogatory comments about women are simply unacceptable for anyone to make in public, let alone a diplomat.

I would go further. Not only do these tweets show bad judgment, they show us who Mr. Grenell really is and how comfortable he is publicly contributing his own brand of toxic political discourse. Will he do such things if he is confirmed and goes to Germany? Will he insult via his Twitter account the female Chancellor of Germany? I don't know. I hope not.

In the committee process of considering his nomination, Mr. Grenell was asked about these tweets and other comments he has made. Do you know what he said? He assured us that he understood there was a difference between being a private citizen and being a public figure and that he would never say or tweet such things as a public figure. So imagine our surprise when Mr. Grenell started tweeting again after he had been voted out of the committee. Astonishingly, he retweeted a WikiLeaks tweet which included documents stolen by Russian intelligence.

Madam President, the other nominee before us today, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, has called WikiLeaks "a non-state hostile intelligence service." That is what CIA Director Mike Pompeo called WikiLeaks—"a non-state hostile intelligence service." He went on to say about WikiLeaks that it will "take down America any way they can and find any willing partner to achieve that end."

Imagine that. Amidst all the controversy about the connection between WikiLeaks and Russia and their interference in our 2016 election and while under consideration for an ambassadorship by this body, Mr. Grenell feels perfectly comfortable tweeting out emails stolen by Russian intelligence to interfere in our democratic process—basically, in essence, as Mike Pompeo describes, doing the work of Russian intelligence.

These are not the actions of a person with anything close to good judgment. These are not the actions of a diplomat. I urge my colleagues to reject sending Mr. Grenell to Germany as a U.N. Ambassador.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I did not vote for Rex Tillerson to be Secretary of State. Although Mr. Tillerson was a successful corporate executive, I did not believe that heading the world's largest oil company was the right resume for the Nation's top diplomat. Mr. Tillerson is a man of substantial intellect who wanted to do the right thing, but his record as Secretary of State speaks for itself. He did not do well, and the country, the State Department, and its employees—including some of our most experienced diplomats who felt they were no longer relevant—paid a substantial price.

For that reason, it is imperative that the next Secretary of State has the qualities and professional track record to restore the preeminent role that the Department has traditionally played in U.S. foreign policy.

It is also for that reason that today I intend to vote against the nomination of CIA Director Mike Pompeo to be Secretary of State.

By all accounts, Mr. Pompeo, like Mr. Tillerson, is a man of substantial intellect, and my conversations with him have seemed to confirm that. As we have learned, that alone is not enough to qualify one for a job that should be filled by someone who has proven that he or she understands and is skilled in the art of diplomacy and whose beliefs are consistent with fundamental American values. As the country's top diplomat, the Secretary of State should be a vocal and persuasive advocate for diplomacy to avoid conflict and crises. Unfortunately, I believe Mr. Pompeo's record falls far short.

Mike Pompeo has made no secret of his strong support for President Trump, whose saber rattling, provocations, and so-called America First policies would more accurately be described as "America Alone." The President has called for drastic cuts in the State Department's budget and personnel that would sharply diminish its role in diplomacy and development. He would weaken international organizations and alliances that serve our interests and undermine U.S. global leadership at a time when China and our other competitors are seeking every opportunity to expand their global reach. Unlike Secretary of Defense Mattis who, in response to the White House's proposed cuts, has been a strong advocate for the State Department's mission and budget, I am not aware that Mr. Pompeo ever publicly expressed a view either way until his confirmation hearing.

Mr. Pompeo supported the invasion of Iraq, and he has defended the use of torture, two of the most profoundly misguided foreign policy decisions since the Vietnam war. As far as I know, it was not until this week, when his nomination was in jeopardy, that he said the Iraq war that he had long defended was a mistake, a mistake that claimed the lives of thousands of



American soldiers and sowed chaos in the Middle East. The fact that he has insisted that waterboarding is not torture and, by implication, acceptable should by itself be disqualifying for the job of Secretary of State.

He has supported keeping open the Guantanamo detention facility, arguing that detainees “should stay right where they are” and that the facility “is the right place for [detainees] from both a security and legal perspective.” That is as wrong as it is disturbing. The indefinite detention without trial of detainees at Guantanamo contradicts our most basic principles of justice, degrades our international standing, and harms our national security. Mr. Pompeo’s position is particularly troubling, given the President’s expressed intent to send new prisoners to Guantanamo for the first time in more than a decade.

Mr. Pompeo has opposed what he called the “disastrous” Iran nuclear agreement, and he appears to favor withdrawing from it despite the International Atomic Energy Agency’s determination that Iran is in compliance and support for the agreement from a wide spectrum of diplomatic, scientific, and national security experts. As far as I am aware, he has offered no realistic alternative, and the consequence would be to isolate the United States from our closest allies and to risk Iran restarting its centrifuges and quickly obtaining a nuclear weapon.

During the negotiations to halt Iran’s nuclear program, Mr. Pompeo supported military strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities, reportedly arguing that it would take “under 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iranian nuclear capacity,” which he described as “not an insurmountable task for the coalition forces.” It might not be insurmountable, except for the fact that it would be the end of the coalition since few, if any, of our partners would join us. Beyond that, the unilateral use of preemptive military force on that scale in a volatile region in which Russia has its own security interests could ignite a regional war with far-reaching, possibly catastrophic, consequences.

While the world’s scientists overwhelmingly warn of the long-term dangers of climate change, Mr. Pompeo is an unabashed climate change sceptic. He has said that the Paris Climate Agreement, which is supported by practically every country including China, amounted to “bowing down to radical environmentalists.” That is extremist rhetoric about what many believe to be the most serious challenge facing our planet, a challenge that can only be met through diplomacy, and it belies a disturbing intolerance for opposing views.

Mr. Pompeo has accused American Muslim leaders of being “potentially complicit” in acts of terrorism that they do not specifically condemn. He has said that Muslims “abhor Christians” and that they “will continue to press against us until we make sure

that we pray and stand and fight and make sure that we know that Jesus Christ is our savior and is truly the only solution for our world.” It would be hard to think of a more effective way to alienate the Muslim community, without whose help we cannot effectively counter violent extremism.

As a Member of Congress, Mr. Pompeo cosponsored legislation to ban all refugee admissions, regardless of country of origin, even though people seeking safety are already subjected to a rigorous vetting process. It should alarm each of us that the nominee to oversee the bureau charged with protecting refugees, migrants, and other vulnerable people uprooted by conflict—a tradition we take pride in—would take such a crass, ideological approach to our country’s refugee admissions policies.

Mr. Pompeo has suggested that the Federal Government should collect records of American citizens’ communications, without warrants and in bulk, and combine them with “publicly available financial and lifestyle information into a comprehensive, searchable database.” Think about that, at a time when the public is already outraged by Facebook’s and Cambridge Analytica’s misuse of personal data.

As a Member of Congress, Mr. Pompeo criticized President Obama for going to Cuba, accusing him of making “unilateral concessions.” It is true that the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba—which was overwhelmingly supported by the people of both countries—did not include an agreement by the Cuban Government to hold free and fair elections, nor to stop persecuting opponents of the government. No one who knows Cuba expected that. But if free and fair elections and respect for human rights are Mr. Pompeo’s prerequisite for having an embassy and an ambassador in a foreign country, we will need to close a lot more embassies than the one in Havana.

We could begin with our embassies in China and Russia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt would be next, then Jordan and Morocco, Honduras, Vietnam—the list goes on. The fact is we need embassies staffed with qualified personnel, including in countries whose governments we disagree with, so our diplomats can work to protect our interests and the interests of Americans who travel, study, work, or serve there. That is diplomacy 101.

Mr. Pompeo opposes LGBT rights and has no record of defending civil society activists and independent journalists who risk their lives speaking out against corruption and abuses of human rights by foreign security forces, particularly in countries we consider friends or allies. He has also worked against women’s reproductive rights, including cosponsoring radical legislation that would make abortion illegal nationwide, even in cases of rape. He voted to defund Planned Parenthood and for the “global gag rule,”

which prevents foreign nongovernmental organizations from receiving U.S. funds if they use their own money to provide safe abortions or even information about abortion services in their country.

I take no pleasure in opposing Mr. Pompeo’s nomination. I wish I could vote for him, as I am the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations. I strongly support the State Department, its mission, its personnel, and its programs. I have consistently defended its budget when others here or in the White House sought to cut it.

I am pleased that Mr. Pompeo has said he wants to fill the vacant senior leadership positions at the State Department and that he recognizes that the United States has a duty to “lead the calls for democracy, prosperity, and human rights around the world.” But his record in Congress and his staunchly ideological views raise grave concerns about the policy direction he would give to those senior leaders. Given his record and beliefs, there is little reason to believe that he will be an effective or consistent defender of democracy and human rights abroad, particularly in the face of President Trump’s abandonment of those values and principles.

In many other respects, Mr. Pompeo’s testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee had all the characteristics of a “confirmation conversion,” when he contradicted many of his previous statements and positions. As Senator MENENDEZ asked, Which Pompeo are we voting for? The job of Secretary of State is too important, especially with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, to roll the dice and discount everything Mr. Pompeo has said in the past.

If Mr. Pompeo is confirmed, as it appears he will be, I will make every effort to work with him to advance our foreign policy and national security interests, as I did with Secretary Tillerson after opposing his nomination, but given the impulsive and reckless statements and actions of this President and the upheaval at the State Department during the past year, we need a Secretary with the necessary temperament, values, and long-standing commitment to diplomacy and development. I hope he proves me wrong, but today I do not believe we have that in this nominee.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Mike Pompeo to be our next Secretary of State.

After considering his testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, his work as Director of the CIA, and his record as a Congressman, I believe he doesn’t possess the skillset necessary to be our country’s top diplomat.

The Secretary of State must be well-versed in the art of diplomacy. They must possess a deft touch necessary to

operate on the world stage. Unfortunately, Mr. Pompeo's record and his rhetoric show how ill matched he is for this position.

Above all, I fear that he would only reinforce President Trump's worst impulses to lash out at our adversaries rather than pursue dogged diplomacy. This is particularly concerning when it comes to Iran. The Iran nuclear agreement is the strongest nonproliferation agreement ever negotiated. It blocks Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon, protecting our security and the security of our partners in the region. By all reports, it appears President Trump is set on walking away from the Iran nuclear agreement next month, even though Iran continues to abide by its strict terms.

If confirmed, I don't believe Mr. Pompeo would even try to walk the President back from that foolish decision. Instead, he would most likely feed the President's desire to leave, not because of its merits, but simply because it was negotiated by President Obama.

To be clear, if the United States abandons the agreement, we will do so on our own. Our international partners—including the United Kingdom, France and Germany—have said they will remain in the agreement so long as Iran complies with it. To date, the IAEA inspectors and our own intelligence community have all said that Iran remains in full compliance. When the nuclear agreement was signed, Iran was less than a year away from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Today, all of Iran's paths to a weapon—the plutonium, uranium and covert—are blocked. The fact that today Iran cannot obtain a nuclear bomb is in spite of Mr. Pompeo's efforts.

During the negotiations leading up to the agreement, then-Congressman Pompeo not only called for the United States to abandon diplomatic efforts, he encouraged us to attack Iran. He said, "It is under 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iranian nuclear capacity. This is not an insurmountable task for the coalition forces."

During his recent confirmation hearing, he was unable to source that claim or name which other nations would have joined our coalition. That is an especially perplexing position since our strongest allies were all negotiating alongside the United States at the time.

After the nuclear agreement came into effect, Mr. Pompeo continued his campaign by sending the Supreme Leader a highly provocative letter. He taunted Tehran, asking for a visa to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities, monitor their elections, and receive a briefing on their ballistic missile programs. His publicity stunt only served to further inflame tensions between our countries.

Finally, shortly after our elections and the day before he was nominated to be the Director of the CIA, he tweeted: "I look forward to rolling back this disastrous deal with the

world's largest state sponsor of terrorism."

When asked about his position during his confirmation hearing, Mr. Pompeo instead simply discounted the real and dangerous possibility that Iran would restart its nuclear weapons program if we abandon the agreement. I see no reason to believe his misinformed views have changed in the past year.

As troubling as Mr. Pompeo's hostile view toward Iran is, I am equally concerned by his divisive remarks about minority groups within the United States. Following the Boston Marathon bombings, Mr. Pompeo falsely suggested Muslim Americans were complicit in the attacks. The following year, he characterized U.S. counterterrorism efforts as a struggle between Islam and Christianity.

After the Supreme Court's landmark ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, Mr. Pompeo said the court's opinion was a "shocking abuse of power" that "flies in the face of . . . our Constitution." He has also claimed that the "ideal" family has a father and mother, a shockingly outdated view of families here in the United States and around the world.

Finally, the State Department plays a leading role in providing family planning assistance abroad. Under Mr. Pompeo, I fear the State Department will retreat from providing this vital assistance.

As a Member of the House, Mr. Pompeo repeatedly cosponsored legislation to limit a woman's right to choose. Specifically, he supported bills to make abortion illegal nationwide, even in the case of rape.

He also repeatedly supported the "global gag rule," known as the Mexico City policy, which restricts U.S. funds to any foreign health clinic that provides abortion services, even if it is legal in that country.

All too often, rape is considered a weapon of war. Our global health programming should not be restricted in a manner that ignores this ugly reality.

The Secretary of State is charged with representing America's values to the world and must be committed to exhausting all means of diplomacy to avoid conflict. I don't believe Mr. Pompeo can do that and shouldn't be confirmed as Secretary of State.

Therefore, I will vote no, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I would like to address the nomination of Director Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State. I intend to vote against this nomination, and I would like to explain how I reached this conclusion.

This was a difficult decision. I supported Director Pompeo's nomination to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Director Pompeo is a talented individual who has spent his life in public service, but the job of Secretary of State requires different skill sets and experiences than that of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As such, the Senate has a constitutional responsibility to review Director Pompeo's qualifications anew with respect to this specific nomination. As I indicated, the role of the Secretary of State is significantly different from that of the CIA Director. The question before us is whether Director Pompeo has the right background, judgment, and independence to faithfully execute the duties of America's top diplomat. Using those criteria, I have to oppose this nomination.

One of the first tasks for the next Secretary of State will be to rebuild the capabilities and morale of the Department of State. Over the last year and a half, the Department has struggled with widespread vacancies, drastic proposed budget cuts, a Foreign Service treated with contempt by the White House, and a failed reorganization effort under Secretary Tillerson. The result has been the hemorrhaging of decades of foreign policy expertise, the demoralization of those who continue to serve at State, and the marginalization of diplomacy as an instrument of national power.

I question whether Director Pompeo is right for the task of reversing the damage wrought at the State Department. During his time in the House, then-Congressman Pompeo was a staunch supporter of Tea Party proposals to slash the very State Department programs that are critical for advancing our foreign policy and national security interests. During his confirmation hearing earlier this month, Director Pompeo declared his commitment to end the "demoralizing" vacancies at the State Department and strengthen the diplomatic corps. Even if Director Pompeo has had a late conversion on the road to his nomination for Secretary of State, it is not clear whether he will be any more successful than Secretary Tillerson was in gaining White House approval for his desired candidates for senior positions or convincing this President to listen to the advice of our experts at Foggy Bottom.

My deeper concern is whether Director Pompeo is the right choice to carry out the Secretary of State's role as the lead advocate for diplomacy as a means of advancing our national interests.

The need for effective diplomacy to solve our most pressing security challenges has never been greater. Today's national security threats are complex, including the reemergence of near-peer competitors Russia and China who seek to undermine the rules-based international order, regional challenges from rogue regimes in North Korea and Iran, and the continuing threat from violent extremist groups that seek to exploit ungoverned spaces to spread their destructive ideologies. Such challenges to our national security require a comprehensive strategy that coordinates military and nonmilitary tools of national power.

I am concerned that President Trump's bellicose rhetoric and budgetary priorities indicate a predisposition for choosing military action over diplomatic solutions. Since September 11, we have asked our men and women in uniform to go above and beyond in addressing security and stability challenges globally, and they have responded magnificently. As we face expanding threats below the level of armed conflict and insecurity arising from regional destabilization, we need an increased focus on nonmilitary tools and diplomacy to prevent or mitigate these challenges. The next Secretary of State needs to be an effective counterpart for Defense Secretary Mattis in finding diplomatic solutions to the complex crises we face in Syria, the Middle East, North Africa, the South China Sea, and North Korea.

Based on his record, I am not convinced that Director Pompeo will serve as the strong voice for diplomacy that our military and our country need to counter these pressing threats. Time and again, Director Pompeo has chosen to reject negotiations and call for the use of force. His track record calls into question his ability to be an effective advocate for diplomatic solutions that are in U.S. national interests.

With regard to the nuclear deal with Iran, known as the joint comprehensive plan of action, or JCPOA, Director Pompeo has called for "rolling back" this multilateral agreement that was carefully negotiated alongside the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China. Director Pompeo's opposition to the Iran nuclear deal runs counter to views of Defense Secretary Mattis and most senior military leadership. As a congressman, Director Pompeo sought to undermine negotiations with Iran and advocated for military airstrikes to destroy its nuclear program. During his confirmation hearing, Director Pompeo indicated that he would not push back against President Trump's reckless impulse to withdraw from the JCPOA in mid-May, saying instead that he would "recommend to the President that we do our level best to work with our allies to achieve a better outcome and a better deal." This response is in spite of the fact that, by all accounts, the JCPOA is working as intended and Iran is verifiably meeting its commitments under the deal.

Withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal would also have a profoundly harmful effect on our nuclear negotiations with North Korea. North Korea has little reason to engage with us in a serious dialogue if it suspects that we may later withdraw unilaterally from any agreement without cause. During the Trump administration, the risk of conflict with North Korea has increased to unprecedented levels, and the diplomatic preparations over the coming weeks will be critical to the success of President Trump's upcoming summit with the North Korean leader. However, should that summit fail to

produce meaningful constraints on North Korea's nuclear ambitions, I am concerned that the administration will use this failure as a pretext for pivoting to a preemptive strike against North Korea, and I am not confident that Director Pompeo will be effective in urging restraint by President Trump in opposing military action while seeking to redouble efforts to find a negotiated solution.

Perhaps the most difficult role of any Secretary of State is being an independent voice willing to say no to the President. I recognize that some say that one of Director Pompeo's highest qualifications for Secretary of State is his close relationship with the President because foreign leaders will know that, when Director Pompeo speaks, he has the backing of President Trump. Director Pompeo's alleged "rapport" with President Trump raises concerns that he will only tell the President what the President wants to hear and will not provide objective, nuanced policy recommendations based on U.S. foreign policy interests. I believe we are already seeing this dynamic with respect to the JCPOA.

Unfortunately, we have seen this scenario before. Early in the George W. Bush administration, the President surrounded himself with like-minded advisers who were predisposed to distorting the intelligence on Iraq, and, as a result, they failed to present nuanced policy options on the march to war against Saddam Hussein. I am concerned that we will find, in hindsight, that Director Pompeo's closeness to President Trump will prove less an asset and more a shared blind spot that will lead to simplistic policy recommendations, an unwillingness to stand up to the President when he is wrong, and an indulgence of the President's impulsive preference for strategy-free displays of military force.

The President needs a top diplomat who will provide independent foreign policy recommendations, will press to exhaust all possible diplomatic avenues for the safety of our military and citizens, and will boldly represent our core American values. While I believe that Director Pompeo is an honorable and decent man, who has provided life-long service to our country, he is not the right nominee for Secretary of State at this time. As such, I will oppose Director Pompeo's nomination for Secretary of State.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State.

After closely reviewing Mr. Pompeo's record and past statements, I have concluded that he is not the right person to serve as Secretary of State. While I respect him and will work closely with him, I cannot support his nomination.

The world continues to look to America for our leadership on diplomacy and bringing our allies together. That includes upholding international agreements, such as the Paris accord, which Mr. Pompeo has opposed. It also in-

cludes respect for people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, and Mr. Pompeo's past statements about Muslims and immigrants greatly concern me.

While I voted in favor of confirming Mr. Pompeo to be the Director of the CIA and thank him for his service, Secretary of State is a different job with different responsibilities.

Thank you.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise in support of the President's nomination of Director Mike Pompeo to serve as Secretary of State.

Director Pompeo has a very long record of public service which has prepared him for this very important position. Let's start at the beginning.

Director Pompeo was top of his class at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and he served honorably in the U.S. Army. He is also a graduate of Harvard Law School. In Congress, Director Pompeo was a leader on issues of national security and foreign relations. Finally, and most recently, as Director of the CIA, Director Pompeo has been a successful leader of the world's best intelligence professionals who work to resolve some of our Nation's most sensitive and difficult problems.

I have heard on the floor of the Senate recently a number of my colleagues who have called into question whether he should serve as our Nation's top diplomat. He has served in the military. He has served as Director of the CIA. What I want to do is go back to the time he spent at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

I wish to remind the body that in the military, we serve in many missions, but one of them does include diplomacy. As the Presiding Officer understands, as military members—whether a marine or a soldier—oftentimes during conflicts you stand shoulder-to-shoulder with members of other countries. You must have an understanding of the cultural effects and the cultural differences between our nations, and you work to resolve problems. Whether with the indigenous population or whether it is within the military ranks, we serve as diplomats.

At West Point, I know Director Pompeo learned this lesson very well. Many of us—whether you go through a military academy or whether you are going through a Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at a university like I did at Iowa State—you learn about what we call the instruments of national power. Those instruments of national power are called DIME. It is an acronym, D-I-M-E.

D stands for diplomacy. We learn that, again, as members of the military and as officers in our Nation's military—so diplomacy. The I is information. The M, of course, is military and military action. The E stands for economic action, such as sanctions.

Within the realm of diplomacy, we are taught and we work with Ambassadors, and we work through Embassies. We are taught about the realm of negotiations and treaties and various policies that affect different nations around the globe. We are engaging in international forums. Again, working in the defense space, of course, we have many opportunities to engage with leaders from other countries. Diplomacy—it is the very basis of the instruments of national power that we all learn.

I know Director Pompeo, in his capacity—whether serving at the CIA or going back many years to when he served in the U.S. Army, quite admirably, or back at the Academy when he was first taught those instruments of national power, or DIME, that he is well-versed in working with many nations in very difficult circumstances. Again, Director Pompeo has a very long record of public service.

Director Pompeo also has had very strong relationships, and he values those relationships. His relationship with Secretary of Defense Mattis will prove invaluable as he works to ensure peace through strength. Additionally, I am confident he will inspire and lead the men and women of our State Department to achieve results for our Nation, and those results will be centered around diplomacy.

Director Pompeo understands the threats we face as a nation every day. During a time when the threats against the United States continue to grow around the globe, it is important—important—for President Trump to have his full diplomatic and national security team in place. We must do this. Diplomacy. Diplomacy.

Director Pompeo is also the right person to serve as our top diplomat. He will rise to meet the challenges and foster the relationships we need around the world to keep our Nation free, secure, and prosperous. Again, I go back to the instruments of national power: D-I-M-E. The first is always diplomacy. Director Pompeo understands, and I am glad that we as a body will be taking up his confirmation vote today.

I urge my colleagues to support this eminently qualified man as our next Secretary of State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING MATTHEW POLLARD

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to note the

passing of, and acknowledgement of, the service of a valued member of the Intelligence Committee staff. On the evening of April 23, while attending a conference on behalf of the committee, Matthew Pollard lost his life to a heart attack. He was 52 years old. Matt is survived by his mother, three older sisters, and a young son Bradley, who was the cherished one.

Matt served honorably in the Army as an intelligence officer and twice deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from 2003 to 2004, and Operation Enduring Freedom, from 2009 to 2010.

Matt was smart. He was really smart. He held a master's degree in strategic intelligence and mechanical engineering and was close to completing his third master's degree.

Matt had one of those jobs, like many who serve on my committee, that you can't talk about very much. That silence did not accurately reflect the value he brought to the Intelligence Committee. He filled a critical role. He was the majority staff member responsible for conducting oversight over the Nation's overhead architecture. In layman's terms, he knew satellites. Matt knew a lot about satellites. He knew about what they were capable of and what they weren't capable of. He knew what they cost and, perhaps more importantly, what they should not have cost.

Matt also had the unique ability to explain the unexplainable, which, as many here know, is a rare skill. Matt had a mind and an eye for detail, both technical and budgetary. He prided himself in finding ways to cut the costs of those fantastically expensive programs.

On our committee, he had a discerning eye for calling out contractors when he saw deficiencies. Matt was good-natured with his colleagues in industry. He was tough, but those same colleagues loved him. Matt would half smile, half frown at a presentation, and you could see contractors lower their heads and shuffle their feet a little bit because they knew Matt was right. He was universally respected and liked by all who encountered him, whether they sat on the same side of the table or whether they were on the other side. When Matt passed away on Monday, word literally spread around the country in a matter of hours. His loss is devastating to many, including the committee, the members, and the staff.

Matt actually served twice on the staff of the Intelligence Committee. He began his first tour with us in March of 2002. That first tour lasted 11 years. Matt couldn't stay away from the Senate for long, though, and he gave in to tremendous pressure from the Appropriations Committee to join them, which he did in April of 2014.

Matt's drive to serve was strong. When I became chairman in January of 2015, I had one objective: persuading him to rejoin the Intelligence Committee, and it was one of my top priorities.

I am eternally grateful that I was able to lure him away from the appropriators and know, without a doubt, he was one of the strongest members of the Intelligence Committee staff.

Matt studied. Matt inquired. He never backed down from a debate. Matt spoke his mind and spoke truth to power, and he did it often without bias. We loved him for all of it, and we will sorely miss Matt.

However, more importantly than the values he brought to the committee, to the U.S. Senate, and to the Intelligence Committee was how Matt conducted himself as a person and as a father. Matt loved his son Bradley. That is probably what I will remember most about Matt. Bradley was Matt's world—Boy Scouts, campouts, soccer games. If Bradley was involved, Matt was there. He was a great dad.

We weren't surprised when we heard that Matt recently misjudged the forecast. Despite wearing only a T-shirt and shorts in 40-degree temperatures and whipping winds, he cheered loudly as Bradley played his first soccer game. This is one small example of his devotion to Bradley, whom he proudly referred to as "my boy."

Bradley, I want to say thank you for sharing your father with us. We will forever be grateful.

Given Matt's hours and portfolio, he, like many of the staff, often worked on the weekends, and Bradley was a regular presence in the committee, on those weekends, in the committee space. He often could be found playing board games with kids of other staffers who were also working weekends and similarly engaged in finding a work-life balance.

