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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.

Holy One, who prompts us to conform to Your will, continue to shine in the hearts of our lawmakers, providing them with Your wisdom. Lord, purify the desires of their hearts, leading them beside the still waters of contemplation and thanksgiving. Embolden them to become instruments of Your saving power that comforts, challenges, and refreshes. Remove from them anything that hinders them from bringing glory to Your Name, as You keep them faithful in these sometimes confusing and challenging times.

We pray in Your Holy 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.

### FARM BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Senate Agriculture Committee to approve a landmark farm bill. Under the fair and bipartisan leadership of Chairman PAT ROBERTS, our committee has produced a bill that will bolster struggling agriculture communities across our country.

Speaking for my home State of Kentucky, agriculture is part of who we are. Kentucky farm families produce everything from poultry to soybeans. This legislation will assist them, encourage economic growth, and increase investment in rural communities.

This farm bill also includes a bipartisan provision I crafted with Senator WYDEN to legalize industrial hemp. At present, with just a few limited exceptions, our Federal Government bans domestic hemp production—never mind that this is a completely different plant than its illicit cousin, and never mind that consumers are already buying hemp products, everything from clothing to auto parts; they are just imported from foreign producers. Federal law has mostly prohibited our own farmers from getting in on the action. It is time to remove the roadblocks and let American farmers explore this growing market.

This has long been a priority of mine. I championed hemp pilot programs in the 2014 farm bill. They have shown big success. It is time to take the next step.

Again, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee for their leadership on this subject. I was pleased to join the overwhelming bipartisan majority who voted the farm bill out of committee yesterday morning, and I look forward to taking it up here on the floor in the next few weeks.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another subject, for the past week, the Senate has been considering the John S. McCain 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. It is a thorough bill. It is a bipartisan bill.

The Armed Services Committee has conducted hearing after hearing, gathering testimony from our Nation's top military leaders. They have heard

straight from the experts about the gaps between current capabilities and current challenges. Taking this testimony into account, throughout the committee markup, they considered and included 300 amendments—300—in the version they reported to the Senate.

For days now, we have discussed and debated it here on the floor. Senators INHOFE and REED modified the substitute amendment to include more than 40 additional amendments from Members on both sides. Even so, I am confident no Senator sees this as a perfect bill. I am sure every one of us has further issues we would like to tackle. Some pertain to the substance of Defense authorization; others concern completely different topics.

Personally, I would like to have seen even more votes on amendments this week, but one of the realities of this body is that any Senator on either side can object to setting up amendment votes. Any Senator on either side can object to setting up amendment votes.

The good news is what we already have in hand: an excellent Defense authorization bill that will fulfill one of this body's important responsibilities and empower the men and women who volunteer to protect us. We have fulfilled that responsibility for 57 consecutive years. When this bill passes, it will be 58 consecutive years. You might call that a routine, but in this body, as we know, what can seem like the most routine activities are often among the most important. This Defense authorization bill is right at the top of the Senate's to-do list so we can do right by our men and women serving in uniform around the world.

Today is the 243rd birthday of our U.S. Army. I am glad we will have the opportunity to vote to keep advancing this bill in just a few minutes.

As I have discussed all week, this legislation is critical to implementing Secretary Mattis's new national defense strategy. It is critical for supporting our allies and regional partners

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



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around the world. It is critical for keeping America safe in a world that confronts us with everything from terrorist threats from nonstate actors to great power competition.

One way or another, the Senate will pass this bill. We will fulfill our solemn responsibility to our military, and then we will proceed to other important business for our constituents.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, day after day and week after week, more evidence piles up that Republicans' overhaul of the U.S. Tax Code is igniting new growth and increasing opportunity all across our country.

Here is what tax reform means to middle-class Floridians. It means thousand-dollar bonuses for all 26 employees at Spellex Corporation, a software company in Tampa. It means an 11-percent increase in the base wage at a bank with more than 600 locations all across Florida. At a brewery, it meant the flexibility to purchase \$100,000 in new capital equipment and hire two additional employees. For the customers of Florida Power & Light, it meant a lower monthly bill. The utility had planned to implement a new surcharge for rebuilding after Hurricane Irma, but tax reform let them cover the cost of the entire rebuilding themselves and kept that added burden off of the shoulders of Floridians. These are just a few of the ways tax reform is helping jump-start prosperity up and down the State of Florida.

Florida's junior Senator, Mr. RUBIO, voted to pass this once-in-a-generation law. It is too bad his colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, stood with every single Democrat in the House and in the Senate and tried to block these tax cuts from reaching the American people. Apparently, he preferred that more middle-class families' money remain with the IRS. I would call that a curious decision. Perhaps our Democratic colleagues don't quite understand the importance of a thriving economy.

We recently heard some revealing comments from the House Democratic leader. Here is what she said:

Hip hip hooray, unemployment is down. What does that mean to me and my life?

Unemployment is as low as it has been since 1969. There is soaring confidence from consumers and small businesses. There are more job openings than Americans looking for work for the first time in at least 20 years. No big deal, say our Democratic colleagues. Nothing to see here. Do they really think an outstanding job market doesn't matter to American families? Well, that might help explain their voting record on tax reform and other issues, but I suspect this is just pure partnership because it is Republican policies that are helping generate this success. Our friends across the aisle want to deny reality and ignore the ob-

vious improvements for workers, families, and job creators. Fortunately, the facts are the facts. Americans know success when they see it, and Republicans will keep fighting to unleash more prosperity for the middle class.

#### ENERGY AND WATER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to proceed.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 5895, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Richard Burr, Roger F. Wicker.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has now been 2 days since the Singapore summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim concluded. America remains troubled by the lack of detail in the joint statement signed by both parties, as well as some of the remarkable concessions made by President Trump, especially the freeze of joint military exercises with South Korea.

In the wake of this first meeting, it has become clearer and clearer that Chairman Kim secured far more concessions than President Trump. Yet, despite all the evidence, President Trump is acting like he just secured world peace. The President is conducting an alternative reality Presidency, and the recent summit with North Korea reveals it better than ever. President Trump says we are no

longer on the brink of war with North Korea, after President Trump himself was the one who brought us there in the first place, through bellicose rhetoric and brinkmanship on Twitter. Now the President takes a victory lap for undoing a problem he created in the first place. He pats himself on the back, saying that we are now at peace. We were on the brink of war. He forgets that he brought us there. What kind of Presidency is this?