Matt's devotion and generosity extended beyond Bradley. He was also known, on occasion, to lead many adventures around the Capitol. He would take him through the complex with small herds of children in tow so their parents could actually get some work done. Kids would come back full of stories with "guess what we did" to their parents.

We at the committee, and our sister committee on the House, will miss having the benefit of his wisdom and his experience. So, too, will those in the intelligence community who worked with Matt, to include the senior leadership at some of the most important agencies.

While the American people may have never known Matt by name, hopefully, this statement will give you some insight into his character and, more importantly, the contributions he made to our Nation's security. We will miss his expertise, his infectious sense of humor and, most importantly, his friendship.

Mr. President, before I yield, I would like to turn to Senator BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I certainly agree with and really understand and appreciate all the comments the chairman just made about

Matt Pollard. He was the person I worked most closely with in the intel community. He served his country his whole adult life. He loved his country. He loved his work. He understood the importance of protecting, advancing, and defending who we are.

The chairman pointed out his real dedication to his son. Often, Matt would come over to my office for a topline indication of what we were going to be doing when we got to the Intel Committee. Since you really can't talk about that until you get to the Intel Committee, a sure way to get a good conversation going was to say: Tell me about that son of yours. He would have chapter and verse of what had happened in the last few days of the things he was doing with Brad.

He was really appreciated by his co-workers. I talked to the Chaplain yesterday. He went to see our Intel team moments after they found out about the loss of Matt Pollard, and the Chaplain was impressed by the emotional sense of loss this whole team felt.

He knew more about his area of expertise than anybody on our staff. We will miss that, but we will mostly miss him. We are grateful for his service, grateful for his dedication to his country and his son and the future of both his country and his family.

I yield back to the chairman.

Mr. BURR. I thank my colleague Senator BLUNT.

Mr. President, we are saddened, but we are blessed. We are saddened at the loss, and we are blessed that we participated in a small part of Matt Pollard's life on Earth.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are about to vote on cloture on the nomination for Secretary of State. I, once again, just to summarize, express my opposition to Mike Pompeo serving as this Nation's top diplomat.

As I said earlier this week in committee, I am genuinely disappointed to be casting a vote against the Secretary of State nominee. I believe the United States needs an effective leader on the global stage, but at the end of the day, as I considered Director Pompeo's nomination, including his hearing, his past statements, and recent revelations, I have lingering concerns, which I outlined in detail yesterday on the floor and will not go through in detail here again.

I do want to say, though, in listening to the remarks of some of my colleagues this week, I was struck by how easily some characterize legitimate concerns about a nominee as a purely partisan act. I was struck by suggestions that somehow Democrats obstructed this nomination.

Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee agreed to every request of the chairman in the process of considering this nomination. We held hearings on the date the chairman requested. We held the business meeting

to vote on the nomination on the date the chairman requested. We sent the nomination to the floor. Yesterday, we had an opportunity to debate the nomination on the Senate floor, and today we will vote. That is not obstruction. That is a fair and appropriate process—agreed on in a cooperative manner.

Democrats have worked with Republicans in a constructive manner to confirm a wide range of nominations. We voted for the President's nominees for Cabinet members. Nikki Haley was confirmed as the U.N. Ambassador, 96 to 4; John Kelly was confirmed as the Secretary of Homeland Security, 88 to 11; and Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan was confirmed, 94 to 6. This body confirmed Secretary of Defense Mattis by a vote of 98 to 1—98 to 1.

It seems Republicans complain about Democratic votes only when they don't get what they want. I would say it is the President who is politicizing many of these nominees by nominating people he must know cannot draw broad bipartisan support. There are many qualified candidates this President could have nominated for this critical position, whom I am sure my colleagues and I—as well as others—would have been happy to confirm.

Let me close by providing more actual facts. In the Senate Foreign Relations Committee alone, we have sent 86 nominees to the Senate floor, and 77 of them have been confirmed, mostly through unanimous consent. It is the Trump administration that has failed to keep pace on nominations. Of the 172 Senate-confirmed positions at the State Department, our Embassies, and USAID, the Trump administration has not nominated anyone to fill 76 of those vacancies. They include ambassadorial vacancies left unfilled, which include critical countries of great strategic importance like South Korea, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, South Africa, and Turkey.

The committee had agreed to hold a nomination hearing for three nominees just this past week, when the administration asked that the hearing be indefinitely postponed. Let us not forget that Republican leadership can bring up any nominee on the floor at any time they choose. This suggestion that not supporting a nominee you believe is unqualified is a purely partisan act is ridiculous, based upon the facts. What is partisan is to hold up a qualified nominee for Justice to the Supreme Court, like Merrick Garland for 295 days, without a hearing or even a vote. So please save me the sanctimonious voices of this question of partisanship.

It is the article I right of this body to vet nominees and cast the vote they think is correct. I believe strongly that the Congress plays a vital role in the check and balance of any executive branch, and I believe that regardless of who is sitting in the White House. That is what article I is all about.

I close simply by saying, we will continue working to advance those nomi-

nees who are qualified. We will continue to work with the chairman, as we have, and we will support those nominees who truly are qualified. Even if we do not agree, we certainly want to be of support in the mission to make sure America is safe and secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I thank the ranking member for, as he mentioned, allowing this process to go forward and for our being able to vote on this nominee today. I think all of us are aware that there is a NATO summit where foreign ministers are going to be present. Our passing him out today will allow Director Pompeo, Secretary of State Pompeo, to be a participant in a meeting that needs to take place. So I thank him for his cooperation and, certainly, for his point of view.

Let me offer a different point of view, though, as it relates to this nominee.

I think he is one of the most outstanding nominees we could have for this position. I did not know him well when the process began. I knew he had done a very good job as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Yet I have to tell you that through the process of his going through the confirmation hearings and the conversations we have had and the meetings we have had, I think he is going to be exemplary. Let me just go through his resume briefly as I know people are here, ready to vote.

He graduated first in his class at West Point. He served our Nation in uniform and patrolled the Iron Curtain. It was there that he learned about diplomacy and the effect that diplomacy can have on the world. What I have found from those individuals who have worn the uniform, from those people we hold on a pedestal like our Presiding Officer, is that they respect diplomacy more than most anyone else because they know it is the thing that keeps our men and women from being in harm's way. I know this nominee believes strongly in the role of diplomacy and has seen it in action firsthand on the ground.

After serving in the military, he graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was the editor of the Harvard Law Review. He then founded his own company, acting as the CEO. He became the president of another company after that. So he has served in the private sector. He was elected four times in Kansas to represent the Fourth District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let me just say this. Sometimes people say things when they are in public office and when they are running campaigns, and I know something has been said about that. I will say we confirmed Secretary Kerry and Secretary Clinton by 94 votes, and I can assure you that during their campaigns, they may have said some things that Republicans didn't particularly care for. Yet

we went ahead and confirmed them with 94 votes on the floor.

For the last 15 months, he has served our Nation as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I think everyone knows how he has run that Agency, and I think everyone knows the culture that he has built there. Right now, the State Department has a terrible culture. The morale is terrible. As my friend the ranking member mentioned, a lot of positions have not been filled, but they also feel like they have not had a leader in some time who has really stood behind them and raised them up in order to leverage our diplomatic efforts around the world. I believe this particular nominee will be excellently suited for that. He has demonstrated that at the CIA.

I strongly support his nomination. With that, I look forward to the vote. I look forward to his serving our Nation. I don't know of a person in the United States of America who could have more current knowledge about what is happening around the world in his current role. As we know, he has already met with the North Koreans. We have known for some time that the CIA has been our contact, our back channel, with the North Koreans. He is the perfect person to come in at this time and lead those efforts diplomatically.

I yield the floor.

I also yield back any remaining time.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Bill Cassidy, John Boozman, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Bob Corker.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mike Pompeo, of Kansas, to be Secretary of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

#### YEAS—57

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Donnelly  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Fischer  
Flake

Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hatch  
Heitkamp  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Jones  
Kennedy  
King  
Lankford  
Lee  
Manchin  
McCaskill  
McConnell

Moran  
Murkowski  
Nelson  
Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker  
Young

#### NAYS—42

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein

Gillibrand  
Harris  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Peters

Reed  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pompeo nomination?

Mr. HATCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

#### YEAS—57

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Donnelly  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Fischer  
Flake

Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hatch  
Heitkamp  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Jones  
Kennedy  
King  
Lankford  
Lee  
Manchin  
McCaskill  
McConnell

Moran  
Murkowski  
Nelson  
Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker  
Young

#### NAYS—42

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein

Gillibrand  
Harris  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Peters

Reed  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Grenell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Grenell nomination be withdrawn; that the time until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 1:45 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The majority whip.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have just voted to confirm Mike Pompeo to be the next Secretary of State for the United States—an essential member of the President's Cabinet.

There has been a tradition of sorts in this deliberative body to give some deference to the President on his pick for chief diplomat, recognizing that foreign governments view the chief diplomat or Secretary of State as being the personal representative of the President himself, the thought being that whoever wins the election deserves the ability to assemble their own team and build a Cabinet with top brass whom he respects and can work



well with. That is how the system has worked. The party that lost the election accepted Cabinet nominees—absent some glaring or egregious reason not to—and agreed to leave ongoing political battles for another day.

This is not just some ancient history, by the way. In fact, this week I have discussed at length many modern-day instances of it. For example, Condoleezza Rice passed with 85 votes. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton passed with 94 votes. Secretary Colin Powell sailed through the process, needing only a voice vote—not even a rollcall vote—to be confirmed.

All of these men and women were confirmed because all of them had the qualifications to do the job, and so does Mike Pompeo. It is absolutely clear that he has both the credentials and the character required to be a successful Secretary of State. I won't recite all the lines of his stellar résumé because you have heard them before, and we have just confirmed him.

The point is simply that the man has what it takes for the job. That is why the “no” votes by our Democratic colleagues rang so hollow. All of their statements have been lacking in any real, substantive critique. It is clear that their “no” vote is primarily a way to lash out at President Trump because anybody President Trump chooses, they instinctively and reflexively oppose. It was disappointing, but in today's environment, it is not all that surprising.

Their obstruction was not only a sad break from the tradition that I mentioned a moment ago but was also a sorry continuation of the hyperpartisanship that they have been engaging in with so many of the President's Cabinet nominees since he took office. Not long ago, Mike Pompeo was one of the exceptions. Fourteen Democrats and one Independent supported his confirmation as CIA Director. Yet now, 1 year later, after his unblemished service as CIA Director, only three are voicing their support for him. Nothing has changed about the man, about Mike Pompeo himself, but everything has changed about the way Democrats view their responsibility in this Chamber, not just to their constituents but to the Senate as a whole. What has changed is their disdain for the President himself. It has grown, and they have decided to take it out on his nominees, which is unfair, of course, but it is also unwise. Any frustration they have is all the more reason why they should support a man like Mike Pompeo, who throughout his career has shown his capacity to exercise good judgment. He is no mere lackey or political shill—anyone would tell you that—and his experiences speak for themselves in that regard.

The worst part of this whole debacle is that those who have suffered the most while we get our act together are the American people. They are aware—more so, maybe, than some of us—of what is happening across the world:

threats posed by Russia, China, and North Korea, the unravelling of Syria. They are right to wonder why in the world the Senate would dawdle and politicize the confirmation of a well-qualified person and leave the rest of the world in doubt as to who is going to be representing us as our diplomat in chief. The American people understand how precarious our situation is in North Korea, which Admiral Harris of the U.S. Pacific Command has called “the greatest threat we face.” This is not a time for partisanship, for hyperpartisanship, or for voting reflexively against everybody the President has proposed as a nominee.

The next Secretary of State will play a vital role in the negotiations with North Korea. In fact, as we now know, Mike Pompeo has already taken the initial steps, laying the groundwork and the foundation for what we all hope will be a successful negotiation on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Those are some of the reasons I strongly supported Mike Pompeo's nomination to lead the State Department, and I hope our colleagues will somehow find a way to overcome this reflexive opposition to everything the President has proposed and their hyperpartisan response every time the President proposes either a nominee or some policy provision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### DARK MONEY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if I told you that a cabal of wealthy elites and special interests were spinning a web of deceit to lie to the American people and to rig the levers of power in their favor, you would think I was talking about the plot of some movie, some TV show, or some novel. But, as Senator WHITEHOUSE and several of our colleagues have come to the floor to demonstrate this past week, this isn't about the plot of a movie; this is real life that it is happening here right now, and it is important that we as Americans and we as Members of the Senate face it squarely and understand how this manipulation is being designed to take our “we the people” Constitution and turn it on its head—turn it into a government of, by, and for the powerful rather than of, by, and for the people.

Today, I am going to share with you a little bit of information about one piece of this web of deceit, and that is the Heritage Foundation. It is a well-known name here in Washington after decades of engaging in a mission of formulating and promoting rightwing public policies. People hear “Heritage Foundation,” and they know what it is.

As Jane Mayer writes in her book “Dark Money,” it was created to be “purposefully political, priding itself on creating, selling, and injecting conservative ideas into the American mainstream.” Well, that is a more complicated way of saying that it was created to be an advocate for the fossil

fuel industry and to mislead Americans in every possible way in order for them to continue their deeply damaging and polluting ways. Ms. Mayer goes on to describe the organization as a “political weapon” disguised as a think tank, and that pretty much sums it up.

One of the organization's founders, Paul Weyrich, once said about solidifying power for the biggest corporations and wealthiest Americans:

I don't want everybody to vote. . . . As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down.”

Thus there is this intense support to engage in voter suppression. If you are a red-blooded American, you believe in the vision of voter empowerment, not voter suppression. So that says a lot about what this organization is all about. It is not we the people, it is not voters empowerment but rigging this Nation and this process for the powerful and the privileged.

The papers, reports, and journals that come from the Heritage Foundation work to muddy the water on established science. I did find it interesting that every now and then they promote an idea that actually makes some sense. Back in 1989 they promoted, in a publication entitled “Ensuring Affordable Healthcare for all Americans,” a plan to establish a marketplace with tax credits to enable people to be able to help buy policies. This was the foundation for RomneyCare in Massachusetts, and it became the foundation then for the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, back then, long before the Affordable Care Act came along, people like House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whenever he talked about the possibility of improving government healthcare, he talked about the Heritage Foundation's plan for a marketplace, but the moment an administration came along that happened to be a Democratic administration that took that idea seriously, the Heritage Foundation immediately abandoned it, which goes to my point that they are engaged directly in the game of politics on behalf of the Koch brothers' cabal and sabotaging, in a partisan and political way, the blue team at any possible moment.

In one brief, Heritage explained away their change of heart saying: “Analysts once supported a limited and qualified insurance mandate” but now believed it was “bad public policy” because the mandate came from the Heritage Foundation.

In 2012, Stuart Butler, the Heritage Foundation researcher who authored the original publication calling for an individual mandate, wrote an op-ed saying he had changed his mind, and he titled it, “Don't blame Heritage for ‘ObamaCare’ mandate.”

Well, why not? They put the idea forward. It actually was a key principle of insurance marketplaces, otherwise you created an insurance death cycle. So they put the idea forward. They promoted the marketplace. They said this



is what is necessary, and then they abandoned it, when it was advantageous, to a partisan, political attack.

In fact, the then-president, former Senator Jim DeMint, went out in 2013 on a multi-State tour to basically drive up support for stopping the very idea that Heritage had initiated.

They certainly have gone out of their way in this effort for voter suppression, which is a complete affront to the most fundamental and basic right of our Nation. In reports, they make claims like “there is no credible evidence that voter-ID laws have impeded turnout, especially among minorities and Democrats, as their opponents suggest.”

Well, of course, the exact opposite is true.

In regard to North Carolina, they said that “there has been no ‘suppression’ of the turnout of North Carolina voters by any of these reform measures.”

OK. Not true. In fact, it was exactly the intent of impeding the turnout that was debated in the North Carolina Legislature. That was the heart of why they undertook it.

In fact, when the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals reviewed it, they described it as “almost surgical precision” in the way it was targeted at suppressing the vote by minority voters. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed it and they refused to hear a case appealing the lower court’s ruling.

Then there is the real heart of this web of deceit; that is, the Heritage Foundation’s decades of efforts to say that carbon dioxide pollution is just fine, don’t worry.

I think about how back in 1959, Edward Teller was addressing the 100-year anniversary of the oil industry. They invited him to speak, as an eminent scientist, and he said many good things about the role that burning fossil fuels could do to amplify the energy in America, but he also said there are two challenges this industry has. The first challenge is that there is a limited amount of fossil fuels in the ground and someday we will run up against that shortfall and we will have to switch to other forms of energy. It turned out there was a lot more fossil fuels around the planet than we ever anticipated in 1959.

The second point he made was, you know, this may not seem like a pollutant because you can’t smell it—this carbon dioxide—you can’t see it, but it has the intriguing and problematic characteristic in that carbon dioxide traps heat. It traps infrared energy. As a consequence, it is going to cause great disturbances as it builds up in the atmosphere. He specifically talked about its effect on the Poles in raising temperatures, melting ice, and raising sea levels.

Today we know it has many more impacts that Teller didn’t elaborate on back in 1959 but come from this warming impact. We have seen global temperatures reach a record year after year after year, with some 17 of the

hottest years occurring in the last 18 years, which is a phenomenal indication of the direction we are headed.

When I was running for office, a billion baby oysters died in Oregon at a hatchery not because of a virus but because the acidity of the water had grown 30 percent over the course of the Industrial Revolution burning fossil fuels. How is that connected? It is because burning the fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide. The wave action takes that carbon dioxide and turns it into carbonic acid, and now we have a massive flow of acid into the oceans—enough to change its acidity level by 30 percent, enough to kill baby oysters because it is so difficult to start extracting the chemicals for a shell out of the water when the acidic level is so much higher.

We have seen the impact on our coral reefs—the ocean acidity combined with the temperature of the ocean. As many already understand, coral is an animal that lives in a symbiotic relationship with algae. When the temperature of the ocean gets warmer, the algae overwhelms the coral, the coral expels it and basically commits suicide. It is called bleaching. They throw the symbiotic algae out, and then the coral dies, and the acidity adds to that difficulty of the coral forming the coral structure itself.

Lastly, we were sent a huge message by Mother Nature. Remember, Harvey and Irma and Maria, three dramatic hurricanes all hitting the United States of America. Why did they carry so much punch? They carried it because 90 percent of the heat that is trapped by global warming is trapped in the ocean, and that greater energy in the ocean then produces stronger hurricanes.

If that wasn’t enough, we had those raging forest fires from Montana on through to the northwest corner of Washington State, down through Oregon, deep into California and way late in the season, clear to December—a much longer season. Many acres burned in those fierce fires.

So whether it was hurricanes or raging forest fires, Mother Nature is trying to say something is dramatically wrong, and you better act.

The Heritage Foundation is there for political purposes. They are there to do the Koch brothers’ bidding. So their purpose is to sow doubt, mislead Americans. It is like the tobacco industry misleading Americans about the fact that smoking cigarettes causes cancer. In the course of their greed, they are damaging the world in a colossal way, and we have to call them out. We have to strip away their pretense to be serious about policy and know what it is all about: the greed of the fossil fuel industry for short-term profits while deeply damaging this beautiful, blue-green planet that we have the responsibility to protect.

They said climate change is “a potentially serious issue” that “might cause problems in the future, but the

impacts cannot be determined with any degree of certainty.”

What a colossal lie. It is not “potential.” It is here now. It is not “might cause problems.” It is causing problems. Scientists do measure it in all kinds of ways. They measure it with a thermometer when they measure the temperature of the air and water. They measure it with a yardstick when they measure the oceans, and they measure it with the movement of insects and animals that we see all throughout our Nation, from the spread of diseases like Zika to the spread of challenges like the pine beetle in the Northwest and the ticks in the Northeast. They blatantly distort and misrepresent the truth.

They did this on a Royal Society’s statement on climate. They edited it to change a powerful statement about the problem into one that casts doubt on the issue. They just did this.

Now, let me explain that this is not—the Royal Society is not just any organization; this is the United Kingdom’s national science academy and a fellowship of the world’s most eminent scientists. It has been around since the 1660s, bringing scientific facts to policy debates. It included Sir Isaac Newton. It included Charles Darwin. It included Albert Einstein. It included Benjamin Franklin. It included the late Stephen Hawking.

In 2010, the Heritage fellow, who happened to be a former Koch Foundation associate, just coincidentally, posted a blog on the foundation’s site entitled “U.S. Could Learn from U.K.’s Global Warming Reversal.” The very title is saying the opposite of what the actual document said. It commented on this blog on a “dramatic reversal” of the Royal Society on climate, but the blog cut and pasted parts of the report to make it say the opposite of what it actually said. So 10 pages, 48 paragraphs, that laid out the impact of climate chaos were edited out in order to mischaracterize the Royal Society’s conclusions.

This is the type of truth-bending, misrepresentation, and outright lies the Heritage Foundation is involved in on behalf of the Koch brothers. The report summary even said the report “shows that there is strong evidence”—this is the actual report, not the blog—“strong evidence of Earth’s warming caused by human activity.”

The Heritage Foundation proceeds to say things like the “hysteria over global warming is now pervasive in the federal government.”

They say “hysteria” because they want to dismiss it as some emotional response rather than the conclusion of virtually the entire scientific community. Every major scientific organization in the world weighing in on why it is they want to rein in EPA’s regulatory excesses, what they say are—this is what they say: We want to rein in “EPA’s regulatory excesses with respect to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions” and that the reining-in is “long overdue.”

They go on to say: “Congress should insist on preventing . . . regulators from mandating greenhouse-gas-emissions caps, or from using greenhouse-gas emissions as a means to promulgate a rule.”

In other words, what they are saying is, we are misconstruing the science, outright lying to the American people, to prevent Congress from responding to this dramatic impact on our country—not just on our country but on the world.

They also proceed to misrepresent a lot of information about the impacts of oil drilling. There is a 1985 piece in *Heritage Today* entitled “Offshore Oil Drilling: Good for the Economy. Great for the fish.” According to the article, the fears of proponents of the ban on offshore drilling that “another disaster like the Santa Barbara Channel spill in 1969, when [up to] two-million gallons of sepia-colored oil bubbled up from the ocean floor, covering hundreds of square miles of sea” were not justified.

Fears about another disaster were not justified. Why? They said because “offshore oil and gas production is carefully regulated.”

It went on to say that “every offshore operation must include three blow-out preventers and casings for drills; drills must be cemented into the surrounding earth.”

Then they said: “Oil companies must submit an oil spill contingency plan” and “frequent safety inspections, scheduled and unscheduled, further reduce the risk of spills.”

Tell that to the crew of the Deepwater Horizon, because what we learned when we investigated what happened with Deepwater Horizon and what happened at other drilling platforms all around the gulf was the exact opposite of what the Heritage Foundation put forward on behalf of the Koch brothers and the fossil fuel business. What we really found out is that the blowout preventers were poorly designed. They failed. An explosion sunk the rig, and a sea floor gusher flowed for 87 days, 3 months.

The Associated Press found that in the lead-up to the accident, Deepwater Horizon wasn’t carefully regulated. It said a quarter of the required inspections were never carried out. It said the rig “was allowed to operate without safety documentation” that was required; that they had received five or six safety citations, the most serious of which occurred in 2002, “when the rig was shut down because required pressure tests had not been conducted on the blowout preventer—the device that was supposed to stop oil from gushing out” if things went wrong.

The gulf coast is still trying to recover from this disaster: 4 to 8 billion harvestable oysters killed; 51,000 to 84,000 birds killed; 56,000 to 166,000 sea turtles killed; a 51-percent decrease in the dolphin population; an estimated \$2 trillion to \$5 trillion of newly hatched fish killed. The list goes on and on, hardly the vision the Heritage Foundation wanted to put forward.

So how does this web of deceit work? Just follow the money. Since 1998, they have received a huge amount of support from the fossil fuel industry—\$780,000 just from one company, ExxonMobil. Over the course of a number of years, the Koch Foundation gave more than \$5.7 million to fund their work. There was an additional nearly \$5 million received from the Claude R. Lambe Foundation, which happens to be one of the Koch Family Foundations. Heritage is also a member of the State Policy Network, a web of right-wing think tanks across the country that the Koch brothers own. Koch money is coming from every direction. Heritage Foundation is the puppet of the Koch cartel enterprise.

That is only the tip of the iceberg of how this system works. We can trace back all of these pieces to the fossil fuel efforts to mislead the American public, to lie to the American public, and to spread doubt about actual scientific work.

We see their connections all through the Trump administration. When the Koch brothers say jump, the President of the United States says: How high? Then he does whatever they ask. If they want Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA, that is who they are going to get. If they want the Congressman whom they have championed throughout his entire career to be our chief diplomat, that is what they get.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if I can wrap up in two sentences, I will say that this web of deceit is enormously damaging to our Nation. Let’s call it out. Let’s have an actual debate based on the science and not let the Koch brothers do what the tobacco industry did and mislead the American public decade after decade after decade to the great damage of the citizens of this great country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, last month I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time with several mayors and local leaders who were in Washington with the Arkansas Municipal League. We had a lively and informative discussion on ways to continue the economic growth that has been taking place throughout Arkansas.

While much of our conversation was focused on forward-thinking ways to continue these positive trends, there was also a very frank and candid discussion about an issue that is currently holding our communities back—the opioid crisis.

Policymakers across our State have been struggling to help confront Arkansas’s heroin and opioid epidemic. The Natural State has been hit particularly hard by this national crisis. Retail data collected from pharmacies shows that Arkansas has one of the highest per capita opioid consumption rates in the Nation. CDC data shows

that we have the second highest prescribing rate in the country—enough for each Arkansan to have more than one opioid prescription in his or her name.

It is an issue that all of us—from city leaders to lawmakers in Little Rock, to our Congressional delegation in Washington—continue to work tirelessly to confront because we have seen how pervasive this crisis is and how devastating its effects are.

I know that everyone who serves in this Chamber is working just as feverishly with their State and local leaders to confront the crisis. That is why it is so important that we included substantial resources for a wide-ranging strategy to counter the epidemic, nearly \$4 billion, in the omnibus bill.

This funding will be used to provide additional resources for law enforcement and to continue important grant programs that help State and local governments offset the cost of opioid abuse. It will also support research into opioid addiction and alternative treatments.

We must ensure that we are doing all we can to supplement State and local efforts to combat the spread of opioid abuse. Unfortunately, this is not currently happening. The Department of Justice is hurting our communities’ efforts to get a handle on the crisis by withholding critical funds.

The Byrne JAG grant program was created more than a decade ago to help States and local law enforcement agencies purchase essential equipment and support drug treatment and enforcement activities. It is the largest source of Federal justice funding to help provide law enforcement officers with the tools and training to protect our communities.

Currently, DOJ is denying every State access to those funds because some communities and States are violating Federal immigration law. This leaves States like Arkansas scrambling to continue funding crucial safety programs.

Arkansas law enforcement agencies have received millions of dollars through this program to support training, personnel, equipment, supplies, and information sharing. Arkansas is eligible for more than \$2 million in funding from fiscal year 2017 to help fund multijurisdictional programs like drug task forces.

Earlier this year, I met with Arkansas drug director Kirk Lane to discuss how crucial the Byrne JAG program is to our State’s efforts to combat opioid abuse. Director Lane stressed that limited funds threaten the abilities of task forces to accomplish their missions.

Matching funds from the State are running dry. So unless DOJ releases Byrne JAG funds, the critical work done by officers who are part of these task forces to fight the opioid epidemic will be seriously compromised. That is why earlier this year I led a bipartisan effort to express these concerns to Attorney General Sessions. Half a dozen

of our colleagues joined me in an effort to relay to the Attorney General that withholding these vital funds will have long-term negative consequences for our communities.

Since we have not received a response from DOJ, I raised the issue again with the Attorney General at yesterday's Appropriations subcommittee hearing. As I said to the Attorney General, when I speak with local law enforcement and county sheriffs back in Arkansas, they all inquire about when these funds will be released and made available.

While it may not seem like a whole lot of money, Byrne JAG grants make a huge difference. It is often the sole reason police departments in small communities are able to stand up a drug task force. I was encouraged by the Attorney General's response that the Department is determined to get the money out and that it is a high priority for him personally. It simply has to get done. I urge DOJ to rectify this situation quickly. With each passing day that local law enforcement is being denied these resources, lives that could be saved are lost.

While we look for new ways to tackle this problem, one step Washington took years ago continues to help. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day initiative, spearheaded by the DEA, has helped remove expired, unused, and unnecessary opioids from homes.

Research has found that the majority of opioid abusers get their drugs from friends and family, often lifting pills from a familiar medicine cabinet. Removing them from homes helps to reduce experimentation and overdoses.

In early 2010, a coalition of Federal and State law enforcement officials, prevention professionals, and private organizations launched an ongoing education program to encourage Arkansans to monitor, secure, and dispose of their prescription medications. The coalition organized Arkansas's participation in the DEA's National Prescription Take Back Day initiative and has hosted Arkansas Take Back Day collection events for the last 8 years.

Despite our State's modest population, Arkansas ranks 13th in the Nation in total weight collected over the course of 14 statewide take-back events. That is a testament to the coalition's efforts. These events have produced the return of almost 132 tons of unneeded medications, which amounts to over 400 million pills.

This campaign is clearly succeeding in getting unnecessary prescription drugs out of circulation and in helping to break the cycle of addiction in our communities. Besides that, it is so important in getting rid of these prescriptions in the right way, as opposed to just flushing them in the toilet where they get in our water supply.

The next take-back event is Saturday, April 28. There are more than 130 permanent dropoff sites across Arkansas, and many law enforcement agen-

cies host temporary dropoff sites on this day as well. I encourage Arkansans to once again participate in this worthwhile event in full force this year.

Programs like the prescription drug take-back, in combination with local, State, and national efforts to combat the opioid crisis and help stem the tide of drug overdose and abuse, need to be supported and strengthened if we are serious about ending this crisis.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, Mr. Grenell has a deep background in diplomacy and strategic communications. He received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He spent 8 years as spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York and worked for every U.N. Ambassador appointed by George W. Bush.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is scheduled to arrive in DC tomorrow for a 1-day working trip to meet with President Trump. Her visit comes at a time of heightened importance, with a number of critical items on the agenda, including transatlantic trade, the Iran nuclear deal, as well as Russia and Syria.

I think it is very fitting that we are voting on this Ambassadorship today. I hope he will be quickly confirmed and sworn in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Grenell nomination?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Burr  
Capito

Cassidy  
Collins  
Corker  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Crapo

Cruz  
Daines  
Donnelly  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Fischer

Flake  
Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hatch  
Heitkamp  
Heller  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Johnson  
Jones

Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Manchin  
McCaskill  
McConnell  
Moran  
Murkowski  
Paul  
Perdue  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts

Rounds  
Rubio  
Sasse  
Scott  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Tester  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker  
Young

NAYS—42

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand

Harris  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hirono  
Kaine  
King  
Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Nelson

Peters  
Reed  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Udall  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth

McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 673.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, John Kennedy, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Cory

Gardner, James E. Risch, Thom Tillis, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, John Thune, Tom Cotton.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 690.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael B. Brennan, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 729.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 777.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 780.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Richard Burr, John Boozman, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Jeff Flake, Mike Rounds.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 781.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Richard Burr, John Boozman, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Jeff Flake, Mike Rounds.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

The Senator from Washington.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill, which is at the desk, that provides alternative minimum funding rules for certain single-employer plans maintained by a community newspaper; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The President pro tempore.

Mr. HATCH. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, the legislation in question makes a significant change to the pension funding rule, but it is narrowly written to only address issues concerning a single retirement plan. There are a number of companies that have similar funding issues which are not addressed by my colleague's proposal.

I appreciate the work that my colleague Senator MURRAY has done on this issue, and I appreciate that there is ongoing bipartisan work on issues that her legislation addresses as well as on other issues surrounding retirement plans.

The committees with jurisdiction over these issues, including the Finance Committee, continue to work on bipartisan solutions that have not fully vetted the matter that my friend Senator MURRAY is putting forth today. Until they do so, it is not appropriate to move this measure forward. Therefore, I respectfully object to this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The President pro tempore.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 621, 789, 790, 774, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 784, 785, 786, 787, 821, 773, 775, and 776.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Yleem D.S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance); Thomas J. Hushek, of Wisconsin, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Sudan; Kirsten Dawn Madison, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs); Kenneth Steven Barbic, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Timothy A. Garrison, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years; Kenji M. Price, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years; John Cary Bittick, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years; David L. Lyons, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years; Rodney D. Ostermiller, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years; Nicola T. Hanna, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years; Steven L. Gladden, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years; Brendan O. Heffner, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years; Theodor G. Short, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years; Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years; Hannibal Ware, of the Vir-

gin Islands, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration; Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years; and Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 607. I ask consent that there then be 10 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form and that following the use or yielding back of time, 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 791 through 820 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Surgeon General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 8036 and 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Dorothy A. Hogg

##### 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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Richard P. Snyder

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 601:

*To be admiral*

Vice Adm. John C. Aquilino

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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. Charles A. Richard

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Gregory N. Todd

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. John S. Lemmon

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

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Ronald C. Copley

Rear Adm. (lh) Kathleen M. Creighton

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

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Brian K. Corey

Rear Adm. (lh) Lorin C. Selby

Rear Adm. (lh) Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5149:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Darse E. Crandall

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Kristen B. Fabry

Capt. Joseph D. Noble, Jr.

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Heidi K. Berg

Capt. Michael A. Brookes

Capt. William E. Chase, III

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. John J. Adametz

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Thomas J. Anderson

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. James A. Aiken

Capt. Richard J. Cheeseman, Jr.

Capt. Craig A. Clapperton

Capt. Keith B. Davids

Capt. Joseph A. Diguardo, Jr.

Capt. Leonard C. Dollaga

Capt. Christopher S. Gray

Capt. John E. Gumbleton

Capt. James A. Kirk

Capt. Timothy J. Kott

Capt. Fredrick R. Luchtman

Capt. Brendan R. McLane

Capt. Scott W. Pappano

Capt. Ryan B. Scholl

Capt. Lance G. Scott

Capt. Philip E. Sobeck

Capt. John D. Spencer

Capt. Douglas C. Verissimo

Capt. George M. Wikoff

## IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael T. Gerock

## IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Fogarty

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Raymond S. Dingle

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Eugene J. LeBoeuf

Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Strand

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Aida T. Borrás

Col. Vincent E. Buggs

Col. Barry E. Edberg

Col. Cheryn L. Fasano

Col. Stephen Iacovelli

Col. Isaac Johnson, Jr.

Col. James J. Kokaska, Jr.

Col. Joseph M. Lestorti

Col. Edward H. Merrigan, Jr.

Col. Michael D. Roache

Col. Beth A. Salisbury

Col. Charles S. Sentell, III

Col. Jamelle C. Shawley

Col. Robert E. Suter

## 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 601:

*To be admiral*

Adm. Philip S. Davidson

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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. David M. Kriete

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

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Michelle C. Skubic

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

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Eugene H. Black, III

Rear Adm. (lh) William D. Byrne, Jr.

Rear Adm. (lh) Marc H. Dalton

Rear Adm. (lh) John V. Fuller

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael P. Holland

Rear Adm. (lh) Hugh W. Howard, III

Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey W. Hughes

Rear Adm. (lh) Thomas E. Ishee

Rear Adm. (lh) Roy I. Kitchener

Rear Adm. (lh) Stephen T. Koehler

Rear Adm. (lh) Samuel J. Paparo, Jr.

Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey E. Trussler

Rear Adm. (lh) William W. Wheeler, III

Rear Adm. (lh) Kenneth R. Whitesell

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5142:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Rear Adm. (lh) Brent W. Scott

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Darin K. Via

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Michael G. Dana

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. David H. Berger

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

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Stephen E. Liszewski

Col. Lorna M. Mahlock

Col. David L. Odom

Col. Arthur J. Pasagian

Col. Sean M. Salene

Col. Kevin J. Stewart

Col. William H. Swan

Col. Calvert L. Worth, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti

## NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

## IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1597 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning RICHARD G. ANDERSON, and ending JOEL K. WARREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1600 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning RONNELLE ARMSTRONG, and ending JOHN MARION VON ALMEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.



PN1601 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning ALISON LEE BEACH, and ending COURTNEY LYNN ZUERCHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1788 AIR FORCE nominations (65) beginning MICHAEL J. ABBOTT, and ending DAVID RUSSELL WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

#### IN THE ARMY

PN1753 ARMY nomination of Tia W. Caphart, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1754 ARMY nomination of Napoleon A. Campos, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1755 ARMY nomination of Kevin R. Embry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1756 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Furjanic, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1757 ARMY nomination of Daniel L. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1758 ARMY nomination of John M. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2018.

PN1789 ARMY nomination of Roberto Soriano Olivias, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1790 ARMY nomination of Jason Palatas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1791 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOSE R. REVELES, JR., and ending KENNETH J. STRAUSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1792 ARMY nomination of D012279, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1793 ARMY nomination of Russell B. Gilliland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1794 ARMY nomination of Erik M. Bauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1795 ARMY nomination of Lawrence W. Henry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1796 ARMY nomination of Kenneth A. Willeford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1797 ARMY nomination of D012941, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1798 ARMY nomination of Roxanne T. Sickles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

PN1814 ARMY nomination of James F. Huggins, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

PN1817 ARMY nomination of Denny L. Rozenberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

#### IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1436—2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Robert F. Grech, which was received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2018.

PN1634 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Karen S. Sliter, and ending Elia P. Vanechanos, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1742 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Tuyvan Nguyen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1744—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (106) beginning Benjamin Thomas Ardell, and ending Alexander Zvinakis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1745 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Abigail Marie Nguema, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1590 MARINE CORPS nomination of Douglas R. Burian, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1799 MARINE CORPS nomination of Chad R. Fitzgerald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2018.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN1276 NAVY nomination of Edward M. Crossman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1741 NAVY nominations (11) beginning NANA K. APPIAWIAH, and ending AUSTIN R. YOUNGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

### TRIBUTE TO HOLLY CHRISTENSEN AND BREE HITCHCOCK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. As you know, I like to come to the floor, and a lot of the time, my colleague from Louisiana is actually in the Chair, so he gets to hear a lot about the great State of Alaska. I like to come to the floor to talk about someone in my State who has done an amazing job either for their community or the State or even the country. We call this person our Alaskan of the Week. I know, for the pages, it is their favorite time in the Senate because they get to learn all about what is going on in Alaska. A lot of people watching or watching on TV have found a lot of interest in this because, like every Senator here, I certainly think I come from the best State in the country. It is beautiful right now. I really want to invite everybody who is

in the Gallery or watching on TV to come up to Alaska and visit. It will be the trip of a lifetime. I promise.

Yet what makes my State truly great is the people, not just the majestic mountains and the beauty and the wildlife but the people—strong, kind, caring people who band together—let's face it—in a State with some extreme environment. Oftentimes, they band together in creative ways.

I would like to introduce today our Alaskans of the Week—Holly Christensen, from Palmer, AK, and Bree Hitchcock, who lives in Anchorage, AK. Both of these incredible women have spent countless hours helping thousands of children in Alaska and, really, across America—children who need help and care and love. They have been helping children who are suffering from cancer. This is a really incredible story. It is one of these stories that, I think, most people love to hear about because it starts with just an idea—a little movement, a spark—that turns into something big unexpectedly. It is a pebble in a pond that creates ripples that turn into waves.

This incredible story starts when Holly, an oncology nurse with three young children of her own, received news that Lilly, who was a child of one of her former classmates, was diagnosed with cancer. Lilly is young girl, and she is going through treatment—chemo. Holly knew this would be a difficult time for Lilly or for any kid who was working through the difficulties associated with cancer. Of course, a lot of times with chemo that means losing your hair. It is especially difficult for a young girl.

Holly had an idea. Why not crochet a wig for Lilly with soft yarn that made her look like a princess? So she did that. She found some soft yarn. She crocheted a whimsical wig with long, branded strands of yellow yarn, decorated with blue and red flowers, modeled after the hair of the Disney character Rapunzel. She gave this to Lilly, and this wig brightened this little girl's day during a very difficult, dark time. She was able to twirl around in a dress with her Rapunzel braid. She was able, in many ways, to be a kid again and get out of the darkness and difficulty and pain of the cancer treatments.

Then something really remarkable happened. Lilly and her parents were so happy with the wig that Holly got some friends together, and they began to make a few more wigs and then a few more—a dozen or so—for more children in Alaska who were suffering from cancer. They were wigs that were all modeled after Disney characters.

That is where Bree comes in. She is from Anchorage. She heard about Holly's project through Facebook, and she began to volunteer. Soon, they were making and distributing hundreds of wigs out of Holly's one-car garage in Palmer, AK. Eventually, they started a nonprofit organization called the



Magic Yarn Project. Out of this one little idea for this one beautiful, little girl, the Magic Yarn Project was born.

Soon, dozens of Alaskans began to volunteer their time, and they began to hold workshops in schools and in hospitals and in community centers. The magic started to spread throughout Alaska, and then it started to spread throughout the country and even around the world. Thousands of people began making princess hair and superhero hair out of yarn for children who were living in the darkness and suffering through the difficulty of cancer.

To date, this dynamic duo, Holly and Bree, have facilitated the distribution of over 7,000 wigs in 38 countries across the globe for children who are losing their hair due to cancer and chemotherapy treatments. Think about that—one idea, one wig. Now we are at 7,000. Holly and Bree have amassed an army of over 4,000 volunteers across the country to crochet wigs. This takes time and care and talent.

The old, young, and those from every walk of life have reached out to them to help brighten a child's life. A football player from the Seattle Seahawks went to the first out-of-State workshop they held in Seattle. Everybody has been getting involved here. There are even women who are incarcerated in Alaska who are making whimsical wigs for these kids. It is impacting everybody.

Out of this one-car garage in Palmer, AK, which is a small town with a big heart, literally, the production and love and care of making these wigs has overtaken not just Alaska, not just the country but the world. Because of the project's growing popularity and their desire to reach as many children and volunteers as possible, the two have opened up chapters in seven States and even in Mexico. It has been daunting and a lot of work, but they have discovered so much about themselves and their community.

First, they were struck with how generous Alaskans are, and it was only possible because Alaskans from all across the State rose to the occasion to help these young kids. Bree said the Magic Yarn Project has pushed her in ways she never knew were possible. It made her a better mom and a better person. Holly said one of the most rewarding things about the project is in watching her own children get involved and help and have deep compassion for children who are suffering and who are less fortunate, whether they are in Alaska or in the country or somewhere else in the world.

Holly said:

There have been times when a little voice inside me says, "These are just wigs. This isn't that big or that important."

Yet, when they get the pictures back of these young girls from all over the country who are wearing their beautiful wigs, they realize it is a big deal. It is a huge deal.

The parents of these kids have told Holly and Bree how grateful they are

to see their children, who often are living lives in pain and with needles and surgeries and in hospitals, smile again because of what they have done. "It gives them a glimpse of what it was like and hope for what it will be like when they get better," Holly said.

So, to Holly and Bree, we can't thank you enough for your extraordinary work and your great compassion that has touched, literally, thousands and thousands of lives across America and the world.

Congratulations for being our Alaskans of the Week.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, I commend my colleagues who debated for the last week and then voted on the new Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, who I believe is either en route or will be en route soon to the NATO Foreign Ministers summit.

As many of us said on the floor, Mike Pompeo is extremely well qualified to be the Secretary of State—extremely well qualified. He was a Congressman who focused on foreign affairs. He is the current Director of the CIA and was an Army officer who graduated No. 1 in his class from West Point. He was the Harvard Law Review editor when he went to Harvard Law School.

I particularly commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who did the right thing and voted for Mr. Pompeo.

I have come down to the floor a couple of times to talk about this issue of having a long tradition in the United States of this body typically coming together, particularly as it relates to the Secretary of State. If someone is qualified and is the President's pick, the tradition has been to vote for that person. If you look at the votes over the last 50 years for the Secretaries of State, whether Republicans or Democrats, there was usually a unanimous vote—100 Senators, 96 Senators, 97 Senators. What I am hopeful for is that we can get back to that issue with regard to foreign policy and national security choices for the President regardless of who the President is.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle but particularly my Democratic colleagues, who, I know, faced a lot of pressure to vote no. For those who knew it was important to make sure this was a bipartisan vote, I thank them. I think Mike Pompeo is going to do a good job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Alaska in commending the U.S. Senate for confirming Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State. I think he is the right person at the right time, and we need somebody there. There is too much going on around the world to have that job vacant, and there is an important meeting of Foreign Ministers of the major countries in the world that is going on tomorrow that he needs to attend.

Whether it is North Korea and what is happening there—where he has been very involved—or whether it is the continuing concerns we have with regard to the nuclear agreement with Iran or whether it is what is happening in Syria and certainly what is happening on the eastern border of Ukraine, where I was recently, there are lots of hot spots around the world right now, and there is the need to have somebody in place who understands the importance of addressing those issues and addressing some of the bigger and longer term challenges we have with countries like Russia and China to be sure we can have more constructive relationships. It is good to have somebody in that job.

When John Kerry came up for confirmation in the Senate, not everybody agreed with him on the policies. When Hillary Clinton came up for a vote, not everybody agreed with her on the policies. They agreed they were qualified, as Mike Pompeo clearly is, and they agreed that a President should have the ability to have his or her person in that job, particularly as the Secretary of State. Therefore, in both of those cases, the vote was 94 Senators in favor.

Again, I am just glad the Senate chose to confirm him, but I do wish we had had more of a bipartisan approach to it because I think it is important for us to show around the world that we, indeed, do have momentum behind this nominee and his ability to lead our country in the area of soft power diplomacy all around the world. I think he will do a good job, and I think he will earn the trust of those of us who voted for him today. I also think he will be able to change the views of, perhaps, some of my colleagues who voted no today.

Congratulations to Mike Pompeo, and I am happy for our country that he is in place.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about an issue that has gripped my State and every State represented in this Chamber, and that is the opioid epidemic. This is prescription drugs and heroin and fentanyl-carfentanil. It is something we have talked about on this floor more in the last couple of years than we have at any time, really, in the history of this body. We have passed some good legislation, but, boy, there is so much more to do. Sadly, this crisis continues to unfold, and at least in my State and I believe in most States in this country it is getting worse, not better. So we started to take some important actions, but it is time to take more.

Just last week, a couple in Youngstown, OH, were cited for reckless homicide and endangering children after their 16-month-old daughter overdosed and died. She was exposed to carfentanil, one of these synthetic forms of opioids that unfortunately has come into so many communities in this

country and, in fact, is the biggest single concern we have right now in Ohio and many other States.

In fact, in Ohio we had an increase of overdoses last year, and 60 percent of those overdoses were from fentanyl or carfentanil—this synthetic form of opioids that was hardly present 5 years ago. So as we made progress on prescription drugs, heroin came in. As we made progress on heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil came in.

There is a need for us to push back and push back hard. Opioid deaths are now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in my State of Ohio and the No. 1 cause of accidental death in the United States of America. Think about how many people are being affected by this. It is across the board. It knows no ZIP Code. It is not just in urban areas, not just in rural areas or suburban areas, it is everywhere. It is something on which we can make a difference.

I have seen some programs that are actually working well to try to turn the tide and push back. One I will mention is funded, in part, from legislation we passed in this Chamber just 1½ years ago. It is the Maryhaven Addiction Stabilization Center in Columbus, OH. It is an attempt by Franklin County, which is largely Columbus, OH, to come together and say: We have to do something to get more people who have overdosed into treatment. One of the many challenges we face in the crisis is the gap, and one huge gap is the fact that people who overdose have their lives saved through this miracle drug called Narcan, which reverses the effects of an overdose, but after coming out of their overdose, getting conscious again, they simply go back into the community and the environment that created this potential overdose situation in the first place. Once again, a week later, perhaps, maybe days later, in some cases hours later, the person may overdose again. The answer is not just applying Narcan—as important as it is because we do need to save lives. The important thing is to get that person into a program where they can begin to deal with their addiction, where they can get longer term support through a recovery program to stay away from the old environment and the old gang that got them involved in this issue in the first place.

Addiction is a disease. Treatment is required just as it would be for other diseases. I am excited about what is happening at Maryhaven Addiction Stabilization Center because at this center, they are bringing people in who overdosed and then in the same facility there are about 50 beds for treatment. Instead of having the vast majority of people who overdose and come into an emergency room go home or go back to the old environment, 80 percent of the people at Maryhaven are going into treatment. That is a huge change. That is a sea change. That will have an enormous impact in dealing with the 200,000 people or so in my State of Ohio who are currently addicted. It will help

them get into a decent program, get through the detox, get into recovery, and have the opportunity to get their lives back together.

That program is funded, in large part, from Federal funding that came from this legislation we passed about 1½ years ago. Maybe \$1.2 million has been matched by private funding and State and local funding. We have this new project that I think can be emulated around the State because it seems to be working really well.

The CURES Act, which we passed, has provided to Ohio just recently \$26 million in new funding, and we need it badly. We need to put it to use in ways that work. This is an example of something that is actually well-thought-out that is going to help close the gap and make a difference.

In 2016, we were told we had the deadliest year on record in terms of overdoses. Unfortunately, it looks like, in 2017, the numbers are going to be worse. It certainly will be in Ohio.

In the Franklin County corridor, the Columbus, OH, area, the coroner recently came out with their numbers in 2017. They had an overdose death rate that was higher than 2016. We lost 520 of our citizens to overdoses in Franklin County in 2017. That was a 47-percent increase from 2016. So it is not just a little increase; it is a huge increase. A staggering two-thirds of those—66 percent of those deaths—were from this synthetic heroin we talked about, the synthetic opioids fentanyl and carfentanil.

That is really the issue now in so many communities around the country. Just last month, Franklin County experienced 18 overdoses in 1 week—1 county, 18 overdoses in 1 week. This was just last month. That is an average of over two deaths per day. Think about that when you are thinking about 1 county out of 88 and the impact this is having.

We need to do more at the Federal level to combat this epidemic, and I would like to talk about a couple of pieces of new legislation that would build on the success we had in this body in terms of legislation that would help direct this money in ways that will make a difference, toward evidence-based programs—not just throwing money at the problem but making sure the money is well spent.

One of the pieces of legislation is critical to this issue of fentanyl and carfentanil coming into our community. Unbelievably, this poison that we talked about today, two-thirds of the deaths in this county in Ohio last year were because of fentanyl. The 16-month-old baby we talked about was killed through carfentanil and another synthetic. Unbelievably, this stuff is coming in through our U.S. mail system, primarily. It is coming not over the border, primarily, or not in some other way like heroin might or even prescription drugs, but it is literally coming through the mail primarily from China. So evil chemists in China

are mixing up this poisonous brew that becomes fentanyl, and then it gets shipped through the mail system into our communities—sometimes to a P.O. Box, sometimes to someone's home, sometimes to a business. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability within the U.S. Postal Service to push back. To me, this is an obvious example where this body ought to come together and say: You know what, let's provide law enforcement with the tools they need to be able to stop some of this poison from coming in.

If you were to send this same fentanyl by FedEx, UPS, or DHL, a private carrier, they would have to provide data to law enforcement in advance: what is in the package, where it is coming from, where it is going. With that data, law enforcement can target those packages and pull them off the line and pull some of this poison out of our communities.

I have been to these distribution centers where the carriers do exactly that. They have Customs and Border Protection officials there. They have rooms that have the proper venting to be able to open these packages. This fentanyl and carfentanil is so dangerous, our first responders are putting their lives at risk every day just by dealing with it. What they are able to do is stop this poison from coming in, which helps, at a minimum, to raise the cost. Right now, one of the reasons it is expanding is because it is relatively inexpensive, but it is also deadly. It is something that is causing many more overdoses and deaths than ever before.

So our legislation is very simple. It is called the STOP Act. It is cosponsored by AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Democrat from Minnesota. The notion is to say to our U.S. Postal Service to provide that same information because law enforcement tells us that unless they have that information, it is like finding a needle in a haystack. With 900 billion packages a year, it is hard to imagine how they are going to be able to stop those packages without having at least the tools of knowing what is in those packages, where it is coming from, where it is going, so they can use their analytics, the big data, to be able to identify those packages and stop them.

Last month, a man from Cleveland, OH, was charged after undercover agents found he was selling fentanyl he had just bought online from China. According to the prosecutor, "The defendant ordered thousands of deadly doses of fentanyl from China, brought it to a residential neighborhood in Euclid and then mailed the dangerous drugs all over Ohio and across the country" using our own mail system.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in the U.S. Senate, which is a group I chair, did a yearlong investigation into this issue. We completed this several months ago. Unfortunately, what it showed is exactly what you would suspect. The traffickers, when asked: How should we ship these drugs if we are buying them from you

online—because we had an undercover person working for us. He was a member of the Homeland Security Department, someone who deals with these issues every day. He actually contacted websites around the country. Unfortunately, the websites all said the same thing: We will sell you this deadly drug, but you have to ship it through the U.S. mail system. We will guarantee delivery if you do that.