Again President Trump tweeted yesterday: "There is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." Saying it, Mr. President Trump, does not make it so—once again, an alternative reality Presidency.

Despite what the President says, Chairman Kim has not agreed to dismantle North Korea's nuclear infrastructure. He has not agreed to stop enriching plutonium and uranium. He has not agreed to any sort of inspections regime. When Chairman Kim went home to North Korea, he did not even mention his vague commitment to completely denuclearize. To say there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea after one meeting, after signing one sheet of paper, is living in an alternative reality, and that is where it seems President Trump lives these days, more than ever before.

Finally, in place of serious, arduous negotiations, President Trump preferred signing ceremonies and proclamations. It is a pattern in his Presidency: flash over substance, sign documents in front of cameras, but skip out on the hard work behind the scenes.

The idea is to make it look as if the President is getting stuff done, but not actually doing the hard work and getting it done. We can't have a President who is interested only in playing the role of President. He has to do the job of President.

On a matter as serious as negotiations with North Korea, there is no substitute for the hard work of real diplomacy. Only in President Trump's alternative reality Presidency do photo ops and handshakes suffice, especially when North Korea still presents such a great danger to us. If tomorrow morning Kim Jong Un did a 180-degree reversal, after having gotten what he wants—the handshake, the summit, the reduction of sanctions—we would be in real danger, and President Trump acts like it is all over—an alternative reality Presidency. But when it comes to something as serious and dangerous as North Korea, it is not a joke; it is serious stuff.

The hard details, the concrete concessions, the diplomatic gains for the United States, and safety from a still dangerous North Korea simply have to wait in President Trump's world, and it doesn't even seem to matter if they never happen.

We hope sincerely that those hard details do come. We hope sincerely that the Singapore summit was only the first step, rather than the final result, because we all wish to see a diplomatic

resolution to the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. Ninety-nine percent of all Americans don't just want a photo op. We are glad that President Trump is actually trying, at least, to channel diplomacy, but he needs to stop behaving like all the hard work is behind him and open his eyes to the reality that bringing an end to a nuclear North Korea is not as easy, as simple, or as quick as a few days of photo ops.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IG REPORT

Now, Mr. President, on another subject, this afternoon we expect to receive the report of the Department of Justice's inspector general, who has been reviewing the conduct of the Department of Justice and the FBI in the runup to the 2016 election.

Although we have not yet seen the inspector general's report, there is no reason—no reason—to believe that it will provide any basis to call the special counsel's work into question.

The IG report concerns an entirely separate investigation from the Russia probe that Special Counsel Mueller is conducting. The IG report concerns issues that started long before Special Counsel Mueller was even appointed and concluded before he began his investigation.

Furthermore, the one thing we do know about what happened in late 2016 is that certain actions taken by the FBI, intentionally or not, helped the Trump campaign and hurt the Clinton campaign. The release that Candidate Clinton was under investigation and the release of comments on what she had or had not done hurt her. It will take an awful lot of spin, an awful lot of stretching for Republicans to twist that around and portray the President as some kind of victim.

Regrettably, people like Chairman NUNES, like FOX News, and like some of the Republican supporters of the President in Congress—and even like the President himself—have been running a cynical campaign to undermine the Russia investigation. It seems that the only limits to the wild conspiracies they have cooked up are their imaginations. This hurts America. We have heard new reports that Russia is looking to meddle in our 2018 elections. If foreign powers can meddle in our elections with impunity, this democracy is in trouble—in trouble—both with what the foreign powers may do and in the lack of faith in democracy it instills in people here in America and around the world. Our Republican colleagues who use this and our President who uses this as a political whipping boy are hurting our democracy.

So almost regardless of what the IG report says, we can probably expect the President, Mr. NUNES, some of the FOX News commentators, and others to invent new conspiracy theories and new calls for more special counsels to investigate the investigators. Americans of all stripes are beginning to see these theories for what they are—distortions meant to undermine or distract from Special Counsel Mueller's investigation

into the very serious efforts of Russia to influence the outcome of our elections. Well-meaning Members of both parties—both parties—should call them out for what they are.

We are waiting to hear from some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on this. There have been too few voices on something so significant.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, on another matter—and this one of some bipartisanship, I am happy to say—the Senate continues to process the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act in a bipartisan way to give our military the support and certainty it needs and to make crucial updates to our national security policy.

One strong bipartisan action in this bill is dealing with the Chinese telecom giant ZTE. Let me remind this body that ZTE has violated U.S. sanctions and lied about it, but, even more importantly, its technology has been deemed a national security threat—a national security threat—to these great United States by the FBI, the Pentagon, and the FCC—all appointed by Republicans.

President Trump was flatout wrong when he decided to go easy on ZTE and allow it to start selling its technology in the United States. If you believe some reports, he did it, once again, on a whim—a phone call from President Xi, our enemy on economic matters, who is robbing American jobs and stealing our technology, and who calls him up and says: Let's undo this. President Trump, seemingly without preparation, without briefings by the military or intelligence agencies or our law enforcement agencies, just does it, hurting America.

The good news is bipartisan efforts in this body and in the House to undo what the President did and reimpose the penalties on ZTE that they deserve.

President Trump was flatout wrong when he decided to go easy on ZTE and allow it to start selling its technology in the U.S. again. That puts America at severe risk—the risk of a China-backed company spying on Americans' private information, spying on businesses, spying on our military.

ZTE is allowed to come in here? Every American should be worried when they talk on their iPhone that China is spying on them. Every American business should be worried that China is spying on their businesses and their intellectual property, and, most of all, our military leaders should be worried that China is purloining secrets that help to keep us safe.

That is why we have included a bipartisan amendment. I want to salute Senators COTTON and VAN HOLLEN for leading the charge. I want to salute folks like Senator RUBIO, who has been so strong on this issue, putting country first. I want to salute the many on our side who have agreed with that. It is the right thing to do—to not allow ZTE to be here, for both national security

interests as well as the economic importance of being tough on China.

Yesterday it was reported, of course, that the White House will oppose the amendment and may seek to strip it out of the bill. We hope cooler heads in the administration, including Secretary Mattis, Chief of Staff Kelly, and others who have had a military background, can inform the President how ill-advised his actions are.