We were able to find five different websites that were openly selling fentanyl. They all told us where to send it. By using some of the information that we had based on the payment systems they were using, we were able to identify the people who had been shipped drugs through these sites. We found, incidentally, that just in a short period of time, seven people had died of overdoses after getting drugs from these particular websites. We also were able to refer to law enforcement some other people who apparently were dealing these drugs by taking large quantities.

Even with this person in Euclid, OH, we talked about, thousands of deadly doses of fentanyl were found. That could be in a package about this size. Three flakes of this stuff can kill you. So, at a minimum, we have to be sure our U.S. Postal Service is giving law enforcement the tools to be able to help stop this deadly poison.

The Postal Service has begun over the last year or so to make some progress in this area. Still, they tell us that only 36 percent of the packages transported into this country have any kind of advanced electronic data. As we dug deeper, having researched and gone to some of these sites where the U.S. Postal Service is providing information, we found out it was not 36 percent because 20 percent of the packages that had the required information still went into the community anyway because of lack of communication with law enforcement.

Finally, we are finding out that it may be 36 percent of the packages, but much of the information is not helpful. We need to have new rules in place to say to countries: If you want to do business with the United States and send packages here, you have to play ball with us and provide this digital information upfront so our law enforcement can deal with what is clearly a crisis in this country. It is a glaring loophole in the screening process. It undermines the safety and security of our country, not just for drugs but for other issues as well, and it is time we fix it.

After 9/11 and the terrible tragedy of that day, this Congress decided to require private carriers to require all of that information—the advanced electronic data—because of the risk of terrorism, frankly. At that time, we said the Post Office needed to do a study on this to give them time to get ready. That was over 15 years ago, and they still haven't done it. They need to provide law enforcement the tools they

need by requiring advanced electronic data on all packages entering the United States. Thirty-one of my Senate colleagues—19 Republicans, 12 Democrats, and 1 Independent—have signed on as cosponsors to this legislation. It already has support of one-third of the Senate. It has been endorsed by President Trump's opioid commission because it is a common-sense solution to a growing problem around the country. There is House companion legislation to do this. Stopping this influx of fentanyl is going to happen only if we stop how it is coming, which is through our Postal Service from countries overseas, primarily China.

We also need a more comprehensive approach, of course, to the drug issue. It is not just enough to stop the supply if there is a strong demand. Dealing with the demand includes prevention efforts that are included in legislation we passed in this body about 1½ years ago and still needs to be implemented. We have new legislation to help increase that comprehensive approach. The last bill was called the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, signed into law at the end of 2016. We now have a new bill, CARA 2.0. It provides more resources for evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. It will help people get into longer term treatment so they can truly overcome their addiction. It has helped to overcome the stigma by treating the addiction as a disease, and now it is time to ensure that we are looking at what works and building on it.

I introduced this legislation with my colleagues, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and six others: Senators SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, AMY KLOBUCHAR, DAN SULLIVAN, MAGGIE HASSAN, BILL CASSIDY, who is the Presiding Officer today, and MARIA CANTWELL—four Republicans and four Democrats. We kept this bipartisan. Other Members have joined in as well. Again, it picks up where the Cures legislation and the CARA legislation left off, to provide a better framework, because now we can spend the extra resources this Congress has wisely determined to put up against this fight.

In the spending bill that was just passed, there was an additional \$6 billion over 2 years put against this issue. Let's be sure the money is well spent. Let's be sure we have a roadmap to build on the successes we have had and ensure that that money is going to things that actually can make a difference.

We talked about one earlier, the addiction stabilization center. We also know that one way we could spend our money better is to have a better prescription drug monitoring program nationally. So every State now has some sort of prescription drug monitoring program, but often they don't talk to each other. This is something that is required in my State of Ohio. West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan,

and Pennsylvania are all States where there is also an opioid crisis. We need to be sure that they are talking together, so that when someone goes to get a prescription, the information is logged. If the person goes out of the State to order a prescription across the border—maybe just right across the border—that information is provided just as it would be if it were within that State. That is in our legislation as well.

We also target addiction at its source. About 80 percent of the people who die of overdoses today probably started on prescription drugs. That is the latest data we have. Some of that was prescription drugs that were provided to that individual as the result of an accident or an injury, and they became physically addicted because they were prescribed an opioid for pain relief.

The stories are heartbreaking. The parents have come to me and say—and this has happened twice: My son or my daughter went to get a wisdom tooth extracted, and the dentist gave my son or my daughter opioids. In one case, it was 60 pills of Percocet or OxyContin. Sure enough, that young person had a physical addiction develop because of that. Then when the pills were harder to get or more expensive, they turned to something less expensive and more accessible, which was heroin or fentanyl or carfentanil, and then overdosed and died. These are 17-year-old children who were prescribed this medication.

There are other cases as well. I have met adults who are well into their thirties or forties and are leading successful lives, well established in their community, well connected in their loving families. They had an accident or injury. Maybe it was a car accident. They were given pain medication—opioids—and they became physically addicted.

This addiction is a tough one to climb out of. So many people then turn to another substance that is more available, more accessible, or maybe less expensive and then overdose and then the death.

People say how could this have happened? When you go back, it happened because of a prescription drug—something was overprescribed.

Others might buy prescription drugs on the street. This Saturday is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in America, and I hope that everybody who is listening here will think about whether they could go into their own medicine cabinet or maybe their parents' or grandparents' and take out some of these opioids and then have those disposed of properly at a police station or someplace else. I know Kroger is doing this in Ohio and other States.

Find out where your drug take-back location is. Take these drugs in and get rid of them because I have just heard too many cases, unbelievably, of people stealing these drugs and using them and then, again, developing that addiction or selling them and someone else

develops the addiction. Again, the thought is that probably 8 out of 10 people dying of overdoses started with prescription drugs. So our legislation does deal with that.

Our legislation deals with overprescribing because it must be dealt with. It requires doctors and pharmacists to use drug monitoring programs to ensure that we are not overprescribing, and it sets a 3-day limit on prescriptions for acute pain.

We except chronic pain. We have exceptions for cancer. But for acute pain—the surgeries we have talked about—we are using the good science from the Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, and others that say two things: One, after the third day of using these opioids, on that fourth day, fifth day, and sixth day is when the opportunity for an addiction grows dramatically, and the chances of your falling into that addiction increases significantly.

Second, in terms of pain and dealing with pain, we have also learned that for acute pain for most kinds of procedures, there are other kinds of pain medications available.

I have talked to the dentists a lot on this. There is a dentist from Ohio who is a good man, Joe Crowley, who is now President of the American Dental Association. He is working with the dentists to try to ensure that we have new policies in place that discourage the use of opioids altogether for things like a wisdom tooth being removed. But to the extent it is used, after the first, second, and third day, it is much, much less necessary and much less useful, and other pain medication can take its place. So, as a result, we do have in our legislation something that is a dramatic difference from the unfortunate overprescribing that continues to go on in our country in too many instances, and that is a 3-day limit. After 3 days, if you continue to have the kind of pain that can only be dealt with opioids, if you are one of the few individuals for whom that is true, you go back to the doctor and get another prescription, but you have to go through a process to do that. The alternative is that we are going to continue to see more and more people become addicted through prescription drugs as a gateway and then again getting into this terrible cycle of overdoses and eventually overdose and dying in too many cases.

So CARA 2.0 has these policy changes, as well as the additional funding for prevention programs, treatment programs, and recovery programs. It also helps our first responders by saying: If you can't afford the cost of Narcan, we will help you out but also give you training in Narcan and also to deal with this gap between the immediate overdose reversal using Narcan and then going into detox—between detox and treatment, between treatment and longer term recovery—to try to ensure that you have continuity. This is something that just makes so much sense and can save so many lives.

These legislative efforts we are talking about here are important. So for those who are watching—and maybe some staff members are watching from some of the offices—please check it out. Check out the STOP Act, if you are not already a cosponsor. Check out CARA 2.0, if you are not already a cosponsor.

Let's be sure that we are doing everything we possibly can here to make a difference and begin to reverse this tide, begin to save lives again rather than having this discouraging increase in addiction.

It is not all about overdoses and deaths, as tragic as that is. It is about the millions of Americans whose lives are getting off track, who may not overdose and may not end up needing Narcan but who are pulling away from their family, who are not working, who are not engaged in their community, who are giving up on their friends and their loved ones.

A lot of people in this Chamber are concerned about the fact that so many Americans are out of work today and not showing up even on the unemployment rolls because they have left work altogether. They are not even looking for work. Economists say our labor force participation rate for men is historically low. It is probably the lowest it has ever been in the history of this country. When you combine men and women, you have to go back to the 1970s to see as many people who are out of work altogether. I agree that is a big problem, and I would urge my colleagues to look at the impact of opioids on that problem.

There are two recent studies, one by the Department of Labor and one by the Brookings Institution, which indicate in the strongest possible terms that opioids are driving much of this dysfunction in our workforce today. So to employers out there who are saying, "The economy is growing, the tax cuts are working, regulatory relief is working, but I can't find workers," 44 percent of those who are out of the workforce, according to a Department of Labor study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, took a prescription pain medication the day before.

The Brookings study shows that 47 percent of able-bodied men between 22 and 55 are taking pain medication on a daily basis. These are frightening numbers. By the way, I can't imagine that is overreported. I imagine it is underreported because of the stigma attached to this issue of opioid addiction and because of the potential legal liability people could be in for admitting it. Even so, almost half of those surveyed say they are not working. They are not even looking for work, but they are taking pain medication on a daily basis. So this affects all of us.

Go to your firehouse in your community and ask them if they are doing more overdose runs or more fire runs? I will bet you that they will say the former. They are doing more drug overdose runs than they are fire runs. We

are all paying for that. Talk to your sheriff or your local police chief and ask them what the No. 1 driver of crime is in your community. I bet they will say it is opioids. Often it is people who are committing crimes like theft or shoplifting or fraud to be able to pay for the habit—\$300 to \$400 a day or more. Particularly if you are not working, there is a temptation to commit those crimes and there is a craving for this drug that puts people in positions they never would have imagined they would find themselves in.

Think of the families who are broken up. Think of the kids who have lost their parents to this epidemic. In Ohio, we have more kids in foster care or under the care of the State than ever in our history.

Go to your neonatal units at your hospital and ask them about this. They will say it is the No. 1 issue affecting them because so many kids are being born to a mother who was addicted, and these kids have to be taken through withdrawal themselves—little babies. You can hold them practically in the palm of your hand.

I have gone to these neonatal units in Ohio and have seen these babies, and it is heartbreaking because, just like adults, they have to go through this tough withdrawal process. No baby should have to do that.

So this issue is one when Congress has taken steps in the last year and a half, and I congratulate this body and the House for moving forward with some positive steps. There is so much more to be done, and these two bills are a start. These two bills will help. They will help to save lives. They will help to get people back on track and help to ensure that people can live out their God-given purpose rather than get distracted through this epidemic, rather than getting off track with regard to family, work, dignity, and self-respect.

These two bills will help, giving law enforcement in our communities the tools they need and helping our communities to be able to have a comprehensive approach here to turn back this assault of addiction in our country.

I hope we can move quickly in the Senate to pass this legislation so the President can sign it into law and we can begin to make a bigger difference.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the recent rise of anti-

Semitism and racism in our communities.

As Members of Congress, we have an enormous responsibility to take strong action and stand up against intolerance before it takes root in the next generation. It is incumbent upon all people to ensure that adequate tools are in place to counter the resurgence of fear and hate-mongering—whether directed at old targets or new—that led to the Holocaust and other atrocities.

America must maintain its leadership abroad, especially when it comes to the issues of human rights and religious freedom—the core foundations upon which our Nation was built. We must uphold these standards here at home and defend and promote them globally.

In my role as the representative on anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, I visited Paris and Copenhagen and met with local leaders in the aftermath of the violent, anti-Semitic attacks in 2015, including the Charlie Hebdo massacre. The gruesome murder of Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll in Paris on March 24 is a grim reminder of the urgency of our task.

In Poland, there have been no attacks recently, but there is a growing climate of fear. Government officials have equivocated regarding Polish responsibility for the World War II massacre in Jedwabne and the postwar pogrom in Kielce, which occurred on our Independence Day—July 4, 1946. The Polish President recently signed into law an anti-defamation bill that makes it illegal to attribute responsibility for or complicity during the Holocaust to the Polish nation or state. This law will, in fact, restrict academic freedom, chill free speech, and hinder teaching about the Holocaust and the crimes committed in occupied Poland during World War II.

In Hungary, Viktor Orban has stoked a campaign of hatred against migrants and Muslims in his bid for a third term as Prime Minister. In the final days of his campaign and perhaps revealing some concerns for his margin of victory, his party has sharpened its call for a country that is White and Christian, escalating its anti-Semitic and anti-Roma rhetoric.

Here at home, we have witnessed extremists and neo-Nazis marching in the streets openly carrying painful hate symbols from the 1930s. In a brazen public display, neo-Nazis and White supremacist groups took to the streets in Charlottesville, VA, last August, inciting violence that cost 32-year-old counter-protester Heather Heyer her life. Just this past weekend, another group of neo-Nazis marched in Newnan, GA, and burned a large swastika afterwards. Burt Colucci, a member of the National Socialist Movement, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that there was no particular reason Newnan was chosen for the rally. He said:

We pick these rallies randomly. It is always preferable that it is in a white town.

How can we address these challenges and build a more tolerant, peaceful, and global community?

Earlier this year, in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Italian Government hosted the Rome International Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area. At that event that convened on the 80th anniversary of the passage of Italy's "racial laws," which discriminated against Jews and people of African descent, leaders from across Europe and the United States recommitting to address anti-Semitism in their societies—from collecting and reporting hate crime data to supporting education—at a time when few Holocaust survivors or witnesses to the atrocities of World War II remain.

The OSCE also reported on its Turning Words Into Action project, designed to assist governments and civil societies in bolstering security for Jewish communities, educate our own societies on how to recognize and address prejudice, and build coalitions between Jewish and other communities.

Yet, at this critical juncture, we have been cutting funding and other resources meant to bolster America's diplomatic efforts abroad. It is for this reason that I fought to include \$1 million to combat global anti-Semitism in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill recently passed by Congress. I also wrote letters urging President Trump and his administration to select a new special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. This position has been critical in working with governments and organizations abroad to facilitate action against anti-Semitism in communities around the world.

We must all understand that a threat against one religion, race, or ethnicity is a threat against all religions, races, and ethnicities. Hatred unleashed rarely forms its own boundaries.

In the aftermath of World War II, a Protestant pastor famously said:

In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist; and then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist; and then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew; and then they came for me . . . and by that time there was no one left to speak up.

History has shown time and again that the failure of governments and political leaders to denounce those who advance an agenda of hate and bigotry brings instability and violence.

As hate crimes continue to rise in our own Nation and as the number of refugees around the world fleeing political violence and persecution reaches record highs, we must reaffirm our sense of duty and our commitment to preserving freedom, equality, and fundamental human rights for all people.

Addressing the anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and persecution takes a concerted and sustained effort from a coalition of gov-

ernments, faith and community leaders, and global advocates to denounce these atrocities and promote peace and tolerance around the world.

Now more than ever, we need to join together and speak up to protect human rights around the globe because it is in all of our interests to do so. We must also use tools available to us, from hate crime laws to capacity-building measures for civil society and governments, such as those offered by the OSCE.

I will continue to stand alongside civil society and remain an advocate for equality and human rights, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, and 825.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Rohit Chopra, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2012; Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2016; Joseph Simons, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2017; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2011; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2018; and Rebecca

Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2015 *en bloc*?

The nominations were confirmed *en bloc*.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 757.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea L. Thompson, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

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.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thompson nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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.

##### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, many of us were shocked when the President tweeted that he was deploying the National Guard to the border.

The President's claim that we face a crisis at our Southwest border is simply false, and it is particularly ironic when the President himself has repeatedly bragged—again, falsely—that illegal border crossings are at an alltime low.

I remain concerned that the Trump administration is diverting Defense Department resources to the border to help carry out its deportation agenda. The Department is unable to tell Congress how much these deployments may cost our Nation—paid for with money diverted from other, critical de-

fense programs. So far, the Department of Defense has provided a preliminary estimate that these deployments will cost \$182 million in fiscal year 2018, but there is no end in sight.

I am also concerned that these deployments may harm the readiness of our National Guard by disrupting training for core missions. As one local elected official in New Mexico noted in the Albuquerque Journal, "We're going into forest fire season. A big percentage of the state is in drought right now, and if National Guard folks are continuously rotated down to the border for a problem that doesn't exist, are they going to be available for a real problem when it happens?"

Well, yesterday, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson issued a surprising report, which inadvertently agreed with these concerns.

Last year, Congress required the Department of Defense to examine past deployments of National Guard troops to the border and to analyze those experiences for whether they had been beneficial for those Guard members. As Vice Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I received the Department's report yesterday.

It is fair to say that its conclusions are probably not what the President wanted to hear from his own political appointees.

The report notes that several States have conducted training and operations along the Southwest border. It concludes that training and operations by California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas Guard units "does not directly contribute to collective core Mission Essential Task readiness" of those units. In other words, we are diverting them from their most important missions.

It was even harsher in its conclusions for National Guard units from other States traveling to the border for similar training. It describes a pilot program to send 250 National Guard personnel to the border. Not only did the pilot program cost a half a million more than that unit's regular, scheduled training, but it also resulted in only 22 more apprehensions than normal, while contributing almost nothing to the unit's training.

The report also notes that these kinds of deployments "comes at a cost to the individual soldier, his/her family, and her/his employer, as well as to overall united readiness."

Is that what we want? To impose costs on our volunteer Guard personnel, their families, their employers supporting their service?

The report goes on to say, "Such tasking could also potentially impact support to validated Global Force Management Allocation Plan requirements." That is a mouthful, but it means that these deployments could make our National Guard less prepared to respond to a natural disaster back home or, God forbid, a war.

Is that what we want? No. There's an old adage that goes, when you find

yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop digging.

We all know that the President wants to build a wall on the border, but he has failed to convince Congress that spending \$25 billion on a campaign promise is the right thing to do. Instead, he is sending the outstanding women and men of the National Guard to the border, as if to compensate for his inability to work with Congress.

I have met a great number of members of the National Guard, and I know they will carry out their assigned duties as well as they can. Many will view their deployments as a chance to serve the country they love, but we owe it to them to send them on a mission that is worth it, and the Pentagon's own study raises serious questions about that.

I hope that we end National Guard deployments to staff the crisis that the President invented and get them back to their core job: protecting their States and protecting this country.

#### FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABDUCTION OF THE CHIBOK GIRLS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I would like to recognize a tragic anniversary upon us this month. Four years ago this month, the terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls in the dead of the night from a school in Chibok, Nigeria, where they were taking final exams.

Some of the girls managed to run away, but Boko Haram abducted 219 girls.

These hundreds of young girls were held captive, abused, made to be slaves, forced into marriage with their abductors, raped, starved, and, in some cases, forcibly converted to Islam.

Some have tragically died while trying to flee or even during childbirth.

You might recall the global campaign on Twitter, #BringBackOurGirls, to urge the rescue of the girls.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama was moved to join the campaign for the release of the girls, as were over 3 million people around the world.

I, myself, was mortified to learn that, for the mere act of seeking an education, the girls were abducted and forced into child marriage or slavery. That is why, back then in 2014, I introduced a resolution condemning the Chibok abduction and calling for the immediate, safe return of the girls.

Since the kidnapping, just over 100 girls have been released, leaving over 100 girls still missing. I fear some may have already perished.

Parents marked the fourth anniversary on Saturday by marching with thousands of others to the school in Chibok where the girls were abducted in 2014.

I think we should join them here in the Senate in remembering this tragic anniversary.

That is why I have introduced, with some of my female colleagues, a resolution calling for the immediate release of all Boko Haram captives, especially the remaining Chibok girls.



The girls who have returned have told of the deplorable abuses Boko Haram fighters made them suffer.

No one should be subject to the depravity of an organization that doesn't value human life, let alone young girls simply trying to get an education.

Unfortunately, since 2012, Boko Haram has conducted a violent campaign of mass kidnappings of women, girls, and boys in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Boko Haram remains one of the deadliest terrorist groups in the world, killing more than 13,000 people since 2013. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says almost 2.5 million people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger have been displaced—that is forced from their homes—because of Boko Haram's brutality.

And the terror continues.

Just in February, Boko Haram militants stormed the town of Dapchi in Nigeria and abducted 111 girls and 1 boy.

Thankfully, most of those children have been returned to their families, but, heartbreakingly, some died during their ordeal, and one girl still remains a hostage.

The New York Times recently ran a stirring front page piece about some of the Chibok girls who have been freed. I applaud the extraordinary bravery of those survivors, who have come forward to share their stories and experiences at great risk to themselves.

The courage and strength of the girls who are still being held captive to remain resilient in the face of unspeakable brutality is deeply moving.

As a testament to their fortitude, let us all recommit ourselves to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, to pursuing policies that guarantee girls education, and to the release of the remaining Boko Haram captives.

Thank you.

#### REMEMBERING DAN AKAKA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the life and achievements of Dan Akaka, a veteran, educator, U.S. Senator, and most importantly, a dear friend of mine. Dan passed away recently after 93 years of life imbued with the aloha spirit, and I have been reflecting on his legacy of quiet but effective work in the Senate.

Dan Akaka was a tireless advocate for indigenous people. As I was working on the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, his cooperation and persistence as chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee helped include important provisions to protect Native-American women from violence. He also worked hard to support vital programs that provided education, healthcare, housing, and other basic services for Tribes across the country.

A World War II veteran himself, Dan was a strong supporter of the National

Guard. He was one the first cosponsors to support my National Guard Empowerment Act and give the Guard the representation that it deserved. He will also be remembered for fighting to have the valor and sacrifice of Asian-American soldiers in World War II recognized, sponsoring legislation that awarded long overdue Medals of Honor to those who had been discriminated against because of their race.

Hawaiians were lucky to have him as a champion in the Senate, and I was lucky to have him as a friend.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article "Daniel Akaka, Former Democratic Senator From Hawaii, Dies At 93" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, Apr. 6, 2018]

DANIEL AKAKA, FORMER DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM HAWAII, DIES AT 93

(By Adam Clymer)

Former Senator Daniel K. Akaka, a Democrat who represented Hawaii for 36 years in Congress and successfully fought for the belated recognition of Asians and Asian-Americans who had fought for the United States in World War II, died on Friday in Honolulu. He was 93.

Jon Yoshimura, the senator's former communications director, confirmed the death, saying Mr. Akaka had been hospitalized for several months. The Associated Press reported.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Akaka sponsored legislation in 1996 that led to a re-evaluation of the service records of Asian-Americans who had fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion during the war.

As a result, almost two dozen Medals of Honor, the military's highest award, were ultimately bestowed belatedly, some posthumously, on Asian-American veterans, most of them of Japanese heritage. Only one had been awarded during the war itself.

After a White House awards-presentation ceremony led by President Bill Clinton in 2000, Senator Akaka said the medals had dispelled apparent wartime discrimination against Asian-American military personnel.

The most prominent recipient was Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Mr. Akaka's much better-known colleague—and Hawaii's senior senator—for 22 years in the Senate. Mr. Inouye, who died in 2012, had lost his right arm while serving with the 442nd in Europe.

Senator Akaka also successfully pursued legislation that provided onetime compensation for members of the Philippine Scouts, an American-led unit of mostly Filipino and Filipino-American recruits who fought alongside United States troops but did not qualify for Veterans Administration benefits.

And he secured a formal apology for the United States's role in the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii in 1893 as well as a transfer of land that the federal government had taken.

But he failed in repeated legislative efforts to have native Hawaiians recognized as an indigenous people so that they might receive federal benefits similar to those provided to American Indians and natives of Alaska.

During his Senate years Mr. Akaka had stints as chairman of its Committee on Veterans Affairs and of its Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Akaka was an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq. On March 17, 2003, three days be-

fore the United States attacked that country, he warned the Senate:

"If we pursue our current path, we will have a war lacking in many things essential to achieving complete success. It will be a war without broad international support, without sufficient planning for post-conflict reconstruction and stability, without a definite exit time and strategy, and without a firm price tag.

"Moreover," he continued, "it will be a war with serious ramifications for our long-term readiness capabilities for homeland security and for managing other crises."

A steadfast liberal on most issues, he was known as a champion of federal workers, complaining that his Senate colleagues too often denigrated them and cheerfully froze their pay.

He chaired a Senate subcommittee on the federal work force and was the chief sponsor of the 2012 Whistleblower Protection Act, which provided safeguards against retaliation to federal workers who report waste, fraud and abuse.

Daniel Kahikina Akaka was born in Honolulu on Sept. 11, 1924, the youngest of eight children. His father was of Chinese and Hawaiian descent; his mother was Hawaiian. He attended public schools.

After service with the Army Corps of Engineers, he graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1952 with a degree in education and taught music, social studies and math in elementary, middle and high schools. He later became a school principal and earned a master's degree.

After Hawaii was admitted into the union in 1959, he was an official in the state's Department of Education and was named director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity, an antipoverty program.

Mr. Akaka was first elected to the House in 1976 and easily re-elected afterward. In 1990 he was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy caused by the death of Spark Matsunaga. He was elected that fall and re-elected in 1994, 2000 and 2006. He announced in March 2011 that he would not run again in 2012.

Mr. Akaka, who lived in Honolulu, is survived by his wife, Mary Mildred Chong, whom he married in 1948; a daughter, Millannie Akaka Mattson; four sons, Daniel Jr., Gerard, Alan and Nicholas; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

While he was never known as a key lawmaker, Mr. Akaka was familiar to watchers of C-Span: his name came first whenever the Senate roll was called and, in his early years, he relished presiding over that body, a duty many of his colleagues regarded as tedious.

In 1992, the Senate presented him with its Golden Gavel Award for presiding for at least 100 hours.

"I really was proud of being able to chair the Senate floor over the years and really looked forward to it," he said in a 2011 interview for this obituary.

Even in his final years, he left instructions with the Democratic cloakroom that he would preside in a pinch, saying, "Any time you can't find somebody, call me."

#### REMEMBERING HESTER GOODENOUGH CALDWELL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to remember a Vermonter who, with seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm, devoted her life to her family, her students, her friends, and her community. Hester "Hep" Caldwell, who died on April 10, 2018, will be forever remembered and admired for a life well lived.