Both parties in Congress must be resolute in blocking the President's bad, pro-China ZTE deal. Protecting America's national and economic security is paramount and any deal that jeopardizes them should be stopped in its tracks.

Senator CORKER made a point this week. He is freed of political constraints and can say what he thinks. He made a point—passionately—that this body does not have to assent to every whim of the President. It is not easy when you are of the same party as the President. I know that. But as everyone in this Chamber knows, on some major issues I opposed President Obama because I thought he was wrong, and I know how difficult it is. I know how difficult it is, but sometimes duty and country and patriotism require it. On a matter as vital as this one, having to do with America's national and economic security, we cannot back off. I urge my colleagues, particularly my friends Senators COTTON and RUBIO and CORNYN, who have been so strong and right on this issue, to hang tough, especially when we get to conference.

I want to thank our Acting Chair of the Armed Services Committee for understanding the security risks and for working in a bipartisan way.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ABE SCHUMER

Finally, Mr. President, if my colleagues will indulge me a few more words, they are personal, but they are meaningful.

Today is Flag Day. It is also my father's 95th birthday. This upcoming weekend we will celebrate Father's Day.

My father was a World War II vet over in Burma, and when he came back to Brooklyn after the war, he took over a small exterminating business from his father, my grandpa. I often joke that we are the only family who associates the smell of DDT with love, because my dad would come home from the office smelling of all of those chemicals.

My father hated his job. He paced the floor Sunday nights at 2 a.m., unable to sleep, dreading going to work on Monday. But there was great honor in what he did. He never complained. He was supporting the family, even if it was in a job he was stuck with after getting back from World War II. He labored for many years in a job that wasn't his passion and passed on his idea of serving without complaining to give his children, grandchildren, and, God willing, in November, his soon-to-be first great-grandchild—my daughter

is pregnant—the idea that we could follow our dreams, standing on his strong and weary shoulders. Mine led me here. I will never stop being grateful to my dad for that.

So allow me to wish my father a happy birthday today and to say that I look forward to seeing him and my mom Selma, who turned 90 just on D-Day, as well as my wife and two daughters this weekend for Father's Day, and I wish all Americans the same joy in celebrating Father's Day this weekend.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5515, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe/McCain modified amendment No. 2282, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Toomey) amendment No. 2700 (to amendment No. 2282), to require congressional review of certain regulations issued by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Reed/Warren amendment No. 2756 (to amendment No. 2700), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

Lee amendment No. 2366 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2282), to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority does not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

Reed amendment No. 2842 (to amendment No. 2366), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, let me make sure we get into the RECORD as accurately as I am saying right now, to Abe Schumer, that his little boy's most predictable adversary wishes him today a happy birthday.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you. I thank the Senator.

Mr. INHOFE. That was very touching. Thank you very much, I say to my friend, Senator SCHUMER.

Mr. President, I want to start today by giving an update as to where we are in the process for the NDAA.

At 10:30 a.m., which is coming up shortly, we are going to have a cloture vote on TOOMEY's amendment that applies the REINS Act to the CFIUS rule-making process. We all know what that

is. We all know there is opposition. If that vote fails, we will immediately roll into a cloture vote on the substitute amendment. That is our amendment, which we will be considering as the bill. Then, we hope to invoke cloture on the underlying bill this afternoon before we head out of town. If we are able to do that, we will have the final passage vote on Monday when we return.

We are also working diligently as we speak to clear an additional managers' package. One of the things we were talking about, and I have been somewhat critical of some of my fellow Members, is the fact that we have been operating under rules—and we have gone through this in years past; it is almost predictable that one individual will try to use this bill as a must-pass bill. Everyone knows it is going to pass; it has passed for the last 57 years. So, logically, it is where you put an amendment that is very difficult to pass. I don't blame them for that. I would do the same thing. Nonetheless, I wouldn't do it if it caused all other amendments to not be considered.

I am hoping we will be able to have a managers' package. I have reason to believe and I am optimistic about that, and it would be a great thing to have. I don't know how many of these amendments would ultimately be in the managers' package, but we are talking about a lot of amendments, and we have already cleared many amendments.

Anyone who criticizes the process that we are going through right now may not be aware of how many amendments we have considered in our work on this in committee. We are talking about some 300 amendments, and since that time, countless amendments have been agreed to on both sides. That is where we are today.

It will be a great victory for all of us in this Chamber if we can get the managers' amendments agreed to, and hopefully that will be true.

I can't neglect that today is the Army's 243rd birthday. I actually attended a birthday party for the U.S. Army quite a while before a lot of you were even born, when I was in Fort Lee, VA, in the U.S. Army. We would have been celebrating the 180th birthday at that time. Back when we were celebrating the 180th birthday, I never dreamed I would be around to celebrate the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Army.

The Army is actually older than this country is. In 1775, brave Americans joined the cause to fight for the life and liberty we hold so dear now. It is the same motivation that still inspires the service of the men and women who join the Army and, indeed, all of the service branches today.

It is for those men and women that we are here today. That is what this is all about—the NDAA that we are considering today. It has provisions for individuals; it has specific provisions for the men and women on the ground in harm's way, including the largest pay

raise in 10 years. It means more opportunities for qualified servicemembers to receive promotions throughout their careers. I think it is a recognition that in the time in which this is taking place, there is a new emphasis on defending America.

I don't say this critically, but the last administration had a policy which said that we can't put any more money in sequestration for the military unless we do the same for nondefense spending. A lot of people agreed with that. I don't agree with that.

We are now at the point where we have broken parity, so I say to individuals who are making career decisions: Help is on its way; this is a good time to do it. Part of that is because of the modernization of the personnel system in this legislation.

It also authorizes \$40 million for supplemental impact aid support. With an expansion of some military activities, individuals who are involved are exempt from the taxes that support our schools. That is a problem we have. Every State has a problem, but it is probably more severe in Oklahoma than elsewhere. I would like to let individuals in my State of Oklahoma, at five different installations, know that help is on its way, and we are going to try to do a better job with the supplemental impact aid than we have done in the past.

This bill increases funding for the personnel, improving the quality of life for the forces and their families. Most importantly, it increases end strength. It is not as much as I would like to see, but it does grow the force, so servicemembers can have sufficient time to be with their families and train before redeploying.

That is what we are doing right now. It is going to take a lot of additional funding. We are authorizing that funding, and we are going to be rebuilding.

I have to remind people in the outside world who are not here in Washington that we do have a problem. The assumption that America has the best of everything at one time was true, but it is not true. I always document that because it is a pretty strong statement.

Right now, if we look at our artillery in terms of rapid fire and range, both Russia and China have better range and rapid fire than we have in the United States. We know we have done nothing with our nuclear arsenal for the last 10 years. At the same time, our triad system has been static, and Russia and China have improved theirs. They are ahead of us in that area.

There is a new type of defense system that actually has a defense mechanism that goes five times the speed of sound. It is still in the experimental stage, but both China and Russia are ahead of us. The bill we are considering now, ironically on the birthday of the U.S. Army, is going to correct that. It is going to take a little while, but it is ultimately going to correct that.

We have 20 or more minutes before we cast the two very significant votes

that I just mentioned. This is everyone's opportunity to be heard. I am hoping, and I really believe, that individuals who have been somewhat of an obstacle in the past are cooperating at a new level, and I am very excited about that. I hope we will be able to stay on the schedule I just articulated a few minutes ago.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we have two votes coming up. The first vote is the one I strongly support. With this amendment, Senator TOOMEY is looking to do something that has been very successful; that is, to give a little more opportunity for us to oversee some of the overregulations that are out there.

I was very pleased to have the first CRA that was mine, which I authored, to be enacted into law. We have now had 16 CRAs, Congressional Review Act. It is interesting because we went 20 years without having any of them that were taken, and now we have been successful in doing that. It is a stronger position for those of us in the Senate to be able to get some things done. We can safeguard the importance of deregulation, especially for the future, by passing this amendment today.

Senator TOOMEY's amendment will give congressional oversight over the CFIUS rulemaking process, which I think everyone in here knows needs to be done and will be done. It will not slow down the implementation process and still grants CFIUS the necessary flexibility to enact in the name of national security.

After that, we are going to have the vote that is going to allow us to move to a package, and I am hoping we will be able to do it because there has been a lot of talk about not being able to get an open amendment process. We have not had one, and that is unfortunate. If we can get this package of amendments put together—there are going to be quite a few of them—all of them will be cleared on both sides. It is going to be one that people are going to be very anxious to get done. It is going to give voice to many of the Members, probably some 40 Members who otherwise would not have the opportunity to have their amendment agreed to or at least heard. I think we will have that opportunity. It is very important we do it now. Hopefully, that package of amendments is going to be one that will be favorably approved.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 1 minute.

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2700

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I appreciate this broad support we have seen for plugging the holes in our ability to evaluate foreign investment with regard to national security risks in the United States. We know China, for example, has been quite explicit about what it is trying to do to surpass the United States economically and militarily, and it has been very aggressive and very strategic in the way it has tried to acquire intellectual property and know-how through foreign investment in the United States. That is why this legislation is so important.

I admire the Senator from Pennsylvania as one of the most principled conservatives in this body and in Congress, but he and I differ over whether the REINS Act, which would require up-or-down votes on implementing regulations, should be a part of the implementation of this national security legislation. I never dreamed we would do that in a national security context as opposed to doing it in economic and environmental legislation. Reluctantly, I oppose the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania and encourage all of our colleagues to do the same.

I conclude by saying, I share his concerns when it comes to using national security as a pretext on economic legislation and trade issues, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and all of my other colleagues outside of the national security context to make sure we support free and fair trade—trade that protects U.S. interests. With the overstepping of the regulatory bounds by the executive branch on occasion, I am all for rolling that back when we can but not in a national security context like this.

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

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the body for 1 minute.

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I make the case that this amendment we are about to vote on is the simple question of whether we think we ought to be accountable, that we ought to take responsibility for the legislative authority we delegate.

Rulemaking is a legislative function. In this bill—the CFIUS reform bill that is in the NDAA—and on many other occasions, we delegate a portion of that authority—we delegate the rulemaking—to the executive branch, which is fine. Yet we have a responsibility to make sure it gets it right, this administration and future administrations.

This amendment has a mechanism that requires a simple up-or-down vote—it can't be filibustered; it can't be delayed; it is a simple majority vote—to affirm that the rulemaking will actually achieve the legislative attempt. A “no” vote is really a vote to shirk our own responsibility, our constitutional responsibility, since all legislative authority is vested in the Congress of the United States.

I urge a “yes” vote.

#### 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 2700 to amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pat Toomey, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, Mitch McConnell, Ben Sasse, James M. Inhofe, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune, Steve Daines, Ron Johnson.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 2700, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, for the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. TOOMEY, to amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) would have voted “yea.”

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 35, nays 62, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

#### YEAS—35

Alexander	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Perdue
Blunt	Heller	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sullivan
Crapo	Johnson	Thune
Cruz	Kennedy	Tillis
Enzi	Lankford	Toomey
Ernst	Lee	Wicker
Flake	McConnell	Young
Gardner	Moran	

#### NAYS—62

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Harris	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rubio
Burr	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Hoeben	Schatz
Cardin	Jones	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Cotton	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	McCain	Portman
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 35, the nays are 62.

The motion is rejected.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 2282, as modified, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) would have voted “yea.”

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Leg.]

#### YEAS—83

Alexander	Graham	Perdue
Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Heitkamp	Roberts
Booker	Heller	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeben	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schumer
Capito	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Jones	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Smith
Collins	King	Stabenow
Coons	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Thune
Cotton	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Van Hollen
Enzi	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murphy	Wicker
Flake	Murray	Young
Gardner	Nelson	

#### NAYS—14

Cardin	Harris	Paul
Corker	Johnson	Sanders
Durbin	Lee	Warren
Feinstein	Markey	Wyden
Gillibrand	Merkley	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Duckworth	McCain
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2366

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I make a point of order that amendment No. 2366 is not germane.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is well taken. The amendment falls.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2700

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I make a point of order that amendment No. 2700 is not germane.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is well taken. The amendment falls.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2276 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2282, AS MODIFIED

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2276 on behalf of Senator BOOZMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], for Mr. BOOZMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 2276 to amendment No. 2282, as modified.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on the permanent stationing of the United States forces in the Republic of Poland)

Strike section 1254 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 1254. REPORT ON PERMANENT STATIONING OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2019, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility and advisability of permanently stationing United States forces in the Republic of Poland.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the types of permanently stationed United States forces in Poland required to deter aggression by the Russian Federation and execute Department of Defense contingency plans, including combat enabler units in capability areas such as—

(A) combat engineering;  
(B) logistics and sustainment;  
(C) warfighting headquarters elements;  
(D) long-range fires;  
(E) air and missile defense;  
(F) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and  
(G) electronic warfare.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of permanently stationing a United States Army brigade combat team in the Republic of Poland that includes the following:

(A) An assessment whether a permanently stationed United States Army brigade combat team in Poland would enhance deterrence against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe.