Hep, who lived to be 89, was one of those people who just about everybody liked immediately. She loved people, she loved sports, she loved the outdoors, and she loved living on West Hill in Putney, VT, with her husband, John, whom she first met when they were both just 10 years old.

For decades, Hep taught history and John taught mathematics at the Putney School. Besides challenging her students in the classroom, Hep's many passions—hiking, skiing, gardening, classical music—inspired all who knew her. She set an example for generations, young and old, in her home, in the classroom, in woods, fields, and on the slopes and summits of mountains in all seasons of the year and by her many years of community service.

Putney will not be the same without Hep, but she has left her mark there and in her children and grandchildren in ways that will live on for generations.

I ask unanimous consent that Hep Caldwell's obituary in the Valley News be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Valley News, Apr. 22, 2018]

HESTER GOODENOUGH CALDWELL

PUTNEY, VT.—Hester Goodenough Caldwell, born Nov. 30, 1928, died on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Hep died as she lived: sustained by her love for her family and her ability to meet challenges with laughter and quick wit. Hep was born in Woodbridge, Conn. to Erwin and Helen Goodenough. She grew up loving the outdoors and playing alongside her three older brothers and male cousins, excellent preparation for her future schooling and her later ability to simultaneously embrace and challenge traditional gender roles. At the age of 10 she entered Putney School, where she met the boy she would later wed, John Caldwell. After graduating from Smith College in 1950 and marrying John, she returned to Putney School in 1953, where she taught history for 37 years even as she raised four children and earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. During her tenure at Putney School, Hep also held a variety of positions including head of the history department, dean of faculty, field hockey coach, and ski coach. An avid hiker, she led student ski trips to Tuckerman's Ravine, drawing on her years of skiing for Putney School and on the ski patrol at Smith. Together, Hep and John exemplified partnership as they raised their four children, worked at Putney School, and traveled to Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, Finland, Norway, Australia, Tonga, Wales, England, Japan, Yugoslavia, China and Russia on learning, hiking and skiing expeditions.

In their later years, Hep and John became co-sponsors of Camp Caldwell, a series of mini-camps for their 10 grandchildren, where they nurtured family ties, promoted the benefits of physical labor, and cultivated a respect and love for the natural world. In the spirit of 5:00 AM barn duty at the Putney School, the little grandkid campers could not have 7 AM breakfast until they had dipped in the icy cold spring-fed pond at the bottom of the hill, which of course Hep and John had done themselves an hour or so earlier. Other camp activities ranged from "waking up the chickens and feeding them" to drawing straws to see which pair would

have to wade into the swamp mud to remove the water-cress that had infested the pond's water. Now adults, some of the grandkids' fondest memories include their time together with Hep and John.

Hep contributed significantly to her community, serving as a founding member of the new Putney Library, Chairperson of Brattleboro Community Chorus, head of the Putney's Democratic Party and as a Justice of the Peace, presiding over scores of marriages. Inspiring her children, grandchildren and students to do good in this world, lifting hearts with her piano playing, Hep's legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren, all of whom love skiing and other outdoor activities, many of whom are engaged in teaching and coaching.

Hep faced old-age challenges in her final years, but she never lost her quick laugh and ability to find levity in whatever was happening around her. She was pre-deceased by her daughter, Jennifer and her brother, Ward. She will be greatly missed by her husband, John, her three children, Tim, Sverre, and Peter and her ten grandchildren, Tyler, Alexa, Anya, Lucy, Sophie, Lucinda, Heidi, Austin, Isabel, and Patrick, and her brothers, John and Jim. A gathering to reflect on and celebrate her life will be held at the Putney School Aug. 4.

#### REMEMBERING FRANK GAYLORD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on March 21, 2018, Vermont lost one of its finest sculptors, Frank Gaylord.

Frank Gaylord, a Granite City resident, was a beloved member of the Barre community. Frank influenced the city and its residents, and the city in turn influenced his art. The local granite quarries of Barre provided ample materials for Frank to hone his sculpting skills.

Frank served his country not just in World War II, receiving a Bronze Star for his service, but also in creating the Korean War Veterans Memorial, his most famous work, which resides on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The memorial is visually striking; Frank captured the movement and feel of war, the 19 figures of diverse American soldiers are shrouded in ponchos and seem to walk endlessly. Frank called the day the memorial arrived on the National Mall as the highlight of his life.

Other examples of Frank's work can be seen in many New England towns, including at the Connecticut capital and in Williston and Montpelier, VT. However, what Vermont will best remember Frank by was his dedication and determination to improve Vermont's own Granite City. Frank's contributions to the Barre Granite Association, as well as to the former Barre Players, will be missed.

Frank's passing is a loss to Vermont, to the community of Barre, VT, and to the Nation. I will always remember Frank when I see his work on the National Mall and throughout Vermont, and how he so beautifully captured our country's spirit.

I ask unanimous consent that the Times Argus article "He had an arts spirit: Famed Barre sculptor Frank Gaylord has died" be printed in the RECORD.

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

HE HAD AN ARTS SPIRIT: FAMED BARRE SCULPTOR FRANK GAYLORD HAS DIED

(By Eric Blaisdell)

BARRE.—The Granite City lost likely its most famous modern-day resident with the death of sculptor Frank Gaylord.

Gaylord, 93, died at his daughter's home in Northfield Wednesday night. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced, and are being taken care of by The Hooker and Whitcomb Funeral Home.

Gaylord created the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Other monuments created by Gaylord include the Firemen's Memorial in Eugene, Oregon; the Doctor Ashbel Smith statue in Baytown, Texas; the Policemen's Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida; the Toledo Mud Hens Monument in Toledo, Ohio; and the National Little League Monument in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

When Gaylord was growing up in Clarksburg, West Virginia, he recalled in a Times Argus story in 2015, his grandmother would give him plastic molds into which he would press clay to make reliefs. That transformed into sculpting clay animals and then he moved to carving soap, quickly learning how much material it actually took to make a full sculpture.

As he grew up, Gaylord was initially interested in taxidermy, which, at that time, was done by sculpting plaster molds, with the animal skins pulled over them.

Then World War II came along, and Gaylord became a paratrooper for two and a half years. Gaylord served with the 17th Airborne and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, he used the G.I. Bill and ended up at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, which had both engineering and fine arts schools. He later transferred to Temple University's Tyler School of Art, where he focused on becoming a carver.

In 1951, Mac Durnovich of E.J. Batchelder Co. in Barre hired Gaylord. So he and his late wife Mary moved to Vermont. He knew the community's reputation, its rich ethnic heritage, and its renowned craftsmanship. He said in 2015 he knew he could learn there.

Master sculptor Giuliano Cecchinelli, of Barre, has known Gaylord since the 1960s. Cecchinelli said Thursday that Barre has never had a sculptor like Gaylord.

"He gave Barre more than Barre asked. . . . He made Barre, Vermont," he said.

Cecchinelli said Gaylord was a perfectionist when it came to his style of work, which had a more modern flair to it. He said when he first met Gaylord he could tell right away that Gaylord had class and that he would achieve what he wanted to achieve.

Cecchinelli said he owns several pieces of Gaylord's work, which he keeps in his home.

Sue Higby, executive director of Studio Place Arts in downtown Barre, has known Gaylord for 15 years. Higby highlighted his work at her studio in 2015.

"I'm truly very sorry to hear of his passing and his integrity as an artist will live on in Barre for years to come," she said.

Higby said Gaylord was a cultural intellectual who loved theater, dance and the human form. She also said Gaylord, more than most artists, had the ability to capture in his work the feeling of a ballet dancer's movement or the fluttering of a piece of fabric.

Jerry Williams owns and operates Barre Sculpture Studios. Williams has known Gaylord since the 1980s and at one point he owned the studio next to Gaylord's.

"Frank was a mentor to many sculptors, some of them still operating in town. Some of them have moved on and done other

things. But he was a real valuable part of the sculpture community in this town. Not just monumental, but the art of what we're doing," he said.

Williams said he will remember Gaylord as someone with a dry wit who knew how to put things in perspective, such as how sculptors fit into the art scene. He said because Gaylord went to art school, he approached sculpting from a different perspective than those who learned by working in a granite shed.

"When I met him I kind of wanted to emulate that part of him that wasn't ground down by an industry. He still had an arts spirit," Williams said.

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to highlight the benefits of international students and scholars who come to the United States to live and study and who have been unfairly penalized by the current administration's efforts to limit travel to our country.

I wonder how many Americans are aware of the many ways that international students contribute to our colleges and universities, to our communities, and to our Nation. In economic terms, last year alone, international students contributed an estimated \$37 billion to the U.S. economy and created or supported more than 450,000 U.S. jobs. In our State of Vermont, nearly 2,000 international students and their families contributed \$83.1 million and supported 850 jobs. One would think that President Trump, who often touts his efforts to create jobs, would want to encourage this.

In addition to economic benefits, international students and scholars advance U.S. national security by strengthening our diplomatic and cultural ties with foreign countries. Students and scholars who spend time in the U.S. become informal ambassadors when they return home, sharing an appreciation for common values, counteracting stereotypes about Americans, enhancing respect for cultural differences, and maintaining connections with our country and citizens.

However, our country is at risk of losing our position as the most attractive country for international students and scholars and of ceding the critical benefits associated with such a reputation to others.

The U.S. Council of Graduate Schools recently reported a decline in international graduate student applications and enrollment for fall 2017, the first such decline in more than a decade. In fiscal year 2017, the U.S. Department of State issued nearly 20 percent fewer student visas compared to the previous fiscal year. Students and scholars are increasingly uncertain about their status in our country, as well as the types of educational and research opportunities that will remain available to international students. This uncertainty and the chilling effects of recent executive orders targeting foreigners appear

to be diminishing the ability of the United States and our higher education institutions to remain attractive to international students.

At the same time, many other countries—including Australia, Canada, and China—are seizing the opportunity and proactively introducing national policies and marketing strategies to attract talented international students who might otherwise come here.

I urge the administration to not ignore the many important contributions to the U.S. economy, national security, and global reputation that are made by international students and scholars. The administration should reconsider its policies that are contributing to uncertainty and reluctance among such individuals, who instead should feel welcomed and encouraged to bring their talents and other contributions to this country.

#### CONFIRMATION OF KYLE DUNCAN

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, this week I cast my vote in support of the nomination of Kyle Duncan to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Duncan has been a successful trial and appellate attorney, as well as a law professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He was the assistant solicitor general for the State of Texas and the appellate chief for the State of Louisiana. He has tried cases at the State and Federal levels and has argued twice before the U.S. Supreme Court. The American Bar Association has reviewed his nomination and has rated Mr. Duncan "well-qualified."

Some have criticized Mr. Duncan for his work on certain high-profile cases. Nearly all nominees for the Federal courts who come before the Senate have advocated for various positions. Some of them have been involved in controversial, high-profile cases. In considering a nominee's fitness to serve on the bench, we should consider whether they have the intellect, the temperament, and the respect for precedent to fairly and faithfully uphold the law.

One case that Mr. Duncan litigated has been mischaracterized in a way that suggests he is biased against the LGBT community. Mr. Duncan's opponents argue that his work in *V.L. v. E.L.*, in which the opposing party was a lesbian, demonstrates this bias. What these critics fail to mention is that Mr. Duncan's client was also a lesbian. The matter was a custody case involving two women in a same-sex partnership. As his cocounsel in the case, Randall W. Nichols, has described in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, dated November 27, 2017:

I note that some may criticize Mr. Duncan for representing clients in the same-sex marriage litigation. It must not go without notice that our mutual client, E.L., was a same-sex woman asserting a strong, albeit ultimately unsuccessful, legal argument. Mr. Duncan represented our mutual client with-

out once making an issue of her sexual orientation, without once displaying any personal bias, and without once indicating a desire to advance any agenda other than winning the case for E.L.

Mr. Duncan has testified to the Judiciary Committee that he would follow all applicable precedents of the Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit. He demonstrated his deference to precedent during his time representing the State of Louisiana. While the Supreme Court was deciding the *Obergefell* case on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage laws, Mr. Duncan was representing the State of Louisiana in a challenge to its marriage law. Following the Court's decision, the Fifth Circuit instructed the parties in the Louisiana case to explain whether *Obergefell* resolved the matter for the court.

The very next day, Mr. Duncan filed a letter explaining that, despite Louisiana's disagreement with the *Obergefell* outcome, the Fifth Circuit must follow the new Supreme Court precedent and strike down Louisiana's law. While still representing the State, Mr. Duncan announced that married same-sex couples would be able to have both of their names on their children's birth certificates. Mr. Duncan's actions following the *Obergefell* decision demonstrate that he will respect precedent and faithfully follow the law.

By contrast, in a similar case, the lawyers for the State of Arkansas continued to fight over whether *Obergefell* required States to issue birth certificates with the names of both same-sex spouses. Unlike Mr. Duncan, they resisted the *Obergefell* precedent all the way up to the Supreme Court and lost. That case, *Pavan v. Smith*, confirms that Mr. Duncan did the right thing in advising the Fifth Circuit to apply the *Obergefell* precedent.

It is also noteworthy that the attorney who argued against Mr. Duncan in the Louisiana case strongly supports his nomination. In an opinion article published in "The Hill" on March 25, 2018, Paul Baier, who is now a law professor at Louisiana State University, describes Mr. Duncan as a "magnificent nominee for the Fifth Circuit who ought to be swiftly confirmed." He goes on to describe Mr. Duncan's qualifications in the following way:

I always appreciated and respected Kyle's advocacy for his client and his respect for the humanity of the same-sex couples who would be most affected by the case. While I disagreed with many of his arguments, often emphatically, I never found a trace of bias, bigotry, or any disrespect towards the same-sex individuals in the case.

Kyle knows well the difference between the advocate's role for his client (in the same-sex marriage case, the State of Louisiana) and what he would be called upon to decide as a judge on the Fifth Circuit. I maintain this view of Kyle even having faced off against him in the highly charged atmosphere of same-sex marriage litigation. His ability to act as a judge and not advocate will surely carry over to other questions of public importance facing the Fifth Circuit.

The advice and consent role given to the Senate in the Constitution is one of

the Senate's most solemn duties and one to which I give the utmost care. I apply no litmus test with respect to a nominee's personal beliefs, and have voted for judicial nominees whose personal views differ from my own, but evaluating whether a nominee possesses an ability to set aside emotion and personal views while applying the laws in a neutral and impartial manner is critical.

In this regard, I believe Mr. Duncan will be faithful to the rule of law. He has pledged to the Judiciary Committee and to me that he will follow all precedents of the Supreme Court, and his actions in the Louisiana same-sex marriage case are evidence that he will do this, even if he disagrees with the outcome. I support his confirmation.

#### JESSIE'S LAW

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, in March 2016, we lost a young woman with great potential named Jessica Grubb. Jessie was a great student, a loving daughter and sister, and an avid runner. She was also recovering from an opioid addiction.

When she had surgery for an infection related to a running injury, her parents were there to take care of her, and both Jessie and her parents told her doctors and hospital personnel that she was a recovering addict and not to be prescribed opioids.

Unfortunately, Jessie's discharging physician did not see this note in her chart, despite it being in there eight separate times. He did not know that she was a recovering addict and sent her home with a prescription for 50 oxycodone pills.

Her parents talked to her on the phone when she got home, but that was the last time they talked to her. She had passed away that night in her sleep. The temptation was too great for her, as it would be for so many in recovery.

Her death was tragic, but preventable.

That is why I introduced Jessie's Law and why I fought to have it included as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. The fiscal year 2018 LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Senate Report, which was signed into law, includes the following common-sense language to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish best practices for hospitals and physicians for sharing information about a patient's past opioid addiction when that information is shared by the patient with the healthcare provider: "Opioid Medical Record Reporting.—The Committee is deeply concerned about the devastating impact that the opioid epidemic is having on families throughout the country, and recognizes that medical providers must have access to information about their patients' past opioid addiction if that information is provided by the patient. The Committee encourages the Secretary to develop and disseminate

standards that would allow hospitals and physicians to access the history of opioid addiction in medical records (including electronic health records) of any patient who has provided information about such addiction to a healthcare provider."

These standards will be created in honor of Jessica Grubb and will help ensure that a patient's substance use disorder history is included in a patient's record like any other life-threatening medical issue, including a penicillin allergy.

This will help keep a tragedy like Jessie's death from ever happening again by ensuring that, when individuals are open about their past addiction, healthcare providers will have access to the information that they need to provide medically appropriate care and save lives.

#### WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today, April 26, 2018, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day and recognize the important role intellectual property plays in the fabric of society. We take time to recognize the innovators and creators who are making our lives healthier, safer, and more productive through their ingenuity and the robust system of intellectual property protections enshrined in our laws.

This year's World Intellectual Property Day campaign in particular celebrates the women who are driving change and making our common future better through innovation in so many fields including science, healthcare, art, engineering, and design, just to name a few.

Inspiring contributions from countless women are powering innovation in our world. For example, Helen Murray Free was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2000 and awarded the national medal of technology and innovation in 2010 for her pioneering work in self-testing systems for diabetes. She received seven patents for her work. Iowa's own Mary Florence Potts also used the American patent system to protect three of her inventions. Her work improved the safety of common household appliances, and her novel iron design was even displayed at the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia. Elise Harmon holds numerous patents for technology, ranging from microprocessor production to high-altitude carbon brush performance. Our intellectual property system must continue to protect and reward the work of women like Helen Murray Free, Mary Florence Potts, and Elise Harmon.

We need to continue creating an environment where innovative, creative women are empowered, connected, and celebrated. This involves ensuring a robust, inclusive intellectual property system that fosters and rewards innovation and the widespread ingenuity that has made America a leading force in the global economy.

The Founding Fathers recognized that robust intellectual property infrastructure fosters creative talent and enhances innovative spark. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution says "Congress shall have power . . . to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." Placing this authority within Congress's enumerated powers underscores the weight that our Founding Fathers placed on intellectual property's value to the budding Nation. Although the American system of intellectual property rights has evolved since the ratification of the Constitution, its core mission of promoting innovation has remained constant. As a result, America has long been on the forefront of intellectual property and a leader in so many IP-intensive fields. Our IP system is one that rightly rewards creativity and passion, characteristics common to so many Americans.

Intellectual property is also critical to our national economy because it fuels innovation that improves lives and creates jobs. The United States is one of the most dynamic and innovative countries in the world. Our Nation's success in areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, computer technology, and medicine can be traced in large measure to our respect for and protection of intellectual property. In our modern, innovation economy, patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and other forms of IP are more critical than ever. IP protections and incentives drive enormous economic activity and development, helping assure America's place as an economic and intellectual beacon to the world. According to the U.S. Commerce Department, IP-intensive industries account for more than 45 million direct and indirect U.S. jobs—that is nearly a third of the workforce—and almost 40 percent of U.S. GDP. In addition, these jobs pay well. Average weekly wages in IP-intensive industries are 46 percent higher than in non-IP intensive fields. As a society, we depend on innovators not just to fuel our economy, but to make our lives better and to solve the challenges we face. These innovators, in turn, depend on different forms of intellectual property.

The Judiciary Committee plays an important role in protecting intellectual property. The committee exercises jurisdiction over our Nation's intellectual property laws, including those governing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. We consider legislation that helps to ensure that intellectual property rights continue to promote jobs and innovation. The committee also exercises important oversight of the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, and various law enforcement entities charged with protecting IP. Just last week, we held an oversight hearing with Director

Iancu from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. We heard about what is going well and about some of the difficulties facing the Office, as well as other intellectual property stakeholders. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I will continue to embrace my role as a promoter of intellectual property rights, innovation, and ultimately American jobs.

This World Intellectual Property Day, it is important to once again recognize the significance of our Nation's robust system of intellectual property protection and enforcement. As we recognize the positive impacts IP has on innovation, let's continue to find ways to work together to ensure its protection against infringement. We want the United States to maintain its position as the most innovative and creative country in the world.

#### REMEMBERING VEL PHILLIPS

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I wish to honor Vel Phillips, who was born Velvlea Hortense Rodgers in 1923 in Milwaukee and passed away on April 17, 2018, at the age of 95. Vel was a civil rights leader and a pioneer in social justice and fair housing who left an indelible mark on the State of Wisconsin.

Vel earned a national oratory scholarship from the Black Elks to attend Howard University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1946. She returned to her home State of Wisconsin to attend the University of Wisconsin—Madison Law School, becoming the first Black woman to graduate from the school, just one in a long series of significant firsts for Vel.

Following law school, Vel made it her life's work to advocate for social justice and equal rights. She became actively involved in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, working for political, social, educational, and economic equality for people of color.

Vel was elected to the Milwaukee Common Council in 1956, not only as the first African American, but also as the first woman. Her election sent shockwaves through the all-White, all-male council. Rather than welcoming her to her new position, her colleagues refused to share an office with her and suggested she join the aldermen's wives club instead of the council. A firm believer in polite persistence, Vel took her seat quietly but proudly. She quickly went on to become an advocate not only for the people in her district, but for every African American in the city. She later said, "No matter where they lived, I was their alderman and they called me."

Vel would go on to accomplish many more firsts. In 1971, she became the first woman judge in Milwaukee County, as well as the first African-American judge in the State of Wisconsin. In 1978, she made history again as the first woman and minority elected secretary of State in Wisconsin.

In spite of all these significant firsts, Vel Phillips is perhaps best known for initiating the long but ultimately successful fight to outlaw housing discrimination in Milwaukee. Until the late 1960s, landlords freely refused to sell or rent property to people of color. Even if homeowners wanted to sell property to people of color, banks routinely rejected their loan applications. As a result, African Americans lived almost exclusively in one run-down neighborhood on Milwaukee's near north side.

In 1962, Vel introduced the city's first ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing. The council promptly rejected it by a vote of 18 to 1. She tried three additional times over the next 6 years with the same result. The Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and The Rev. James Groppi took up her cause in 1967 and organized 200 consecutive nights of protests in support of her ordinance. When her colleagues adopted a watered-down version of an open housing ordinance in an attempt to make the protests stop, Vel told them, "Thanks for nothing. You are very much too late and very much too little."

The council finally passed a strong open housing ordinance in 1968, after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spurred Congress to pass the national Fair Housing Act.

Following her retirement from public office, Vel remained involved in important causes, speaking up when she saw injustice, protesting when necessary, and educating students from all over the world.

Public servant, trailblazer, activist, icon, and pioneer are all words that only begin to describe Vel Phillips' contributions to the fight for equality in Wisconsin. While history will forever remember her for her string of momentous firsts, her greatest legacy will be the many women who run for elective office or the countless African Americans who live throughout the city thanks to the seemingly insurmountable barriers she shattered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, as a fellow Commodore, I would like to congratulate the Vanderbilt University women's bowling team on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, championship, the second national championship for the women's bowling program and the fourth national championship in Commodore athletic history.

John Williamson, the head coach of this program for 14 years, has done an excellent job of training and guiding these exceptional student-athletes. He has worked hard to build this program from its inception in 2004 into one that annually contends for championships.

Vanderbilt is a very special university, one that produces student-athletes of exceptional character and integrity. These are student-athletes that have pride in themselves and their school, in both academics and athletics. In fact, Kristin Quah of the bowling team earned the NCAA's Elite 90 Award for having the highest grade point average at the championships, a 3.953, while double majoring in biomedical and electrical engineering. Seven members of the team were recently named to the spring sports All SEC Academic Honor Roll.

I am filled with pride for my alma mater, and I wish the bowling team and all of Vanderbilt University the best.

This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work, talent, and teamwork of the following outstanding student-athletes: Kelsey Abrahamsen, Maria Bulanova, Samantha Gainor, Bryanna Leyen, Jordan Newham, Ariana Perez, Lauren Potechin, Kristin Quah, Emily Rigney, Katie Stark, and Adel Wahner.

These student-athletes were coached and mentored by a dedicated team of coaches and athletic department staff, including: head coach John Williamson; assistant coach and former All-American Josie Earnest Barnes; associate athletic director and sport administrator Kevin Colon; strength and conditioning coach Darren Edgington; facility manager Kenny Moore; academic counselor Candice Johnson; athletic trainer Alda Burston; and volunteer sports information director Rod Williamson.

I would also like to acknowledge chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos; vice chancellor and athletics director David Williams II; deputy athletics director Candice Storey Lee; and senior associate athletics directors Lori Alexander; and Martin Salamone for their vision and leadership.

Anchor Down, Commodores. We are proud of you.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MECALLEN GARNEAU

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mecallen for his hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mecallen is a native of Sheridan. He is a freshman at Sheridan College, where he is studying occupational therapy and health science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Mecallen for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDA LOMBARDI

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Linda for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Linda is a native of Arizona. She is a student at Casper College, where she is studying general studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Linda for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NICOLE PECK

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Nicole for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Policy Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Nicole is a native of Jackson. She is a sophomore at Georgetown University. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Nicole for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EMMA ROGERS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emma for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emma is a native of Arizona. She is a student at Casper College, where she is going to study political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emma for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CONROY STOUT

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Conroy for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Conroy is a native of Cheyenne. He attended the University of Wyoming for both undergraduate and graduate studies, where he studied communications and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Conroy for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EMILY TETER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emily for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emily is a native of Wheatland. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, where she is studying psychology and criminal justice. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emily for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDY ANDERSON

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, this week, I have the honor of recognizing Andy Anderson for his over 60 years of commitment to being the go-to barber in Judith Basin County.

Andy grew up in Harlowton but spent a few years in Two Dot, where his parents worked as ranchers. After turning 17, Andy went to barber school in Washington but swiftly moved back to Montana following the training. He opened his first barber shop in Stanford and shortly thereafter opened a second in Denton. In December of 2017, Andy celebrated his 60th year as a barber.

Andy believes strongly in giving back to his community. He spent 4 years serving as State barber inspector on the State barber board. This involved visiting barber shops around the State, inspecting their shops, but also offering any assistance he could to local barbers. Additionally, he spent a term serving as a member of the city council. Andy and his wife, Alverta, have been married for 58 years. They have three kids and eight grandchildren.

Andy's son Scott has followed in his father's footsteps and works in the Denton shop on Thursdays.

I congratulate Andy Anderson on his tremendous career. He has improved the lives of many around him and will continue to leave a lasting impact on the people of his community and the greater State of Montana.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISTA HOUSE

• Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Oregon is renowned for our beautiful places, and the view of the Columbia Gorge from Interstate 84 is one of the most stunning drives in the country. Oregonians and travelers alike are fortunate that, for a century now, we have been able to break from driving and take in the entire stunning view of the gorge from the Vista House.

The idea came from Samuel Lancaster, supervisor of the Columbia River Highway project, who proposed to construct a building on the summit of Crown Point. He wanted travelers along the highway to feel inspired, and to make the wonders of the gorge accessible.