(B) An assessment of the actions the Russian Federation may take in response to a United States decision to permanently station a brigade combat team in Poland.

(C) An assessment of the international political considerations of permanently stationing such a brigade combat team in Poland, including within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(D) An assessment whether a such a brigade combat team in Poland would support implementation of the National Defense Strategy.

(E) A description and assessment of the manner in which such a brigade combat team in Poland would affect the ability of the Joint Force to execute Department of Defense contingency plans in Europe.

(F) A description and assessment of the manner in which such a brigade combat team in Poland would affect the ability of the Joint Force to respond to a crisis inside the territory of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally that occurs prior to the invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty by the North Atlantic Council.

(G) An identification and assessment of—  
(i) potential locations in Poland for stationing such a brigade combat team;

(ii) the logistics requirements, including force enablers, equipment, supplies, storage, and maintenance, that would be required to support such a brigade combat team in Poland;

(iii) infrastructure investments by the United States and Poland, including new construction or upgrades of existing sites, that would be required to support such a brigade combat team in Poland;

(iv) any new agreements, or changes to existing agreements, between the United States and Poland that would be required for such a brigade combat team in Poland;

(v) any changes to the posture or capabilities of the Joint Force in Europe that would be required to support such a brigade combat team in Poland; and

(vi) the timeline required to achieve the permanent stationing of such a brigade combat team in Poland.

(H) An assessment of the willingness and ability of the Government of Poland to provide host nation support for such a brigade combat team.

(I) An assessment whether future growth in United States Army end strength may be used to source additional forces for such a brigade combat team in Poland.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AMENDMENT NO. 2885 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2276

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2885 to amendment No. 2276.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] proposes an amendment numbered 2885 to amendment No. 2276.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the amendment)

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 1254A. INEFFECTIVENESS OF SECTION 937.**

Section 937, relating to a Strategic Defense Fellows Program for the Department of Defense, shall have no force or effect.

**SEC. 1254B. JOHN S. MCCAIN STRATEGIC DEFENSE FELLOWS PROGRAM.**

(a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Department of Defense a civilian fellowship program designed to provide leadership development and the commencement of a career track toward senior leadership in the Department.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The fellowship program shall be known as the “John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellows Program” (in this section referred to as the “fellows program”).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible for participation in the fellows program if the individual—

(1) is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident of the United States in the year in which the individual applies for participation in the fellows program; and

(2) either—

(A) possesses a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education in

the United States that was awarded not later than two years before the date of the acceptance of the individual into the fellows program; or

(B) will be awarded a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States not later than six months after the date of the acceptance of the individual into the fellows program.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—Each individual seeking to participate in the fellows program shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall specify.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each application of an individual under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) Transcripts of educational achievement at the undergraduate and graduate level.

(B) A resume.

(C) Proof of citizenship or lawful permanent residence.

(D) An endorsement from the applicant's graduate institution of higher education.

(E) An academic writing sample.

(F) Letters of recommendation addressing the applicant's character, academic ability, and any extracurricular activities.

(G) A personal statement by the applicant explaining career areas of interest and motivations for service in the Department.

(H) Such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Secretary shall select participants in the fellows program from among applicants for the fellows program for such year who qualify for participation in the fellows program based on character, commitment to public service, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and such other qualifications for participation in the fellows program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) NUMBER.—The number of individuals selected to participate in the fellows program in any year may not exceed the numbers as follows:

(A) Ten individuals from each geographic region of the United States as follows:

(i) The Northeast.

(ii) The Southeast.

(iii) The Midwest.

(iv) The Southwest.

(v) The West.

(B) Ten additional individuals.

(3) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.—An individual selected to participate in the fellows program may not participate in the program unless the individual successfully undergoes a background investigation applicable to the position to which the individual will be assigned under the fellows program and otherwise meets such requirements applicable to assignment to a sensitive position within the Department that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) ASSIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each individual who participates in the fellows program shall be assigned to a position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(2) POSITION REQUIREMENTS.—Each Under Secretary of Defense and each Director of a Defense Agency who reports directly to the Secretary shall submit to the Secretary each year the qualifications and skills to be demonstrated by participants in the fellows program to qualify for assignment under this subsection for service in a position of the office of such Under Secretary or Director.

(3) ASSIGNMENT TO POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall each year assign participants in the fellows program to positions in the offices of the Under Secretaries and Directors described in paragraph (2). In making such

assignments, the Secretary shall seek to best match the qualifications and skills of participants in the fellows program with the requirements of positions available for assignment. Each participant so assigned shall serve as a special assistant to the Under Secretary or Director to whom assigned.

(4) TERM.—The term of each assignment under the fellows program shall be one year.

(5) PAY AND BENEFITS.—An individual assigned to a position under the fellows program shall be compensated at the rate of compensation for employees at level GS-10 of the General Schedule, and shall be treated as an employee of the United States during the term of assignment, including for purposes of eligibility for health care benefits and retirement benefits available to employees of the United States.

(6) EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT.—To the extent that funds are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary may repay any loan of a participant in the fellows program if the loan is described by subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 16301(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code. Any repayment of loans under this paragraph shall be on a first-come, first-served basis.

(f) CAREER DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that participants in the fellows program—

(A) receive opportunities and support appropriate for the commencement of a career track within the Department leading toward a future position of senior leadership within the Department, including ongoing mentorship support through appropriate personnel from entities within the Department such as the Defense Business Board and the Defense Innovation Board; and

(B) are provided appropriate opportunities for employment and advancement within the Department upon successful completion of the fellows program.

(2) RESERVATION OF POSITIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall reserve for participants who successfully complete the fellows program not fewer than 30 positions in the excepted service within the Department that are suitable for the commencement of a career track toward senior leadership within the Department. Any position so reserved shall not be subject to or covered by any reduction in headquarters personnel required under any other provision of law.

(3) NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENT.—Upon the successful completion of the assignment of a participant in the fellows program in a position pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary may, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, appoint the participant to a position reserved pursuant to paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines that such appointment will contribute to the development of highly qualified future senior leaders for the Department.

(4) PUBLICATION OF SELECTION.—The Secretary shall publish on an Internet website of the Department available to the public the names of the individuals selected to participate in the fellows program.

(g) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall undertake appropriate outreach to inform potential participants in the fellows program of the nature and benefits of participation in the fellows program.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out this section in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe for purposes of this section.

(i) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide, \$10,000,000 may



be available to carry out the fellows program in such fiscal year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 2273

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I call up the Rounds amendment No. 2273 to the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], for Mr. ROUNDS, proposes an amendment numbered 2273 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2282, as modified.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on participation in the Transition Assistance Program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than February 28, 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on participation in the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, by members of the Armed Forces.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information on the participation of members of the Armed Forces in the Transition Assistance Program during 2018, including the following:

(A) The number of members who were eligible for participation in the Program during 2018, in aggregate and by component of the Armed Forces.

(B) The number of members who participated in the Program during 2018, in aggregate and by component of the Armed Forces, for each service as follows:

(i) Preseparation counseling provided by the Department of Defense.

(ii) Briefings provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(iii) Employment workshops provided by the Department of Labor.

(C) The number of members who did not participate in the Program during 2018 due to a waiver of the participation requirement under section 114(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, for each service set forth in subparagraph (B).

(2) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, considers appropriate to increase participation of members of the Armed Forces in each service set forth in paragraph (1)(B).

(3) Assessments of the Transition Assistance Program by members of the Armed Forces who participated in the Program during 2018, including the following:

(A) A summary of the data obtained by the Department of Defense through assessments of the Program by participants in the Program during 2018, including data obtained through the assessments as follows:

(i) The Transition Goals Plans Success (GPS) Participant Assessment.

(ii) Status of Forces Surveys (SOFS).

(B) A summary of the conclusions derived by the Secretary of Defense from the data described in subparagraph (A).

(4) Such recommendations for improvements to the Transition Assistance Program as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate in light of the data described by paragraph (3)(A) and the conclusions described by paragraph (3)(B), including recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out such improvements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

**TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am glad we are making such great progress on the Defense authorization bill. I know some additional work needs to be done. I wanted to come to the floor and comment briefly on the historic meeting that occurred this last week with North Korean officials in Singapore.

President Trump, Secretary of State Pompeo, National Security Advisor Bolton, and the rest of the American delegation are to be congratulated for having this meeting. It was a historic first step, and I applaud President Trump for taking it. But I reiterate: It was a first step.

To me, it reminds me of boxers entering the ring and touching gloves before the fight begins. It is a warmup for something longer and much more difficult. We need to remain clear-eyed about who we are dealing with and not assume that there isn't hard work to be done.

As one commentator recently put it, North Korean duplicity is normal. We need to remind ourselves of our own history of negotiating with North Korea and our counterpart's record of saying one thing and simply doing another.

The joint agreement signed by President Trump and Kim Jong Un set broad goals whereby the United States made unspecified "security guarantees" and Kim Jong Un recommitted to work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. This agreement set the stage for future engagements between our Secretary of State and his North Korean counterpart.

By saying it is a first step—or, like two boxers, touching gloves before the fight begins—I don't want to suggest in any way that this was unimportant. I think it is dramatically important because I can't think of any other place in the world where a misstep or a miscalculation could lead to so much bloodshed, heartache, and conflict. While we know that the military option must always be the last option, diplomacy is always welcome and is facilitated by a strong military and preparedness. But now the followup negotiations will be led by Secretary Pompeo, and I have every confidence that he will ably lead those.

He has said that the United States hopes to achieve "major disarmament" of North Korea's nuclear arsenal during the next 2½ years but added emphatically that we will resume joint military exercises with South Korea if the talks stall.

I think this represents the right approach. Aim for the best, while remain-

ing vigilant and preparing for all possible obstacles and outcomes.

President Trump has said that sanctions against North Korea will remain in effect until we are sure that nuclear weapons are no longer a factor. I applaud this stance of maximum pressure. We shouldn't take our foot off the gas at this point because that is what brought us to this historic meeting in the first place.

I believe the United States should remain committed to the permanent, verifiable, and irreversible dismantling of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, and I wish Secretary Pompeo luck as he continues followup discussions in South Korea to help accomplish the goal that we seek.

As Speaker RYAN said last week, President Trump has now "disrupted the status quo." I like the way he expressed that. President Trump—if nothing—is good at disrupting the status quo, but here, when it comes to North Korea, it is enormously positive when the status quo includes a brutal dictatorship that commits flagrant human rights violations, has a state-controlled economy, is starving its own people in order to build nuclear weapons, and has shown contempt for international norms and global diplomacy. I would say that the careful and cautious kind of "disruption" is exactly the right thing to do.

Our colleagues across the aisle seem to agree, and I am grateful for that. Not everything needs to be a partisan issue here in Washington, DC. In a statement, the junior Senator from Vermont called the summit earlier this week "a positive step in de-escalating tensions." I saw that former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper made similar positive remarks. We will have to wait and see how this story unfolds, but the President is to be commended, first for ensuring that the summit took place at all and, then, for providing us with hope for a path forward.

**FARM BILL**

Mr. President, another item of business today is the farm bill, which I hope we will take up promptly here in the Senate. Fortunately, it passed the Senate Agriculture Committee yesterday by a vote of 20-to-1. Thanks to Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW, this bipartisan compromise is a fair and equitable bill that does not favor one region of the country over another. I have found in my time in the Senate that agricultural issues and the farm bill don't pit Democrats against Republicans so much as it pits one region of the country against another, which makes it even more challenging—kind of like a Rubik's Cube to figure out. But the near unanimous vote is a testament to the collaboration and bipartisanship of the leaders of the committee. They deserve the respect and appreciation of us all, especially those of us who hail from States where agriculture has such a dominant presence, like my State



and like the State of the Presiding Officer.

The farm bill is always a significant piece of legislation because it helps to ensure that Americans, and many other people who depend upon our food supply, enjoy access to the safest, most affordable, and most reliable food supply in the world. We have to remember that in many non-Western countries, you can't just walk up to a store and know that what you want will be there on the shelf or that it will be affordable or that it will be safe to even eat. The farm bill helps to ensure that we continue to enjoy each of those things, knowing that we can walk into a store, that we will find what we want, that it will be affordable, and that it will be safe to eat.