The Vista House was built as a rest stop observatory on the old Columbia River Gorge Highway and as a memorial for Oregon's settlers, particularly those whose journey took them along the Columbia River. Described by its architect, Edgar M. Lazarus, as "a temple to the natural beauty of the Gorge," Vista House has long been recognized for its historic significance and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

From its vantage point 733 feet above the Columbia River, millions of travelers have enjoyed a step back in time and one of Oregon's most inspiring views. With the help of thousands of dedicated volunteers from Friends of Vista House, who tell visitors the fascinating history of the Vista House, this Oregon treasure has found its place in our Nation's history.

I join all Oregonians in looking forward to another 100 years of celebrating Oregon's beauty and its history at the Vista House.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN GERSHENHORN

• Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the career and service of Mr. Alan Gershenhorn, a 38-year veteran of United Parcel Service. Mr. Gershenhorn started his career as a part-time package handler in Houston, TX, and has since held a number of positions within the company, including his most recent position as UPS's executive vice president and chief commercial officer. He has been a member of the UPS management committee since 2007.

In addition to his corporate responsibilities, Mr. Gershenhorn served as a delegate to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and as a

trustee of the UPS Foundation. As trustee, he oversaw investments of more than 2.6 million volunteer hours and \$116 million in direct and in-kind donations to communities in need around the world in 2016.

Mr. Gershenhorn worked to increase diversity at UPS and to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. In addition to supporting UPS's business resource groups that championed employees from a wide array of backgrounds, he also served in a leadership role on the Creer BRG.

UPS CEO David Abney recognized Mr. Gershenhorn's impact on UPS as "tremendous." UPS president of global public affairs Laura Lane noted that he is an "outstanding leader who encourages and empowers the people around him." There is no doubt that Mr. Gershenhorn's vision and strategic leadership have played an integral role in UPS's growth over the last 38 years.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Gershenhorn's true lifetime of achievement and example of the American dream. Mr. Gershenhorn contributed to the dreams of others in every position he held. I congratulate Mr. Gershenhorn on his nearly four decades of service and wish him the very best in retirement.●

#### FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

● Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to honor 591 high school seniors in 12 northeast Ohio counties for their decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these 591 seniors, 163 will enter the Army, 134 will enter the Marine Corps, 107 will enter the Navy, 19 will enter the Air Force, 7 will enter the Coast Guard, 153 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 8 will enter the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents-guardians, high school counselors, military leaders, and city and business leaders, all 591 will be recognized on May 9, 2018, at the Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism "Our Community Salutes" event.

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join with many of their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees or are uncertain about their futures, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms, and our country. They should know that they have full support of this Senate Chamber and the American people who are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 591 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberties. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today in the U.S. Senate and openly debate the best solutions to

the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require, but also the character, the values, and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

I would like to personally thank these 591 graduating seniors for volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 591 high school seniors.

The material follows:

#### UNITED STATES ARMY—163

Aguerrero—Jefferson; Allen—North Canton; Allen—Wellsville; Ambiz—Ashtabula;

Ashley—Fairlawn; Banegas Valladares—Barberton; Bansek—Lorain; Beckley—Youngstown; Benco—North Ridgeville; Besosa Cortes—Brooklyn; Black—New Waterford; Bluford—Brown—Lorain;

Bost—East Liverpool; Bowser—East Palestine; Bradford—Oakwood Village; Branch—Cleveland;

Brandenburg—Broadview Heights; Breeds—Lorain; Brown—Wooster; Bush—Columbia Station;

Bush—Uniontown; Calhoun—Medina; Campbell—Kent; Cardarelli—Youngstown;

Carducci—Ashtabula; Casenhiser—New Franklin; Chaplin—Euclid; Cheung—Cleveland; Ciha—Kent;

Clark—Parma; Coker—Cleveland; Combs—Parma; Crawford—Avon Lake; Crecraft—Hubbard;

Cross—Youngstown; Daley—Salem; Deka—North Royalton; Dillinger—Ashtabula;

Downing—Garrettsville; Driggs—Canton; Duncan—Cleveland Heights; Ellis—Cleveland;

Facemyer—Elyria; Fanara—Stow; Garrow—Columbia Station; Gillespie—Conneaut;

Gilman—Lakewood; Grace—Struthers; Greer—Parma Heights; Gregg—Lorain; Griffith—Hartsville;

Griffith—Girard; Groat—Medina; Gross—Brunswick; Hall—Ashtabula; Hall—Mayfield Heights;

Hanson—Westlake; Harris—Youngstown; Heestand—Alliance; Hendren—Akron;

Hively—Canfield; Holdridge—Medina; Holocker—Parma; Hunker—Oberlin; Ice—Lorain; Jacobs—Cleveland; Jacobs—Parma; Jakes—Cleveland Heights; Johnson III—Cleveland; Johnston—Cuyahoga Falls;

Jones—Euclid; Jones—LaGrange; Kauffman—Millersburg; Kessler—Wadsworth; Konjovic—Norton;

Lar—Akron; Laubacher—Louisville; Lednik—Elyria; Lenneth—LaGrange;

Lesssars—Akron; Likes—Litchfield; Linden—Elyria; Lohr—Avon Lake; Loosemore—Youngstown; Lopez—Deerfield;

Malone—Cleveland; Medina—North Ridgeville; Miller—New Franklin; Miller—Canton;

Minarchick—Brunswick; Morales—Wickliffe; Morris—Beloit; Morrison—Smithville;

Multunas—Brunswick; Murphy—Salem; Ochenkowski—Lorain; Palmer—Canton;

Parker—Beach City;

Parks—Avon Lake; Patterson—Medina; Perez—Wooster; Pestka—Doylestown;

Peters—Vermilion; Poling—Niles;

Peters—Youngstown; Potase—Masury; Prell—Parma; Proctor—Ashtabula;

Rambo—Columbiana; Ramsay—Wadsworth; Reis—North Olmsted; Reyes—Cleveland;

Reynolds—Elyria; Rhodes—Amherst; Robinson—Cleveland; Robinson—Macedonia;

Rollington—Bellevue; Saikaly—New Franklin; Samela—Cuyahoga Falls; Santos—Elyria;

Schell—Conneaut; Sharier—Barberton; Shelton—Wellington; Shrout—Eastlake; Singer—Elyria;

Smith—Columbia Station; Smith—Akron; Smith—Lake Milton; Smith—East Liverpool;

Smithers—Cuyahoga Falls, Spagling—Akron; Spoon—Orwell; Stewart—North Canton;

Stipanovich—Youngstown; Stockwell—Akron; Stokes—Barberton; Summers—Cleveland;

Swiger—Campbell; Tanner—Medina; Tindel—Akron; Townsley—Elyria; Traster—Lorain;

Tun—Akron; Upperman—North Canton; Vandoren—Orrville; Vinson—Barberton;

Wallbrown—New Franklin; Wesner—Medina; Weston—Canton; White—Cleveland; White—Elyria;

Williams—Strongsville; Williams—Canal Fulton; Williams—Youngstown; Wilson—Mentor;

Witherow—Columbiana; Wolf—Malvern; Wood—Parma; Wray—Akron; Wright—Cleveland;

Wyler—Cleveland; Yarian—Alliance; Zeisler—Youngstown;

#### UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—134

Aronov—Solon; Aviles—Cleveland; Bailey—Akron; Baileyperschka—Conneaut;

Bartek—Ravenna; Bates—Barberton; Benson—Medina; Berry—Tallmadge; Berryhill—Aurora; Bish—Madison;

Bjornholm—Painesville; Block—Akron; Bolton—Akron; Britton—Conneaut;

Brockett—Atwater; Bryan—Perry; Burge—Cleveland Heights; Burianek—Brunswick; Burton—Painesville;

Byler—Jefferson; Casey—Ashtabula; Chandler—Medina; Cilluffo—Geneva; Clapp—Wooster;

Cochran—Lakewood; Cotter—Copley; Dages—Kirtland; Deguzmancacho—Cleveland;

DeMarco—Medina; Douglas—Mantua; Dunn—Creston; Durbak—Ravenna; Elmore—Medina;

Elswick—Chardon; Fedor—Aurora; Friedmann—Strongsville; Galarce—Parma; Gill—LaGrange;

Goulbourne—Bedford Heights; Griffin—Cleveland; Guttliel—Parma; Hamm—Solon;

Harris—Maple Heights; Harris—Stow; Harris—Bedford; Harris—Akron; Hartman—Newbury;

Hatchell—Garfield Heights; Hayes—Fairview Park; Haywood—Bedford; Heathfield—Cleveland;

Helsel—Brookpark; Helton—Medina; Helton—Rittman; Hemmi—Jefferson;

Henry—Cleveland; Hernandez Cedeno—Cleveland; Hickman—Akron; Hiott—Mentor-on-the-Lake;

Hodgdon—Orrville; Hotz—North Olmsted; Howe—Akron; Huff—Painesville; Jacobs—Dorset; Jones—Bedford;

Jones—Barberton; Juist—Madison; Kamel—Brookpark; Kay—Macedonia; Kerr—Madison;

Knight—Akron; Koziol—Burton; Lee—Cleveland Heights; Leipold—Cuyahoga Falls;



Lindsay—Akron; Lively—Cleveland; Lor—Atwater; Lynhamsimoes—Austinburg; Mabee—Akron; Mack—Akron; Mancuso—Akron; Mannarino—Ashtabula; Marallo—Lyndhurst; Marshall—Copley; Martinesquinones—Cleveland; Mayo—Kirtland; Mckee—Jefferson; Michalske—Middleburg Heights; Miller—Akron; Miller—Willoughby; Mitchem—East Cleveland; Munaretto—Mentor; Niemi—Jefferson; Orantesacruz—Akron; Otis—Cleveland; Palmer—Chagrin Falls; Pamer—Mogadore; Papp—Brookpark; Parker—Madison; Patterson—Cleveland; Pemberton—Chagrin Falls; Perdue—Medina; Plaza—Westlake; Price—Copley; Proctor—Akron; Reeves—Akron; Richmond—Conneaut; Rodriguez—Columbia Station; Scales—Shaker Heights; Schafer—Madison; Scott—Rock Creek; Sears—Cuyahoga Falls; Severns—Akron; Shelton—Akron; Shipton—Akron; Skye—Mogadore; Spencer—Barberton; Stewart—Smithville; Sutton—Atwater; Taylor—Painesville; Thomas—Strongsville; Tisdale—Conneaut; Toth—Ashtabula; Troyer—Apple Creek; Vanbrunt—Orrville; Wagner—North Olmsted; Wiley—Warrensville Heights; Wilson—Orrville; Wilson—Chardon; Withers—Akron; Wooster—North Olmsted; Wright—Bedford; Zdanczewski—Windham; Zmauc—Cleveland;

## UNITED STATES NAVY—107

Adkins—North Olmsted; Baker—Warren; Berry—Willoughby; Bhagmath—Lorain; Blews—Girard; Bolha—Austintown; Bolton—Middlefield; Boyd—Farmdale; Burns—Ashtabula; Buzzelli—Austintown; Byczek—Lakewood; Cantrell—Jefferson; Cantu—Wellington; Caraballo—Lorain; Cate—Parma; Chase—North Royalton; Clark—Middlefield; D'Amico—Mineral Ridge; Davis—Painesville; Dawes—Geneva; Derry—Newton Falls; Dudra—Fairview Park; Dyling—Warren; Eltringham—Geneva; Enos—Ashtabula; Evanitcka—Sebring; Farahay—Parma; Ferguson—Youngstown; Fisher—Cleveland Heights; Fitzpatrick—North Jackson; Fuerst—Chardon; Garrido—Ashtabula; Glagola—Parma; Gustovich—Girard; Hanson—Burton; Harper—Cleveland; Harris—Michetti—Fowler; Henderson—Lakewood; Hernandez—Elyria; Holderman—Warren; Hove—Mentor; Huffman—Elyria; Hunchuck—Geneva; Ingram—Niles; Jakupca—Mentor; Johnson—Cleveland; Johnson—Elyria; Josselson—Parma; Kamsing—Madison; Karp—Avon Lake; Kenreich—Girard; Keyes—Ashtabula; Kidd—Wellington; Koharik—Broadview Heights; Kowalski—Mentor; Kristof—Rocky River; Krouse—Norwalk; Ladiha—Mentor; Long—LaGrange; Lozinak—Parma; Lugo—Cleveland; Maldonado—Geneva; McMinn—Mentor; McNally—Boardman; Meeker—Niles; Merriman—Mentor; Mickus—Painesville; Morgan—Lorain; Myres III—Fowler; Nebe—Mentor; Needham—Youngstown; O'Neill—North Olmsted; Pastor—Mentor; Price—Westlake; Prochko—Parma; Rado—Parma; Ragland—East Cleveland; Rangel—Aguirre—Perry; Reilly—Westlake; Reynolds—Hubbard; Rodriguez—Parma; Ross—Painesville; Rutledge—Boardman; Scheuer—Painesville; Schivitz—Mentor; Sexton—Youngstown; Sharp Jr.—Lyndhurst; Shoaff—Parma;

Shultz—Salem; Slifko—Hubbard; Smith—Parma; Snowbrick—Bay Village; Sverko—Kirtland; Thistlewaite—Columbiana; Tripodi—Huron; Vandenberg—Chardon; Velez—Lake-wood; Voll—Parma Heights; Walker—Andover; Wear—Brecksville; Weber—Huron; Wells—Lyndhurst; Williams—Cleveland Heights; Wilson—Canfield; Windelspecht—Brecksville; Zborowski—Madison;

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—19

Barnes—Wickliffe; Casto—Cuyahoga Falls; Duesing—Painesville; Fisher—Uniontown; Kaiser—Akron; McEldowney—Akron; Polosky—Uniontown; Robinson—Cuyahoga Falls; Rojas—South Euclid; Romine—Akron; Scheidler—Stow; Schleis—Akron; Shafer—Akron; Shaver—Munroe Falls; Slater—Euclid; Spencer—Silver Lake; Staley—Rittman; Washko—Stow; Yovanovich—Barberton;

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—7

Crawford—North Ridgeville; Langer—Concord; Nelson—Clyde; Robles—Berlin Heights; Slagle—Salem; Smith—North Ridgeville; Tryon—Eastlake;

## OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—153

Anderson—Lakewood; Anthony—Andover; Arnold—Lorain; Aumann—Mentor; Barrios—Lorain; Baxter—Maple Heights; Berndt—Bristolville; Black—Massillon; Bouchonville—Oberlin; Bradford—Brook Park; Bradford—Brook Park; Brady—Massillon; Brown—Cleveland; Carlton—Fairview Park; Carper—Akron; Chase—Youngstown; Chen—Cleveland; Church—Euclid; Cook—Cuyahoga Falls; Coonrod—Avon; Copley—Barberton; Coreno—Cleveland; Corriere—Akron; Cox—Youngstown; Cozens—Madison; Cromer—West Salem; Culbertson—Rock Creek; Dahler—Berlin Center; Dalessandro—Wooster; Dalton—Andover; Dampier—Elyria; Danielly—Hudson; Davidson—Cleveland; Deleon—Amherst; Deleon—Alliance; Delsanter—Richmond Heights; Depasquale—Canton; Dibo—Boardman; Dieffenbaugher—Hartville; Dragos—Niles; Dreher—Minerva; Dunay—Chardon; Ehrlich—Strongsville; 1. Estrada—Cleveland; N. Estrada—Cleveland; Fein—Elyria; Ferguson—Euclid; Freeman—Canfield; Fuentes—Broadview Heights; Gallagher—Brook Park; Gassama—Cleveland; Gehret—Alliance; George—Hubbard; Gipson—Elyria; Glover—Bay Village; Goins—Tallmadge; Gonzalez Sanabria—Lorain; Goodson—Euclid; Grubbs—North Olmsted; Gunter—Elyria;

Gwinn—Barberton; Hadley—Cleveland; Henderson—Kent; Hladun—Berlin Center; Hoyle—Akron; Huff—Shaker Heights; Huff—Alliance; Huffman—Wooster; Hughes—Alliance; Irizarry—Lorain; Isaac—Solon; Jones—Rock Creek; Kamuda—Akron; Kinne—Tallmadge; Kline—Akron; Kubalski—Stow; Kurpil—Alliance; Lane—Fredericksburg; Lara—Olmsted Falls; Lewis—Broadview Heights; Lin—Cleveland; Loar—Lorain; Lucky—Baker—Elyria; Mahaney—North Ridgeville; Martin—Elyria; Martinez—Brooklyn; Martinez—Cleveland; McCrory—Kirtland; McCullough—LaGrange; McEachern—Lorain; McGonagle—Cleveland; Meder—Brook Park; Meyers—Clinton; Mondry—Cleveland; Monk—Alliance; Monn—Parma;

Morrow—Avon Lake; Morton—Warrensville; Murrell—Cleveland; Napier—Alliance; Occhionero—Pepper Pike; Osorio—Ashtabula; Owen—Elyria; Pacheco—Columbia Station; Palmer—Lakewood; Pawcio—Warren; Perryman—Elyria; Pilch—Brook Park; Rader—Elyria; Reaves—Lakewood; Rendon—Youngstown; Rhea—Creston; Richards—Cleveland; Ritenour—Warren; Robbins—Ashtabula; Robertson—Kirtland; Robinson—Northfield; Robison—Warren; Rose—Leavittsburg; Rosenlund—Euclid; Rossi—Stow; Rowe—Bay Village; Russo—Boardman; Sandell—Conneaut; Scabel—Brunswick; Scott—Maple Heights; Scott—Deerfield; Shaffstall—Wellington; Sheese—Louisville; Shreve—Jefferson; Shupp—Andover; Skipper—Grafton; Slot—Ashtabula; Smith—Akron; Stanley—Ravenna; Strifler—Massillon; Sunyak—Akron; Teeple—Newton Falls; Thomas—Massillon; Thompson—Windham; Tolbert—Cleveland; Torres—North Olmsted; Trzebuckowski—Brook Park; Udell—Andover; Valdez—Torrez—Alliance; Vanest—Uniontown; Ward—Euclid; Watson—Elyria; Wheeler—Akron; Whitecar—Strongsville; Wilson—Cleveland; Wood—Amherst; Young—Warren;

## OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD—8

Bushwaigeer—Stow; Eash—Massillon; Fissel—Middlefield; Heards—Alliance; Miles—Canton; Ransom—Amherst; Tector—Medina; Torres—North Olmsted.●

## RECOGNIZING ANDYMARK

● Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, as a member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am proud to recognize our hard-working Hoosiers and their vital contributions to our economy during National Small Business Week.

This week, I would like to recognize AndyMark, a successful Indiana small business that provides Hoosiers with innovative and competitive robotics products. AndyMark is located in Kokomo, IN, where their staff, who have over 200 years of combined experience, support the Hoosier robotics industry. AndyMark recently announced it is hiring more employees as a result of tax reform. It is important that we continue to support and protect Hoosier small businesses like AndyMark by advancing policies that will help our small and medium-sized businesses grow.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.



(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3144. An act to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5447. An act to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 447. An act to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3144. An act to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-5045. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Steps and Protocols Related to the Rescue, Care, and Treatment of Captives of the Islamic State"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5046. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5047. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5048. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rule to Increase the Appraisal Threshold for Commercial Real Estate Transactions" (RIN1557-AE18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5049. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5050. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance with Order EA-12-049, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events" (JLD-ISC-20012-01, Revision 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5051. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2017 Section 45K(d)(2)(C) Reference Price" (Rev. Proc. 2018-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5052. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definitions and Selection Criteria that Apply to Direct Grant Programs" (RIN1855-AA13) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5053. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 19, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5054. A communication from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5055. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2017 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5056. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5057. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bu-

reau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Auction of Cross-Service FM Translator Construction Permits Scheduled for May 15, 2018; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 99" ((AU Docket No. 17-143) (DA 18-260)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5058. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund Universal Service Reform - Mobility Fund Second Order on Reconsideration" ((WT Docket No. 10-208) (FCC 18-19)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5059. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Cora, Wyoming)" (MB Docket No. 17-196) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5060. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating the Code of Federal Regulations" ((RIN2140-AB40) (Docket No. EP 746) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5061. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Modifications to Greater Amberjack Recreational Fishing Year and Fixed Closed Season" (RIN0648-BH32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5062. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5063. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report required by section 1256 of the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-217. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to pass legislation permitting West Virginia to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways to that West Virginia may implement a pilot program to study various vehicle configurations and weights; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

Whereas, Federal law currently imposes vehicle weight limitations on vehicles that operate on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways, hereafter "Interstate Highways"; and

Whereas, The maximum gross weight typically allowed by any State for vehicles using the Interstate Highways is twenty thousand pounds carried on one axle, a tandem axle weight of thirty-four thousand pounds, and an overall maximum gross weight by formula; and

Whereas, Federal law also contains many exceptions to such weight limits; and

Whereas, The increased capacity and ability of modern vehicles to transport commodities and products, together with increased economic pressures to reduce industry transportation costs and increased environmental pressures to lower carbon dioxide emissions, create economic incentives to increase the loads vehicles may transport; and

Whereas, Increasing the types of vehicles, weight of vehicles, and types of loading and trucking configurations permitted on roads would increase economic efficiencies; and

Whereas, Excessive weights of vehicles can result in the deterioration of roads and bridges, creating significant costs in lost road and bridge use and life; and

Whereas, Certain vehicle types, vehicle configurations, load configurations, and other factors can alleviate or avoid damaging effect on infrastructure from increased vehicle and load weights; and

Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature is directing the West Virginia Department of Transportation and Division of Highways, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, private industry, including manufacturers of commodities or products, and the engineering community, including the College of Information Technology and Engineering at Marshall University and the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at West Virginia University, to cooperate and study the effect various trucking configurations and weights have on West Virginia's entire road system, including Interstate Highways; and

Whereas, Such study would include an analysis of which vehicle and load configurations and weights may be utilized with minimal consequence to West Virginia's infrastructure, including Interstate Highways, while permitting industry to transport commodities and products in the most economical ways; and

Whereas, In order to complete such a study and pilot program, West Virginia needs permission from the Congress of the United States to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways; Therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation permitting West Virginia to increase the weight of vehicles permitted to operate on Interstate Highways so that West Virginia may implement a pilot program to study various vehicle configurations and weights; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the President of the United States to sign such legislation; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from West Virginia in the Congress of the United States.

POM-218. A resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Mahwah, New Jersey, memorializing June 2, 2018, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 994. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

S. 2644. A bill to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gregory Allyn Forest, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Bradley A. Maxwell, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2760. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exclude energy efficiency projects, pollution control projects, and reliability projects from the definition of a modification; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2761. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Ms.

COLLINS, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SMITH): S. 2762. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2763. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2764. A bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Pro-

tection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2765. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to exempt investment advisers who solely advise certain rural business investment companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. REED):

S. 2766. A bill to require congressional notification related to current and future planning and construction of federally funded military construction projects located within 100-year floodplains; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2767. A bill to make improvements to certain wildfire and disaster recovery programs of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2768. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2769. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for an action plan on recommendations for changes under Medicare and Medicaid to prevent opioids addictions and enhance access to medication-assisted treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2770. A bill to direct the Attorney General to submit to Congress investigative materials in the event of certain pardons granted by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2771. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household decentralized wastewater systems to individuals with low or moderate income; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2772. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify provisions relating to the household water well system grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2773. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr.

TILLIS, Mr. COONS, and Mr. GRAHAM): S. 2774. A bill to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 2775. A bill to award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the

preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2776. A bill to modernize the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2777. A bill to exempt State and county payments under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 from sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2778. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include a prohibition on the listing of a living nonnative species as a threatened species or an endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2779. A bill to amend the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2780. A bill to require a determination on designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2781. A bill to limit the transfer of F-35 aircraft to Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2782. A bill to prohibit covenants not to compete and require employers to notify employees of such prohibition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 2783. A bill to improve the resilience of the built and natural environment to natural disasters and climate change using, among other measures, natural and nature-based features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2784. A bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2785. A bill to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2786. A bill to expand opportunities to available employee-owned business concerns through Small Business Administration loan programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2787. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify and expand food donation under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2788. A bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State

of North Dakota over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Devils Lake Indian Reservation"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2789. A bill to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2790. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a community wood energy and wood innovation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 486. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day, honoring workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace, and recognizing the importance of strengthening worker health and safety protections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 487. A resolution affirming a commitment to elevate the voices, leadership, and needs of historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities in the effort to end sexual violence and support all survivors of sexual violence, including immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors of color, American Indian or Alaska Native survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse, queer and intersex survivors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. ISAACSON):

S. Res. 488. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 489. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 490. A resolution designating April 2018 as "Financial Literacy Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 491. A resolution recognizing the Independent Transportation Network of America on the occasion of providing 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 492. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 493. A resolution congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I women's basketball championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 494. A resolution congratulating the Hoosiers of Indiana University for winning the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 495. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 496. A resolution recognizing April 30, 2018, as "El Dia de los Ninos-Celebrating Young Americans"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 497. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. Res. 498. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as "National Small Business Week" while commending the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners of the United States, and the impact they have on their communities; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 499. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 500. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of *Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al*; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 177

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to provide for congressional review of the imposition of duties and

other trade measures by the executive branch, and for other purposes.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals.

S. 446

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sus-

tain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1839

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the market access program and the foreign market development cooperator program.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2230

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2230, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to improve services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

S. 2236

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to require covered discrimination and covered harassment awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered discrimination and covered harassment complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2272

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2272, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes to grant State attorneys general the ability to issue subpoenas to investigate suspected violations of State laws that are applicable to national banks.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2395, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for State and Tribal regulation of hemp production, and for other purposes.

S. 2669

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to provide for accelerated approval of pain and addiction therapies.

S. 2723

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for children be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2773. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. This legislation updates the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to phase out the use of harmful drift gillnets and replace it with more sustainable fishing gear.

Drift gillnets, which are approximately one to one and a half miles long, are intended to catch swordfish and thresher shark. Tragically, nearly 60 other species are accidentally caught and killed in the nets, including dolphins, porpoises, whales, sea lions, and sea turtles. These are known as bycatch.

While some of these species can be sold, most are wastefully thrown back in to the ocean either dead or injured, making survival unlikely.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, gillnets account for 90% of whale and porpoise species killed in West Coast Fisheries.