This year's farm bill will be hugely impactful for farmers and ranchers in my State of Texas. Among its most noteworthy provisions are protecting seed cotton eligibility for the farm bill safety net. In the supplemental funding bill we passed last February, we worked hard to include this language, returning cotton to the safety net. This helped cotton growers compete on a level playing field after years of depressed prices.

So I want to thank Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW, as well as the rest of the committee, for ensuring that this policy continues and that cotton farmers have the long-term predictability they deserve under the farm bill.

This year's bill also retains and strengthens the Price Loss Coverage Program to help provide Texas producers with predictability throughout unstable weather and natural disasters. That comes as great news this year, especially, when we are all well aware that much of the Texas Panhandle, as well as much of the rest of my State, remains under severe, or even exceptional, drought conditions.

Additionally, the bill promotes animal health and reauthorizes disease research programs, including a crucial one that will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture research and contain the spread of cattle fever tick. This is a parasite-carrying insect with the potential to wipe out cattle herds and cause devastating financial losses.

The research programs that we are promoting will help farmers and ranchers all across the country. I know the senior Senator from Minnesota, for example, has been concerned about avian influenza in her State, and I am glad that we were able to work together to ensure that these important research programs, with all of their implications, are authorized in the bill.

On top of that, the farm bill will strengthen crop insurance and other crop management tools and enhance incentive programs that help the agriculture community conserve soil and water.

Finally, the bill encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture research partnerships, including those at Texas

A&M, Texas Tech, and Prairie View A&M, to promote more productive and profitable farming, and it will assist Texas farmers and ranchers in placing and selling their products in foreign markets.

I know Senator MCCONNELL intends to take the farm bill up on the floor as soon as possible, and I look forward to supporting its swift passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up amendment No. 2304.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, this amendment very simply directs the Postmaster General to issue a Forever Stamp to honor Gold Star families who have lost a family member in combat. It is about as simple and straightforward as an amendment to this immensely complex and costly measure could be.

We are now in the second decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at humongous costs to our Nation: In treasure, some \$5 trillion, and in lives, close to 7,000 Americans have perished.

On this Flag Day, and at the beginning of the Father's Day weekend, I ask that this body approve an amendment that very simply would issue and direct the Postmaster to issue a Forever Stamp commemorating the sacrifice and loss of our Gold Star families.

All of us in this body have attended funerals. We have seen firsthand the losses suffered by brave Americans, their families, their loved ones, their friends, their dads, and their moms. All of us ought to be joining in paying tribute to those families by directing the Postmaster General to issue a Forever Stamp, which will be valid for whatever time it is used.

There is precedent for this kind of stamp. In fact, I was reminded of it by a friend and constituent, Joe Kaliko of Greenwich, CT, who was inspired by his childhood stamp collection to suggest a stamp for Gold Star families, permanently recognizing and commemorating these national heroes. The stamp was issued in 1947 for Gold Star mothers. It expired about a year thereafter. Since then, this Nation has never issued such a stamp again, but there is no better time than now to recognize this service and sacrifice.

This amendment is a very simple way to pay tribute to Americans who have lost loved ones in wars that we have permitted and authorized to go forward. Indeed, this defense bill has more than \$700 billion, and a good part of it will be in support of continued American service and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So my question to colleagues is: Who knows better about whether this stamp ought to be issued, the Postmaster General or ourselves? Their objection is that somehow there is bad precedent here in Congress authorizing a Forever Stamp. We ought to be proud of that precedent because this cause is different. Especially as we pass a measure that will support continued war efforts in defense of our Nation, protecting our national security, we ought to be especially mindful of the need to remember and pay tribute to families who have sacrificed loved ones in the service of our country.

I know that every one of my colleagues joins me in this feeling. I hope that every one of my colleagues will join me in making that feeling known to the Postmaster General. This amendment is one way of doing it.

To all of us whose sons or daughters have served—as two of mine have—during this period of war, we must be haunted by the idea that we could be one of those Gold Star families. No doubt, some of my colleagues have been touched directly and immediately—I would say almost all of us—by friends, neighbors, or relatives who have suffered these losses. Let us remember them in this special way, as the Nation did after World War II. Let us remember the moms and the dads on Father's Day, on Flag Day, and on every day.

I want to speak more generally about the National Defense Authorization Act because it is a vital and profoundly significant step toward sustaining our national defense and security.

In an era of unprecedented threats to our great Nation, the dangers have never been greater. The need for this defense—particularly in areas and domains where we are at a disadvantage, like cyber—is critically important.

The United States is the strongest and greatest Nation in the history of the world. Militarily, we have no peer. But other nations are rapidly advancing in many of the spaces and domains where our advantage was secure. In undersea warfare, in space and cyber and robotic combat, we must invest.

We need to invest not only in the hardware but also in the people—in the men and women who fight, who put their lives on the line, who wear the uniform and, equally, in the men and women who make the arms and equipment and weapons platforms they take into combat. They should never have a fair fight. The defense industrial base requires skill and training so they can make the submarines, helicopters, and Joint Strike Fighters, which we do in Connecticut and in States around this country.

The men and women who make that stuff are equally important to our national defense, and their skill training and jobs are vital to our national security. I think we need to recognize that education and training are vital parts of our defense, even though they may not be included in this bill.

I was proud to author a provision which will ensure that survivors of military sexual trauma, assault, and harassment are eligible for “liberal consideration” during discharge upgrade petition.

Throughout my service in the Senate, I have worked to improve discharge upgrade provisions to ensure that servicemember petitions are treated fairly and expeditiously. This policy change was a crucial next step in reforming that discharge petition upgrade process.

Another provision I have led will require a zero tolerance policy toward domestic violence in the military, a long overdue provision which will ensure that offenders in the armed services are held accountable and referred to the FBI.

In defending our Nation against Russian cyber attacks, a provision in this year’s NDAA will authorize USCYBERCOM to detect, deter, and defend against Russian information and weapons cyber warfare campaigns that target American Government officials. We should be doing vastly more against cyber attacks from Russia and other adversaries around the world, rather than coddling or cozying up to them, as this administration seems to want to do repeatedly. We should be recognizing they are attacking us, literally, daily in the cyber domain.