In the 1980s, Congress enacted legislation to end the domestic use of driftnets approximately 1.5 miles long. Under President George H.W. Bush, the United States entered binding international agreements banning such nets worldwide. Driftnets are prohibited or not utilized off the United States Atlantic and Gulf coasts or in Washington State, Oregon, Alaska, or Hawaii. Mexico permanently banned the use of these nets in 2017.

However, neither domestic nor international law, as currently written, captures the drift gillnets used along the West Coast to catch swordfish and thresher shark, despite their significant impact on protected marine life. The California-based fishery is the last place in the United States where these deadly driftnets are allowed.

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act would completely phase out the use of drift gillnets by 2020. The bill also authorizes a program, directed by the Department of Commerce, to assist fishermen in transitioning from driftnets to more sustainable gear types which studies have shown actually increase profitability.

Updated fishing gear that could replace driftnets is available and has been successfully deployed in the Atlantic Ocean and in trials in the Pacific Ocean as well. Deep-set buoy gear, for example, allows fishermen to more accurately target swordfish and other marketable species in deep, cold water. The gear alerts fishermen immediately when they have fish on the line, so the fish can be retrieved and delivered to market quickly, fetching a higher price.

In a 2016 poll, California voters overwhelmingly supported ending the use of drift gillnets to catch swordfish, with 87 percent of those surveyed in a poll commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts agreeing that fishermen should use less harmful gear.

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act enjoys support from a wide group of stakeholders. I ask unanimous consent that a list of 40 supporting organizations and letters of support be included in the record. The groups include: The Pew Charitable Trusts, Oceana, Sea Legacy, Mission Blue, The American Sportfishing Association, The International Game Fish Association, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Conservation Association of California.

#### SUPPORT: DRIFT GILLNETS LEGISLATION

International Game Fish Association  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Coastal Conservation Ass'n California  
American Sportfishing Ass'n  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Humane Society of the U.S.  
Mission Blue  
Oceana  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Earthjustice  
Wild Oceans  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
Wild Aid  
The Otter Project  
The Sportfishing Conservancy  
California Sportfishing League  
Monterey Coastkeeper  
Shark Stewards  
Defenders of Wildlife  
California Association for Recreational Fishing  
WILDCOAST  
Friends of the Earth  
Save the Whales  
Environment California  
Laguna Nigel Billfish Club  
American Cetacean Society  
Pacific Environment  
Oceanside Senior Anglers  
Farallon Institute Heal the Bay  
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition  
Ocean Conservation Society  
Endangered Habitats League  
Greenpeace  
SeaLegacy  
The Marine Mammal Center  
Ocean Defenders Alliance  
Orange County Society for Conservation Biology  
California Department of Fish & Wildlife

The Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act will protect valuable marine life unique to the West Coast, including several endangered species. This bill will also help fishermen to provide fresher, more profitable, and more sustainable seafood to American consumers.

I thank Senators CAPITO and HARRIS for joining this important legislation as original cosponsors and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

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

S. 2785. A bill to designate foreign persons who improperly interfere in United States elections as inadmissible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 2785

*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 "Defending Elections against Trolls from Enemy Regimes Act" or "DETER Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.

Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(53) The term 'improper interference in a United States election' means conduct by an alien that—

"(A)(i) violates Federal criminal, voting rights, or campaign finance law; or

"(ii) is under the direction of a foreign government; and

"(B) interferes with a general or primary Federal, State, or local election or caucus, including—

"(i) the campaign of a candidate; and

"(ii) a ballot measure, including—

"(I) an amendment;

"(II) a bond issue;

"(III) an initiative;

"(IV) a recall;

"(V) a referral; and

"(VI) a referendum."

#### SEC. 3. IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.

Section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(H) IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN A UNITED STATES ELECTION.—Any alien who is seeking admission to the United States to engage in improper interference in a United States election, or who has engaged in improper interference in a United States election, is inadmissible."

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2789. A bill to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 2789

*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 "Substance Abuse Prevention Act of 2018".

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.**

(a) OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as in effect on September 29, 2003, and as amended by the laws described in paragraph (2), is revived and restored.

(2) LAWS DESCRIBED.—The laws described in this paragraph are:

(A) The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-469; 125 Stat. 3502).

(B) The Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-166; 126 Stat. 1283).

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 715(a) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1712(a)) is amended by striking “2010” and inserting “2022”.

**SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

Section 1024 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of National Drug Control Policy to carry out this chapter \$99,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 8 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this chapter may be used by the Office of National Drug Control Policy to pay administrative costs associated with the responsibilities of the Office under this chapter.”.

**SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITION INSTITUTE.**

Section 4(c)(4) of Public Law 107-82 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note) is amended by striking “2008 through 2012” and inserting “2018 through 2022”.

**SEC. 5. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGH-INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA PROGRAM.**

Section 707(p) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$280,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.

**SEC. 6. REAUTHORIZATION OF DRUG COURT PROGRAM.**

Section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(25)(A)) is amended by striking “Except as provided” and all that follows and inserting the following: “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part EE \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.

**SEC. 7. DRUG COURT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

Section 1034 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1534) is amended by adding at the end the following—

“(c) DRUG COURT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Using funds appropriated to carry out this chapter, the Director may make grants to non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance to drug courts.”.

**SEC. 8. DRUG OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY.**

Section 707 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998

(21 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(r) DRUG OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director may use funds appropriated to carry out this section to implement a drug overdose response strategy in high intensity drug trafficking areas on a nationwide basis by—

(1) coordinating multi-disciplinary efforts to prevent, reduce, and respond to drug overdoses, including the uniform reporting of fatal and non-fatal overdoses to public health and safety officials;

(2) increasing data sharing among public safety and public health officials concerning drug-related abuse trends, including new psychoactive substances, and related crime; and

(3) enabling collaborative deployment of prevention, intervention, and enforcement resources to address substance use addiction and narcotics trafficking.”.

**SEC. 9. PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE.**

Section 707 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS.—The Director is authorized to use not more than \$10,000,000 of the amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section to provide supplemental competitive grants to high intensity drug trafficking areas that have experienced high seizures of fentanyl and new psychoactive substances for the purposes of—

(1) purchasing portable equipment to test for fentanyl and other substances;

(2) training law enforcement officers and other first responders on best practices for handling fentanyl and other substances; and

(3) purchasing protective equipment, including overdose reversal drugs.”.

**SEC. 10. DEA 360 STRATEGY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and in coordination with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may implement a DEA 360 Strategy in pilot cities across the United States as a response to growing demand for heroin and opioids in the United States.

(b) PROGRAM GOALS.—The goals of the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) preventing the deadly cycle of drug abuse, including heroin and opioid abuse, by targeting drug trafficking organizations and street gangs responsible for increasing the supply of narcotics in communities;

(2) partnering with the healthcare community to raise awareness of the dangers of heroin abuse and prescription opioid abuse; and

(3) strengthening community organizations that provide long-term assistance and support for the reduction of drug abuse in the community.

(c) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—In carrying out the DEA 360 strategy authorized under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall—

(1) issue an implementation strategy for each pilot city that is tailored to the unique drug abuse problems of the particular city, details specific measures that will be taken to address the problems, identifies key community partners, and sets specific objectives for success;

(2) provide dedicated funding for coordinated law enforcement actions against drug trafficking organizations, involving Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, including the United States Attorney’s office for the relevant district;

(3) conduct diversion control enforcement actions against registrants with the Drug Enforcement Administration who are unlawfully distributing controlled substances;

(4) create partnerships with pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies, and medical practitioners to develop strategies that reduce heroin and opioid abuse, including specific efforts to reduce demand for these substances;

(5) increase resources for community partnerships with non-governmental organizations that specialize in drug abuse prevention, awareness, or treatment; and

(6) conduct training and educational campaigns on best practices for reducing heroin and opioid abuse for governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in pilot cities.

(d) REPORTS.—For each fiscal year in which the Attorney General carries out the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) in a pilot city, the Attorney General shall issue a public report that details the results of the program in that particular city, including quantitative measures to show whether or not the program succeeded in achieving the objectives for success required under subsection (c)(1).

(e) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use funds otherwise appropriated for purposes consistent with this section to assist in the implementation of the DEA 360 Strategy authorized under subsection (a) in pilot cities.

**SEC. 11. COPS ANTI-METH PROGRAM.**

Section 1701 of the title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) COPS ANTI-METH PROGRAM.—The Attorney General shall use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section to make competitive grants, in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 for a fiscal year, to State law enforcement agencies with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures for the purpose of locating or investigating illicit activities, such as precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers.”.

**SEC. 12. COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.**

(a) AMENDMENT TO CARA.—Section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198; 130 Stat. 698) is amended by inserting “including the Office of National Drug Control Policy,” after “agencies.”.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Subchapter I of chapter 2 of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1036. COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

“The Director may use funds made available to carry out this chapter for the purpose of administering, participating in, or expanding awareness campaigns and prevention efforts authorized under section 102 of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198; 130 Stat. 698).”.

**SEC. 13. PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH ADDICTED PARENTS.**

Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:



**“SEC. 550. PROTECTING CHILDREN WITH ADDICTED PARENTS.**

“(a) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and in cooperation with the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, shall collect and disseminate best practices for States regarding interventions and strategies to keep families affected by substance use disorder together, when it can be done safely. Such best practices shall—

“(1) utilize comprehensive family-centered approaches;

“(2) ensure that families have access to drug screening, substance use treatment, medication-assisted treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and parental support; and

“(3) build upon lessons learned from programs such as the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs under section 511 of the Social Security Act.

“(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall award grants for the development of programs and models designed to keep pregnant and postpartum women who have a substance use disorder together with their newborns, including programs and models that provide for screenings of pregnant and postpartum women for substance use disorders, treatment interventions, supportive housing, non-pharmacological interventions for children born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, medication assisted treatment, and other recovery supports.”.

**SEC. 14. REIMBURSEMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS.**

(a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2020, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report examining how substance use disorder services are reimbursed.

(b) CMS RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2019, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall examine how substance use disorder services are reimbursed and shall make recommendations to Congress (taking into consideration the findings made by the Comptroller General of the United States in the report required under subsection (a)) as to how to reimburse the treatment of substance use disorders at a higher rate in order to attract a more talented work force.

(c) GRANTS TO STATES TO EXPLORE WAYS TO INCREASE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants to States for the purpose of exploring ways to increase reimbursement of substance use disorder services under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(d) GRANTS TO STATES TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT TO CREDENTIALLED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROFESSIONALS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants to States for the purpose of supplementing the reimbursement paid to credentialed substance use disorder professionals (as defined by the Secretary) under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

**SEC. 15. TESTING EVIDENCE-BASED MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.**

Section 1115A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The models selected under this subparagraph shall include the model described in subparagraph (D), which shall be implemented by not later than January 1, 2020.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) EVIDENCE-BASED MOBILE APPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—The model described in this subparagraph is a model to test the use of evidence-based mobile applications for the treatment of substance use disorders.”.

**SEC. 16. MEDICARE HOSPITAL REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NALOXONE AS PART OF THE DISCHARGE PROTOCOL TO INDIVIDUALS BEING DISCHARGED AFTER SUFFERING AN OPIOID OVERDOSE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1866(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (X), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (Y), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (Y), the following new subparagraph:

“(Z) in the case of a hospital or critical access hospital, to provide naloxone and treatment referral options as part of the discharge protocol to individuals being discharged after suffering an opioid overdose.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to contracts entered into or renewed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 17. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.**

(a) ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.—

(1) ACCESS UNDER MEDICARE PART D.—Section 1860D-4(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with PDP sponsors of prescription drug plans to—

“(i) ensure appropriate access to abuse-deterrent opioids on plan formularies;

“(ii) provide advanced abuse-deterrent opioid targeting (as determined by the Secretary) for beneficiaries identified as at-risk for opioid abuse under the drug management program under paragraph (5) or any other opioid risk management program established by the sponsor; and

“(iii) encourage access to non-opioid alternatives when medically appropriate.

“(B) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FAIL FIRST SCHEMES.—The Secretary shall prohibit PDP sponsors from requiring fail first schemes, also known as step therapy, with respect to abuse-deterrent opioids.

“(C) ENCOURAGING EQUAL ACCESS.—The Secretary shall encourage plans to provide equal access to abuse-deterrent opioids on formulary tiers and patient cost-sharing.

“(D) ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘abuse-deterrent opioid’ means an abuse-deterrent formulation of an opioid, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(2) ACCESS UNDER PRIVATE HEALTH PLANS.—Subpart II of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-11 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 2729. ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall—

“(1) ensure appropriate access to abuse-deterrent opioids as a prescription drug health benefit under such plan or coverage;

“(2) provide advanced abuse-deterrent opioid targeting (as determined by the Secretary) for enrollees in the plan or coverage who are identified as at-risk for opioid abuse; and

“(3) encourage access to non-opioid alternatives when medically appropriate.

“(b) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FAIL FIRST SCHEMES.—The Secretary shall prohibit a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage from requiring fail first schemes, also known as step therapy, with respect to abuse-deterrent opioids.

“(c) ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘abuse-deterrent opioid’ means an abuse-deterrent formulation of an opioid, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

(b) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall educate health insurance issuers, Medicare Advantage plans under part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21 et seq.), and prescription drug plans under part D of such title (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101 et seq.) on opioid abuse prevention, including the use of abuse-deterrent opioids (as such term is defined in section 2729 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by subsection (a)(2)).

**SEC. 18. GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT.**

(a) TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States for the purpose of training non-physician health care professionals in the use of medication-assisted treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration and related best practices.

(b) REFERRAL SYSTEM GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States for the purpose of improving referral systems and ensuring that such systems are current and accurate, in order to better enable practitioners to refer patients who are prescribed medication assisted treatment to cognitive therapy.

**SEC. 19. SOBRIETY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY TEAMS (START).**

Title III of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198; 130 Stat. 717) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 304. SOBRIETY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY TEAMS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may make grants to States, units of local government, or tribal governments to establish or expand Sobriety Treatment And Recovery Team (referred to in this section as ‘START’) programs to determine the effectiveness of pairing social workers and mentors with families that are struggling with substance abuse and child abuse or neglect in order to help provide peer support, intensive treatment, and child welfare services.

“(b) ALLOWABLE USES.—A grant awarded under this section may be used for 1 or more of the following activities:

“(1) Training eligible staff, including social workers, social services coordinators, child welfare specialists, substance use disorder treatment professionals, and mentors.

“(2) Expanding access to substance use disorder treatment services and drug testing.

“(3) Enhancing data sharing with law enforcement agencies and child welfare agencies.

“(4) Program evaluation.

“(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A family may be eligible to participate in a START program that receives funding under this section only if—

“(1) there is a substantiated record or finding of child abuse or neglect within the family; and

“(2) substance abuse was the primary reason for the record or finding described in paragraph (1).

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than \$10,000,000 of amounts otherwise appropriated for comprehensive opioid abuse reduction activities for purposes of carrying out this section.”.

#### SEC. 20. PROVIDER EDUCATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall complete the plan related to medical registration coordination required by Senate Report 114-239, which accompanied the Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-131; 132 Stat. 334), including through the issuance of necessary rules or regulations.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 486—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY, HONORING WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE WORKPLACE, AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

##### S. RES. 486

Whereas 5,190 workers were killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States in 2016, and more than 2,700,000 workers across the world die of workplace-related accidents and diseases each year;

Whereas, each day, an average of 14 workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States;

Whereas, annually, there are more than 3,500,000 occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States;

Whereas, in the industries of health care and social assistance in the United States in 2016—

(1) 585,000 incidents of nonfatal workplace-related injuries occurred; and

(2) 70 percent of all nonfatal workplace-related assaults occurred;

Whereas tens of thousands of individuals in the United States with workplace-related injuries or illnesses have become permanently disabled;

Whereas the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (referred to in this preamble as “OSHA”), the primary Federal agency that establishes and enforces workplace health and safety standards—

(1) only has sufficient resources to inspect each establishment within the jurisdiction of OSHA once every 159 years; and

(2) must receive the resources necessary to adequately protect the health and safety of workers in the United States;

Whereas the current Administration has—

(1) blocked efforts by OSHA to adopt many protections for workers, including workers exposed to toxic chemicals, infectious diseases, violence in health care and social service settings, and the risk of industrial

catastrophes caused by chemicals, explosive gases, or combustible dusts;

(2) limited press releases from OSHA on enforcement actions that can act as a deterrent against safety violations by employers; and

(3) removed the names of workers killed on the job from fatality reports issued by OSHA, despite the requests of family members of those workers to include the names of those workers to call attention to preventable workplace-related deaths; and

Whereas observing Workers' Memorial Day—

(1) allows the people of the United States to honor and remember victims of workplace-related injuries and disease; and

(2) reminds the people of the United States to strive for better safety and health protections for workers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day to honor and remember workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace;

(2) recognizes the importance of strengthening worker health and safety standards to secure the safe workplaces workers deserve, including enforceable standards to prevent violence in health care and social service settings;

(3) encourages the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers, community and worker organizations, professional associations, and academic institutions to support activities increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Workers' Memorial Day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 487—AFFIRMING A COMMITMENT TO ELEVATE THE VOICES, LEADERSHIP, AND NEEDS OF HISTORICALLY AND CURRENTLY DISENFRANCHISED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE EFFORT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT ALL SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, INCLUDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES, SURVIVORS OF COLOR, AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, QUEER AND INTERSEX SURVIVORS, AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 487

Whereas sexual violence is a tool of oppression and a form of discrimination that can deprive individuals of equal access to educational opportunities;

Whereas discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions;

Whereas the 2015 United States Transgender Survey found that—

(1) 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted; and

(2) among transgender people of color, 65 percent of Native Americans, 59 percent of

multiracial people, 58 percent of Middle Eastern people, and 53 percent of African Americans are likely to have been sexually assaulted;

Whereas the 2010 Centers for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that—

(1) 44 percent of lesbians and 61 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35 percent of heterosexual women; and

(2) 40 percent of gay men and 47 percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21 percent of heterosexual men;

Whereas the National Women's Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey found that 38 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender teen girls reported experiencing sexual violence compared to 21 percent of all girls;

Whereas data reveals that people with disabilities are at an increased risk of being sexually assaulted;

Whereas according to End Rape on Campus, children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused;

Whereas according to the Vera Institute of Justice, 83 percent of women and 32 percent of men with cognitive disabilities reported being victims of sexual assault;

Whereas women of all races and ethnicities face some risk of sexual assault, and according to the 2010 Centers for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 33 percent of multiracial non-Hispanic women, nearly 27 percent of indigenous women, 22 percent of Black women, nearly 19 percent of white non-Hispanic women, more than 14 percent of Hispanic women, and 7 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander women in the United States have experienced rape;

Whereas according to a research report by the National Institute of Justice, 56.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence;

Whereas sexual violence also affects adolescent girls, and according to the National Women's Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey, 1 in 5 girls aged 14 to 18 has been kissed or touched without consent, including 24 percent of Latina girls, 23 percent of Native American girls, and 22 percent of Black girls;

Whereas studies show that sexual violence is an underreported crime, indicating that the rates of sexual violence may be even higher than these estimates;

Whereas too many survivors from historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities are ignored, blamed, and cast aside when seeking support after experiencing a form of sexual violence;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, 31 percent of young women in the juvenile justice system have been sexually abused;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming are overrepresented in the child welfare system;

Whereas, according to the GLSEN 2016 report entitled “From Teasing to Torment: School Climate Revisited”—

(1) 59.6 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as “LGBTQ”) secondary students have been sexually harassed at school and are more likely to experience sexual harassment than non-LGBTQ students; and

(2) students with nontraditional gender expression are more likely to experience sexual harassment than students with traditional gender expression;

Whereas high-quality, medically accurate, and LGBTQ-affirming sex education is critical in the effort to eliminate sexual violence by teaching young people about sexual assault, harassment, and affirmative consent;

Whereas less than 40 percent of all high schools and only 14 percent of middle schools in the United States teach all of the topics identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as important sexual health education topics;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, there is an increased likelihood that an individual will suffer from suicidal or depressive thoughts after experiencing sexual violence;

Whereas, at a time of prioritized mass detention and deportation and the rescinding of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, it is less safe for immigrants to report sexual violence;

Whereas a history of systemic inequality and discrimination as well as incomplete solutions has resulted in a lack of resources to meet the needs of diverse survivor populations;

Whereas according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence—

(1) there is a lack of resources for sexual violence prevention for youth;

(2) many rape crisis centers have waiting lists for prevention programs; and

(3) more investment is needed in the Rape Prevention and Education Program;

Whereas April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

Whereas sexual violence will only end if survivors of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors, survivors with disabilities, and immigrant survivors are respected and supported;

Whereas current support systems mandated by Federal law for survivors of sexual violence are neither comprehensive nor fully representative of the vast and pervasive elements within rape culture; and

Whereas Congress is working to confront pervasive sexual violence in the workplace, in schools, and in every area of life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms a commitment to elevate the voices, leadership, and needs of historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities in the effort to end sexual violence and support all survivors of sexual violence, including immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors of color, American Indian or Alaska Native survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse, queer and intersex survivors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors;

(2) supports efforts to raise awareness of the history of sexual violence prevention programs;

(3) calls upon this Chamber to—

(A) give priority to the needs of survivors of sexual violence and demonstrate proactive leadership in the effort to end sexual violence; and

(B) reject rollbacks of protections against harassment under—

(i) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in education programs based on race, color, or national origin;

(ii) title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in employment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or religion;

(iii) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in education programs based on sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity;

(iv) titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et

seq.), which prohibit discrimination based on disability in employment and public schools, respectively; and

(v) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination based on disability in education programs;

(4) affirms that—

(A) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) intersect; and

(B) to address sexual violence in an educational setting, these comprehensive civil rights laws must be viewed as intersecting and pertaining to both sexual violence and educational access;

(5) affirms the pursuit of legislative solutions that—

(A) address the unique needs and experiences of survivors of sexual violence from historically and currently disenfranchised and underserved communities;

(B) allocate resources based on the needs and vulnerability of diverse survivor populations; and

(C) allocate resources for disaggregated research initiatives that shed light on the disproportionate levels of sexual violence and the impact of sexual violence on diverse survivor populations; and

(6) calls upon the executive branch to faithfully and robustly enforce laws that protect survivors of sexual violence and communities at higher risk of sexual violence from harassment, discrimination, and mistreatment.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 488—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT BENNING IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 488

Whereas 2018 is the 100th anniversary of a military installation operating in Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas Fort Benning is named after Confederate Brigadier General Henry Lewis Benning, a resident of Columbus, Georgia, and a prominent Civil War infantry commander;

Whereas Fort Benning resides on land originally belonging to the Creek Tribe of the Muskogee Nation;

Whereas, on April 4, 1917, the day after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, the citizens of Columbus began advocating for an Army camp to be constructed near Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas the War Department decided to move the Infantry School of Arms at Fort Still, Oklahoma, to a more spacious site to train soldiers on infantry skills and tactics;

Whereas, on August 27, 1918, with the help of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, an 84-acre farm on Macon Road in Columbus, Georgia, was selected as the site for the infantry camp;

Whereas, on September 18, 1918, the Adjutant General ordered troops from Fort Still to report to the newly selected site by October 1, 1918;

Whereas, on October 19, 1918, Columbus native Anna Caroline Benning, daughter of the brigadier general, raised the United States flag over the United States Infantry School

of Arms, and it was formally christened Camp Benning;

Whereas, after the end of World War I, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate ordered construction on Camp Benning to be halted on January 9, 1919;

Whereas Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia strongly advocated for congressional hearings to receive testimony over resuming construction of the post, allowing for Columbus-area supporters, as well as infantry commanders who fought in World War I, to testify about the need for the post;

Whereas, on March 8, 1919, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate voted to resume building Camp Benning;

Whereas the post quickly outgrew the Macon Road location, and on June 17, 1919, Camp Benning was moved to its present site, which included the 1,800 acre plantation of local businessman Arthur Bussey;

Whereas, on January 9, 1922, the War Department issued General Order No. 1 making Camp Benning a permanent military installation and appropriating more than \$1,000,000 of additional building funds for the Infantry School of Arms, which later became the Infantry School;

Whereas, on May 12, 1920, 10 Army aircraft were assigned to Camp Benning as the air detachment of the post, marking the first use of aviation at Camp Benning;

Whereas, on February 8, 1922, Camp Benning was redesignated Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 17, 1932, the tank school of the United States Army officially moved from Fort Meade, Maryland, to Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning played a critical role in World War II, training thousands of soldiers for the European, African, and Pacific theatres of war;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, the commandant of the Infantry School was directed by the Adjutant General to provide a platoon of volunteers for parachute test duty, leading to the formation of the Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas, on September 16, 1940, the War Department approved the formation of the first Parachute Battalion at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on October 1, 1940, the 501st Parachute Battalion was activated;

Whereas, in July 1941, the modern Officer Candidate School for Infantry was established at Fort Benning to provide a rigorous training venue for new officers;

Whereas, in December 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Company, later redesignated as Company A, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first African-American parachute unit, which was known as "Triple Nickles", was activated at Fort Benning;

Whereas, after World War II, Fort Benning continued to play a vital role in training soldiers for every conflict involving the United States;

Whereas the Ranger Training Center was established October 12, 1950, which trained personnel for the Korean War;

Whereas, during the second longest conflict involving the United States, the Vietnam War, Fort Benning reopened the Officer Training School for Infantry and trained thousands of officers who participated in the war;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was activated at Fort Benning on February 7, 1963, to test and develop the air mobile concept;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was inactivated on July 1, 1965, and replaced by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and deployed to Vietnam on September 11, 1965, specializing in flying troops in and out of combat zones via helicopter;

Whereas Fort Benning served as a major staging ground for troops sent to the Middle

East during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and later during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, in 2009, tanks from the Armor School at Fort Knox arrived at Fort Benning, combining infantry and armor at 1 post and forming the Maneuver Center of Excellence;

Whereas the Maneuver Center of Excellence consists of—

- (1) the Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate;
- (2) the United States Army Infantry School;
- (3) the 199th Infantry Brigade;
- (4) the United States Army Armor School;
- (5) the Directorate of Training and Doctrine; and
- (6) additional tenant units;

Whereas some of the most respected United States military leaders in the 20th century were stationed at Fort Benning, including—

- (1) General Omar Bradley;
- (2) General Dwight Eisenhower;
- (3) General George Marshall;
- (4) General George Patton;
- (5) General William Livsey; and
- (6) General Colin Powell;

Whereas Fort Benning has helped foster changes in the role of women in the military;

Whereas, on December, 14, 1973, Privates Joyce Kutsch and Rita Johnson became the first women to graduate the Basic Airborne Course, and later, United States Army Quartermaster School Parachute Rigger Course;

Whereas, on August 21, 2015, Captain Kristen Griest and 1st Lieutenant Shaye Haver became the first 2 women to graduate from the Army Ranger school at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on December 1, 2016, 13 women became the first ever to graduate from the Army Armor Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on May 19, 2017, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, graduated 137 new Infantry soldiers, including 18 women who completed the first inter-gender Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 22, 2017, 4 women became the first ever to graduate from the Cavalry School of the Army at Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning is the sixth largest military installation in the United States covering approximately 182,000 acres, with a \$5,500,000,000 economic impact to the “Tri-Community” and approximately 120,000 military and civilian personnel;

Whereas the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Columbus, Columbus 2025, and other partnering groups fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception;

Whereas the people of the Tri-Community fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception; and

Whereas the following visionary citizens displayed the foresight, vision, and leadership to fight to establish Camp Benning near Columbus, Georgia:

- (1) Mr. John Betjeman.
- (2) Mr. Rhodes Browne.
- (3) Mr. John Ralston Cargill.
- (4) Mr. Lucius H. Chappell.
- (5) Mr. Henry B. Crawford.
- (6) Mr. J. Homer Dimon.
- (7) Mr. Robert Ernest Dismukes.
- (8) Mr. W.J. Fielder.
- (9) Mr. Reynolds Flournoy.
- (10) Mr. Frank U. Garrard.
- (11) Mr. Ralph Curtis Jordan.
- (12) Mr. Albert Kirven.
- (13) Mr. A.F. Kunze.
- (14) Mr. Frank G. Lumpkin.
- (15) Mr. Leighton W. MacPherson.
- (16) Mr. H.R. McClatchey.

- (17) Mr. T.T. Miller.
- (18) Mr. Marshall Morton.
- (19) Mr. Roger M. Page.
- (20) Mr. T.G. Reeves.
- (21) Mr. Walter A. Richards.
- (22) Mr. H.C. Smith: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, on its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends the thousands of men and women who have worked and trained at Fort Benning;

(3) honors the people of the “Tri-Community” including those in Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, for their continued support of Fort Benning; and

(4) encourages Fort Benning to continue its instrumental role in preparing the brave men and women of the United States for the battlefield.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 489—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 489

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States because reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas United States support for efforts to fight malaria—

(1) is in the diplomatic and moral interests of the United States;

(2) generates goodwill toward the United States; and

(3) highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, 91 countries and areas had ongoing malaria transmissions;

Whereas nearly ½ of the population of the world is at risk for malaria, with sub-Saharan Africa carrying a disproportionately high burden, with 80 percent of malaria cases and 91 percent of malaria deaths in the world;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to, and disproportionately affected by, malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects the health of children, since children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 70 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2017 by the World Health Organization states that, in 2016, approximately 445,000 people died of malaria, which is a 50-percent decrease since 2000;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to end-

ing malaria deaths through the President's Malaria Initiative, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for, and financial contributions to, efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 490—DESIGNATING APRIL 2018 AS “FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH”

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (referred to in this preamble as the “FDIC”), at least 26.9 percent of households in the United States, or nearly 33,500,000 households with approximately 66,700,000 adults, are unbanked or underbanked and therefore have not had an opportunity to access savings, lending, and other basic financial services;

Whereas, according to the FDIC, approximately 30 percent of banks reported in 2011 that consumers lacked an understanding of the financial products and services banks offered;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey final report of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling—

(1) 80 percent of adults in the United States acknowledged that they could benefit from additional advice and answers to everyday financial questions from a professional;

(2) 39 percent of households in the United States reported carrying credit card debt from month to month;

(3) only 40 percent of adults in the United States maintain a budget;

(4) 25 percent of adults in the United States do not have any money saved for retirement; and

(5) 16 percent of adults in the United States identified not having enough “rainy day” savings for an emergency, and 18 percent of adults in the United States identified not having enough money set aside for retirement, as the most worrisome area of personal finance;

Whereas the 2017 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 73 percent of workers are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2017 entitled “Financial Accounts of the United States: Flow of Funds, Balance Sheets, and Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts”, outstanding household debt in the United States was \$15,660,000,000,000 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017;

Whereas, according to the 2018 Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation’s Schools, a biennial report by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 22 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 17 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas, according to the Gallup-HOPE Index, only 52 percent of students in the United States have money in a bank or credit union account;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to manage money, credit, and debt; and

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2018 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 491—RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF PROVIDING 1,000,000 RIDES TO OLDER AND VISUALLY CHALLENGED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 491

Whereas the number of people of the United States aged 65 and older is projected to more than double from 46,000,000 today to almost 100,000,000 by the year 2060, when people of the United States aged 65 or older will represent nearly a quarter of the total population of the United States;

Whereas transportation is necessary for access to the basic necessities of life and most people of the United States outlive their decision to stop driving by more than a decade;

Whereas 3 out of 4 older people in the United States live in rural and suburban communities that lack the density for traditional transportation solutions;

Whereas the scarcity of transportation for older people of the United States leads to social isolation, diminishing quality of life, limited access to health care services, and a strain on families and caregivers;

Whereas the Independent Transportation Network of America (referred to in this preamble as “ITNAmerica”) is a nonprofit transportation network company that integrates social capital through volunteerism and local community support with traditional capital to increase the resources available to meet the mobility needs of older people, visually challenged people, and the families of older and visually challenged people;

Whereas the average age of ITNAmerica riders is 84, and 58 percent of riders are 85 years and older;

Whereas ITNAmerica has built Rides in Sight, a searchable, online database of all senior transportation services in the United States, with 15,000 services catalogued, and offers it to the public as a free service; and

Whereas ITNAmerica has provided 1,000,000 rides to older and visually challenged people of the United States and, of those rides—

(1) 40 percent were for the purpose of obtaining health care services;

(2) 21 percent were for people who are visually challenged; and

(3) 44 percent have been provided by volunteer drivers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the volunteers and staff of the Independent Transportation Network of America in communities across the United States for the 1,000,000 rides they have provided to older and visually challenged people, their families, and their communities;

(2) recognizes the Independent Transportation Network of America as a nonprofit transportation network company that serves the common good and has helped people remain in their own homes and communities after they can no longer drive safely; and

(3) anticipates many more millions of rides in the future as the Independent Transportation Network of America helps to meet the mobility needs of older and visually challenged people and the needs of small and rural communities across the United States.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 492—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 492

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State “One Call” systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated “811” as the nationwide “One Call” number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas the 1,700 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national “Call Before You Dig” campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-90; 125 Stat. 1904) affirmed and expanded the “One Call” program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors regarding notifying “One Call” centers before digging; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as “National Safe Digging Month” to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national “Call Before You Dig” number: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 493—CONGRATULATING THE FIGHTING IRISH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2018 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

S. RES. 493

Whereas, on Sunday, April 1, 2018, the University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball Team (referred to in this preamble as the "Fighting Irish") won the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I title with a 61–58 win over the Mississippi State Bulldogs, becoming 1 of only 7 women's basketball programs to win multiple NCAA championship titles;

Whereas the Fighting Irish displayed their grit and determination to overcome a 15-point disadvantage to the Bulldogs in the championship game, setting a record for the largest comeback in a NCAA title game;

Whereas the victory marked the second national title, the first of those titles coming on Sunday, April 1, 2001, for the Fighting Irish under the leadership of Head Coach Muffet McGraw;

Whereas Head Coach McGraw has excelled during her 31 seasons with the Fighting Irish, having—

(1) led the Fighting Irish to their 800th win under her leadership to secure their second national championship title;

(2) been inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017; and

(3) been named 2018 AP, USA Today, and ESPNW Coach of the Year;

Whereas Head Coach McGraw has been supported by assistant coaches and staff including—

- (1) Carol Owens;
- (2) Niele Ivey;
- (3) Beth Cunningham;
- (4) Katie Capps;
- (5) Erica Williamson;
- (6) Sharla Lewis;

Whereas the full roster of the 2017–2018 national championship Fighting Irish team includes—

- (1) Kristina Nelson;
- (2) Lili Thompson;
- (3) Mychal Johnson;
- (4) Kathryn Westbeld;
- (5) Brianna Turner;
- (6) Marina Mabrey;
- (7) Maureen Butler;
- (8) Arike Ogunbowale;
- (9) Jessica Shepard;
- (10) Kaitlin Cole;
- (11) Jackie Young;
- (12) Mikayla Vaughn;
- (13) Nicole Benz; and
- (14) Danielle Patterson;

Whereas Arike Ogunbowale, junior guard for the Fighting Irish, was awarded Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four and scored 145 total points throughout the course of the 2018 NCAA tournament, which included the game-winning shots in both the semifinal and final rounds of play;

Whereas Jackie Young, sophomore guard and a native of Princeton, Indiana, led the Fighting Irish to a victory over the then-undefeated University of Connecticut Huskies with a dominant, breakout performance, racking up 32 points and pulling down 11 rebounds;

Whereas the tradition of the Fighting Irish of excelling in both athletics and academics

continues to advance the sport of women's basketball and provide inspiration for future generations of young female athletes; and

Whereas the spirit and achievement of the Fighting Irish in the face of adversity and the dramatic conclusion of their championship run inspired the respect and admiration of the basketball-loving State of Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for its victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolving clause as the "NCAA") tournament claiming the 2018 NCAA Division I title;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the University of Notre Dame in the NCAA women's basketball championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame;

(B) Muffet McGraw, Head Coach of the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team; and

(C) Jack Swarbrick, Vice-President and Athletic Director of the University of Notre Dame.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 494—CONGRATULATING THE HOOSIERS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE 2018 WOMEN'S NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT**

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

S. RES. 494

Whereas, on March 31, 2018, the Indiana University women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Hoosiers") defeated the Virginia Tech Hokies by a score of 65–57 in the final game of the Women's National Invitation Tournament (referred to in this preamble as the "WNIT") in Bloomington, Indiana;

Whereas the Hoosiers won their first national postseason championship, and became only the sixth Big Ten school to earn a WNIT championship;

Whereas the Hoosiers hosted a record 13,007 fans in Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall for the WNIT championship game to mark the largest crowd to watch a Big Ten women's basketball game this season, the largest crowd in Indiana University women's basketball history, and the sixth largest crowd in WNIT history;

Whereas the Hoosiers tied a program-record 23 wins for the second straight season, finishing 23–14 overall and 9–7 in the Big Ten Conference;

Whereas the Hoosiers have shined under the leadership of Head Coach Teri Moren and have been supported by assistant coaches and staff including—

- (1) Rhet Wierzbza;
- (2) Janese Banks;
- (3) Glenn Box;
- (4) Liz Honegger;
- (5) Briana Bass;
- (6) Erin McKinney;
- (7) Eddie Praley; and
- (8) Ashley Williams;

Whereas the full roster of the 2017–2018 WNIT championship Hoosier team includes—

- (1) Tyra Buss;
- (2) Amanda Cahill;
- (3) Grace Withrow;
- (4) Kym Royster;
- (5) Brenna Wise;
- (6) Bre Wickware;
- (7) Bendu Yeane;
- (8) Keyanna Warthen;
- (9) Linsey Marchese;
- (10) Jaelynn Penn;
- (11) Alexis Johnson; and
- (12) Ali Patberg;

Whereas senior Tyra Buss was named Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American Honorable Mention and First Team All-Big Ten, setting 8 school records, including the scoring record for Indiana University with 2,364 points;

Whereas senior Amanda Cahill was named College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American and Second Team All-Big Ten, scoring over 1,800 points and racking up 1,100 rebounds during her college career;

Whereas freshman Jaelynn Penn became the first Indiana University freshman to be named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team; and

Whereas the consistent excellence, both academically and athletically, of the Hoosiers has advanced the sport of women's basketball and inspired countless generations of young women athletes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Indiana University women's basketball team and its loyal fans on the performance of the team in the 2018 Women's National Invitation Tournament;

(2) recognizes and commends the dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the players, parents, families, coaches, and managers of the Indiana University women's basketball team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. Michael A. McRobbie, President of Indiana University;

(B) Teri Moren, Head Coach of the Indiana University women's basketball team; and

(C) Fred Glass, Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics of Indiana University.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 495—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, has been designated as "Public Service Recognition Week" to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and



promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service, and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and parks in the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve

the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, marks the 34th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees, and members of the uniformed services, for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) supports efforts to promote an efficient and effective public service that serves the people of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 496—RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2018, AS “EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS-CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 496

Whereas, each year in the United States, El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans is recognized as a day to affirm and recognize the importance of young children in the United States;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States and the well-being of children and adolescents is emphasized as a top priority in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States should nurture and invest in children and adolescents in order to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the free and open exchange of ideas, which are concepts that are essential to the spirit of the United States;

Whereas, according to data of the Bureau of the Census, the Hispanic population in the United States is the youngest major racial or ethnic group in the United States, as—

(1) 17,900,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the Hispanic population in the United States, are younger than 18 years of age; and

(2) in 2014, approximately 14,600,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Hispanic population in the United States, were individuals between 18 and 33 years of age (commonly referred to as “millennials”);

Whereas the Hispanic population in the United States is the youngest and largest ethnic minority group in the United States,

continues to grow, and is a significant part of the workforce in the United States and children in that population will be consumers, taxpayers, and voters in the future;

Whereas, as the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to bring about cultural understanding and celebrate a tradition that honors all children on El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans, a day that acknowledges and shares traditions and customs with all people in the United States;

Whereas parents are at the center of teaching children about family values, morality, life preparation, health, survival, and culture;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor children and adolescents in the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, health, and community among the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for children in the United States will provide an opportunity for those children to reflect on their futures, to articulate their aspirations, to find comfort and security in the support of their family members, communities, and schools, and to grow to contribute to the United States;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, which serves as an advocate and a voice for young Latino children—

(1) will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018;

(2) has partnered with States and cities throughout the United States during the 20 years preceding 2018; and

(3) will declare April 30, 2018, as “El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans”, a day to bring communities and Latinos together across the United States to celebrate and uplift children;

Whereas April 30, 2018, would be an appropriate day to recognize as “El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans”; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children and to help children take their rightful place in the future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 30, 2018, as “El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with children, families, communities, schools, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe El Día de los Niños-Celebrating Young Americans with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center on children and are free or of minimal cost so as to facilitate full participation by all people;

(B) uplift and help children positively envision a path to their futures by allowing children to voice their hopes and dreams;

(C) offer opportunities for children of diverse backgrounds to learn about the cultures of one another and to share ideas;

(D) include family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to—

(i) promote understanding and communication among generations within families; and

(ii) enable young people to learn from, and respect and benefit from the experiences of, their family elders;

(E) enable diverse communities to build relationships of understanding; and

(F) provide children with an education, safe environments in which to learn, live, and develop, and long-term support in order to become confident young adults who are ready and eager to believe in and contribute to the United States.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 497—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 497

Whereas May 5, or “Cinco de Mayo” in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, one of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican government during the Franco-Mexican war fought between 1861 and 1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas, in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz”, meaning “respect for the rights of others is peace”;

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States was built by people from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunity for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 498—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 5, 2018, AS “NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK” WHILE COMMENDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THEIR COMMUNITIES

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. HEITKAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 498

Whereas 2018 marks the 55th anniversary of “National Small Business Week”;

Whereas there are nearly 30,000,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas 2 of every 3 new jobs are created by small businesses;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

(1) employ nearly ½ of the workforce in the United States;

(2) comprise 99.7 percent of all employers in the United States;

(3) employ veterans, as 9.1 percent of all small business owners served in the Armed Forces;

(4) produce ⅓ of exported goods in the United States; and

(5) account for nearly ½ of private sector output;

Whereas, on July 30, 1953, Congress created the Small Business Administration to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the small business community;

Whereas, in its 54 years of existence, the Small Business Administration has—

(1) aided countless people in the United States in attaining their entrepreneurial dream;

(2) preserved and advanced the interests of small businesses through advocacy; and

(3) ensured fairness in the contracting process of the Federal Government; and

Whereas the President designated the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as “National Small Business Week”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as “National Small Business Week”;

(2) celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of the small business owners of the United States;

(3) understands the importance of creating a small business climate that allows for sustained, entrepreneurial success;

(4) celebrates the invaluable contributions small businesses make to the United States as the backbone of the economy of the United States; and

(5) supports increasing consumer awareness of the value and opportunity small businesses bring to their local communities.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 499—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 499

Whereas the Senate is committed to the awareness, prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, an estimated 323,450 individuals ages 12 and older in the United States experienced sexual violence during 2016;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 1995 and 2010, approximately—

(1) 3,900,000 women were victims of completed rape;

(2) 1,100,000 women were victims of attempted rape; and

(3) 584,800 men were victims of sexual assault;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (commonly known as “RAINN”), an individual is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000 rapes committed in the United States, on average only—

(1) 310 rapes are reported to law enforcement agencies;

(2) 57 reported rape cases lead to an arrest;

(3) 11 rape cases are referred for prosecution;

(4) 7 rape cases lead to a felony conviction; and

(5) 6 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration;

Whereas, according to the Criminal Victimization Summary for 2016 of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, only 22.9 percent of rapes or sexual assaults in the United States were reported to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas studies have suggested that American Indians and Alaska Natives are at a significantly higher rate of violent victimization than other individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than ½ of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas sexual violence is a burden for many individuals who serve in the United States Armed Forces, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 14,900 service members experienced some form of sexual assault during 2016;

Whereas sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many perpetrators to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional complications long after their physical scars have healed;

Whereas advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (commonly known as “DNA”) technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of previously unsolved sexual assault cases;

Whereas incarceration of sexual assault perpetrators can prevent perpetrators from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(A) by telephone at 800-656-HOPE; and

(B) online at <https://hotline.rainn.org>; and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(1) in 2017, helped nearly 210,000 survivors of sexual assault, which represented the greatest number of survivors assisted through the hotline since the founding of the hotline in 1994; and

(2) continues to receive record requests for support in 2018;

Whereas the Department of Defense provides the Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile application, each of which offer support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at <https://safehelpline.org>;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no victim of sexual assault to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2018 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to—

(i) educate the people of the United States about sexual violence; and

(ii) encourage—

(I) the prevention of sexual assault;

(II) improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault; and

(III) the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in—

(i) promoting awareness about sexual assault;

(ii) providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault; and

(iii) increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and inno-

vative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 500—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF PETER P. TRUMAN V. PAULA ARMSTRONG, ET AL

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

##### S. RES. 500

Whereas, two Senate employees, Paula Armstrong and Edie Smith, have been named as defendants in the case of *Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al.*, D. Me., currently on appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, No. 18-1095; and

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Paula Armstrong and Edie Smith in the case of *Peter P. Truman v. Paula Armstrong, et al.*

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing representation by the Senate Legal Counsel and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a pro se civil action filed in Maine Federal court against two employees of Senator KING’s office regarding claims arising out of volunteer assistance the pro se plaintiff provided to that office. The District Court, on its own initiative, dismissed the lawsuit without needing to hear from the defendants, and the plaintiff has filed a notice of appeal.

This resolution would authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate employees in that appeal in order to seek dismissal of the appeal or affirmance of the lower court’s dismissal of this suit.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 2644 and S. 2559 and following nominations: Mark Jeremy Bennett, of Hawaii, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy E. Brasel, and Eric C. Tostrud, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Robert R. Summerhays, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, and Gregory Allyn Forest, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina, and Bradley A. Maxwell, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

##### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of HHS and DHS Effort to Protect Unaccompanied Alien Children from Human Trafficking and Abuse.”

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Alexandra Webb, an intern in the office of Senator SULLIVAN, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

#### SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 440.

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. 440) designating April 2018 as “Second Chance Month.”

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 440) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 20, 2018, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

# SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 464.

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. 464) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 16, 2018, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of S. Res. 489 through and including S. Res. 500, which were submitted earlier today.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

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

## ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018, THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 30, at 2:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 3, at 10:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 3, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 7, and 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 Engelhardt nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 7.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018, AT 2:30 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 5:38 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, VICE MICHAEL HERMAN MICHAUD.

### 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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. CRAIG S. FALLER

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL F. FAHRY III

BRIG. GEN. HELEN G. PRATT

### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

*To be lieutenant colonel*

RYAN J. GARLOW

### IN THE ARMY

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

*To be lieutenant colonel*

NICHOLAS C. MUMM

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 26, 2018:

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD GRENNELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

YLEEM D. S. POBLETE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE).

### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

ROHIT CHOPRA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2012.

NOAH JOSHUA PHILLIPS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

JOSEPH SIMONS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2011.

CHRISTINE S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2018.

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANDREA L. THOMPSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TIMOTHY A. GARRISON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

KENJI M. PRICE, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JOHN CARY BITTICK, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID L. LYONS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RODNEY D. OSTERMILLER, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HANNIBAL WARE, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KENNETH STEVEN BARBIC, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

### THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH L. FALVEY, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PAUL R. LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NICOLA T. HANNA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

STEVEN L. GLADDEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

BRENDAN O. HEFFNER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THEODOR G. SHORT, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIKE POMPEO, OF KANSAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THOMAS J. HUSHEK, OF WISCONSIN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

KIRSTEN DAWN MADISON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS).

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. DOROTHY A. HOGG

### 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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. RICHARD P. SNYDER

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 601:

*To be admiral*

VICE ADM. JOHN C. AQUILINO

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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

VICE ADM. CHARLES A. RICHARD

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. GREGORY N. TODD

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. JOHN S. LEMMON

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

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) RONALD C. COPLEY  
REAR ADM. (LH) KATHLEEN M. CREIGHTON

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

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN K. COREY  
REAR ADM. (LH) LORIN C. SELBY  
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5149:

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) DARSE E. CRANDALL

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. KRISTEN B. FABRY  
CAPT. JOSEPH D. NOBLE, JR.

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. HEIDI K. BERG  
CAPT. MICHAEL A. BROOKES  
CAPT. WILLIAM E. CHASE III

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. JOHN J. ADAMETZ

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. THOMAS J. ANDERSON

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. JAMES A. AIKEN  
CAPT. RICHARD J. CHEESEMAN, JR.  
CAPT. CRAIG A. CLAPPERTON  
CAPT. KEITH B. DAVIDS  
CAPT. JOSEPH A. DIGUARDO, JR.  
CAPT. LEONARD C. DOLLAGA  
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER S. GRAY  
CAPT. JOHN E. GUMBLETON  
CAPT. JAMES A. KIRK  
CAPT. TIMOTHY J. KOTT  
CAPT. FREDRICK R. LUCHTMAN  
CAPT. BRENDAN R. MCCLANE  
CAPT. SCOTT W. PAPANO  
CAPT. RYAN B. SCHOLL  
CAPT. LANCE G. SCOTT  
CAPT. PHILIP E. SOBECK  
CAPT. JOHN D. SPENCER  
CAPT. DOUGLAS C. VERISSIMO  
CAPT. GEORGE M. WIKOFF

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be general*

GEN. TERRENCE J. O'SHAUGHNESSY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MICHAEL T. GEROCK

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN G. FOGARTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. RAYMOND S. DINGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. FRANCIS M. BEAUDETTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. EUGENE J. LEBOEUF  
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. STRAND

*To be brigadier general*

COL. AIDA T. BORRAS  
COL. VINCENT E. BUGGS  
COL. BARRY E. EDBERG  
COL. CHERYN L. FASANO  
COL. STEPHEN IACOVELLI  
COL. ISAAC JOHNSON, JR.  
COL. JAMES J. KOKASKA, JR.  
COL. JOSEPH M. LESTORTI  
COL. EDWARD H. MERRIGAN, JR.  
COL. MICHAEL D. ROACHE  
COL. BETH A. SALISBURY  
COL. CHARLES S. SENTELL III  
COL. JAMELLE C. SHAWLEY  
COL. ROBERT E. SUTER

## 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 601:

*To be admiral*

ADM. PHILIP S. DAVIDSON

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 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. DAVID M. KRIETE

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

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHELLE C. SKUBIC

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

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) EUGENE H. BLACK III  
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM D. BYRNE, JR.  
REAR ADM. (LH) MARC H. DALTON  
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN V. FULLER  
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL P. HOLLAND  
REAR ADM. (LH) HUGH W. HOWARD III  
REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY W. HUGHES  
REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS E. ISHEE  
REAR ADM. (LH) ROY I. KITCHENER  
REAR ADM. (LH) STEPHEN T. KOEHLER  
REAR ADM. (LH) SAMUEL J. PAPARO, JR.  
REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY E. TRUSSLER  
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM W. WHEELER III  
REAR ADM. (LH) KENNETH R. WHITESSELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5142:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

REAR ADM. (LH) BRENT W. SCOTT

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. DARIN K. VIA

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. MICHAEL G. DANA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. DAVID H. BERGER

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. STEPHEN E. LISZEWSKI  
COL. LORNA M. MAHLOCK  
COL. DAVID L. ODOM  
COL. ARTHUR J. PASAGIAN  
COL. SEAN M. SALENE  
COL. KEVIN J. STEWART  
COL. WILLIAM H. SWAN  
COL. CALVERT L. WORTH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES G. CHIAROTTI

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JON PARRISH PEEDE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

REBECCA KELLY SLAUGHTER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2015.

## IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD G. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JOEL K. WARREN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RONNELLE ARMSTRONG AND ENDING WITH JOHN MARION VON ALMEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALISON LEE BEACH AND ENDING WITH CORTNEY LYNN ZUERCHER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH DAVID RUSSELL WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 9, 2018.

## IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIA W. CAPHART, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NAPOLEON A. CAMPOS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KEVIN R. EMBRY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. FURJANIC, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL L. LEE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN M. WILLIAMS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERTO SORIANOOLIVAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON PALATAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSE R. REVELES, JR. AND ENDING WITH KENNETH J. STRAUSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 9, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D012279, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RUSSELL B. GILLILAND, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIK M. BAUER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE W. HENRY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KENNETH A. WILLEFORD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF D012941, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROXANNE T. SICKLES, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. HUGGINS II, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNY L. ROZENBERG, TO BE COLONEL.

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS R. BURIAN, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHAD R. FITZGERALD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

## IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF EDWARD M. CROSSMAN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NANA K. APPLAWIAH AND ENDING WITH AUSTIN R. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 12, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. GRECH. FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KAREN S. SLITER AND ENDING WITH ELIA P. VANECHANOS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF TUYVAN NGUYEN. FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN THOMAS ARDELL AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER ZVINAKIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 12, 2018. FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ABIGAIL MARIE NGUEMA.