This legislation will invest in that defense industrial base, which is so vital in Connecticut and elsewhere. I am proud that Connecticut plays such a vital role in our defense industry. Five percent of our country’s defense contract spending is done in Connecticut, and every dollar is critical to our national security, involving the production of submarines, electric boats, and F-35 engines at Pratt & Whitney, and helicopters at Sikorsky, notably the heavy lift CH-53. Submarines, fighters, and helicopters are proudly produced in this arsenal of democracy.

Groton, CT, is the submarine capital of the world. This bill will support submarines and this important naval installation. The NDAA includes nearly \$3.8 billion for the Columbia-class program and \$4.4 billion for two Virginia-class submarines. I fought to include an additional \$250 million in funding above the President’s request for over \$3 billion in advance procurement of attack submarines to achieve the Navy’s goals of 66 attack submarines for the 355-ship Navy the Nation needs. These submarines are not a luxury or convenience. They are the stealthiest, most versatile, strongest weapons platform we have, capable of delivering surveillance and special operators and cruise missiles and other vital means of war.

I have also championed more than \$10.4 billion in funding for 75 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters across the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps Services for the only fifth-generation fighter in production. I am so glad the administra-

tion is now supporting the F-35, after the President expressed doubts at the beginning of this administration. The bill also includes \$1 billion for F-35 modernization and spares.

The 2019 NDAA includes very robust funding for helicopter production. Sikorsky helicopters, made in Stratford, CT, have served our Nation for decades. It will support collaboration involving the University of Connecticut and the Navy, \$25 million above the President’s request in research and development funding for warship partnerships.

As we consider these floor amendments, I want to emphasize one amendment that I have filed concerning the current immigration crisis; specifically, the predicament of unaccompanied minors.

In May, Attorney General Jeff Sessions declared that the Justice Department would prosecute every person who illegally enters the country and separate children from their parents. Previously, families apprehended at the border were released as they waited for civil deportation hearings, but this new, cruel policy will tear apart countless families. It has already separated literally thousands of children of immigrant families from their moms and, yes, on this Father’s Day, from their dads.

These heartless family-separation policies are made even more inhumane with the announcement that the Trump administration plans to house these immigrant children, who have been separated from their parents, on military bases. The only reason the Trump administration is even considering detaining children on military installations is because the number they are tearing away from their moms and dads exceeds the facilities they have available right now. The Department of Health and Human Services has already visited four military installations—both in Texas and Arkansas—to assess whether they can be used to shelter children.

Just this week, we also heard that the Trump administration is looking to construct “tent cities”—yes, “tent cities”—along the southern border to house unaccompanied migrant children.

This practice ought to make us ashamed and embarrassed as Americans. It is appalling. I am ashamed that the United States is not only actively destroying families and indefinitely detaining children but also using military bases to do this. Turning military installations into detention camps is a disservice to our brave military men and women. Using our military installations to in effect imprison children separated from their parents mocks their purpose and disrespects our brave men and women in uniform who rightly use them in the defense of our Nation.

My amendment in the NDAA would explicitly prohibit the Department of Defense from using any funding authorized in this defense spending pack-

age to revise or rebuild or renovate military bases to house these undocumented, unaccompanied minors.

I urge my colleagues to speak out about this disgusting and dangerous policy—not only the separation of children from their moms and dads but also the use of our cherished military bases for that purpose.

I am also proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up to the threat posed by two Chinese telecommunications companies—Huawei and ZTE. This bipartisan opposition to their continued business is a testament to our ability to work across the aisle in defense of our Nation.

Our military and intelligence leaders have repeatedly warned that ZTE and Huawei threaten the security of our networks due to their close ties to the Chinese Government. They have also violated our sanctions, broken our law, and provided equipment and services to rogue regimes, such as Iran and North Korea.

President Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross may be willing to overlook ZTE’s track record, but Congress will not do so. Our amendment, which has been included in the managers’ package, will prohibit ZTE and Huawei technologies and equipment from entering the networks of the U.S. Government and its contractors for the safety and security of all of us.

It is not just an intellectual point; it is a practical security measure. These two companies are instruments of Chinese influence, and they are peddling that influence throughout the world. We will ensure through this provision that these two telecommunications companies beholden to the Chinese Government are not a part of our communications system in this great Nation.

I am proud to support this NDAA.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, the Constitution charges Congress with the authority and the responsibility to raise and support armies and provide and maintain a navy. It is a responsibility this body takes very seriously. That is why for over 50 years the National Defense Authorization Act has been signed into law each and every year. It is the only piece of legislation with this long history of consistently being passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. This history is a reflection of the importance of the policies and funding authorizations within the bill.

I am particularly proud of what this bill includes to support Michigan’s important contributions to our national defense. For example, the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base flies the A-10 and in 2015 deployed in the fight against ISIS. As a result of their outstanding performance, the 127th Wing won the Spaatz Trophy as the top flying unit in the Air National Guard,

as well as the Meritorious Unit Award following their deployment.

The A-10 is without question a great airplane, but it is also getting old. The A-10 fleet will require wing replacements in order to continue to fly those important missions. That is why I worked to include an authorization for an additional \$65 million for A-10 wing replacement, bringing the bill's total investment in new A-10 wings to over \$144 million. These funds will help pay for new wings for a full squadron's worth of A-10 aircraft, which are vital for close air support and combat search and rescue missions. Our troops on the ground know that when they hear the iconic roar of an A-10, help is on the way. A-10 pilots and maintainers are proud of their mission, as they should be. This bill works to ensure that these aircraft will keep flying.

The legislation also includes an additional \$70 million for the next-generation combat vehicle prototype. The Detroit Arsenal in Warren will be the home of the Army's cross-functional team for the next-generation combat vehicle, reporting to the Army Futures Command.

This important work on developing the future of the Army's ground vehicles will continue to occur in Southeast Michigan, taking advantage of many of the automotive manufacturers and suppliers that are shaping the future of mobility.

Just as the commercial automotive industry is developing connected and autonomous vehicles that will change the future of transportation forever, the next-generation combat vehicle and other concepts developed by the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineer Center, TARDEC, will change the future of warfare.

All self-driving vehicles, whether they are developed for the military or for the auto industry, rely on artificial intelligence and machine learning. Artificial intelligence powers autonomous systems but can also reform the business practices of the Pentagon. AI can help with personnel management and purchasing practices and find insights and efficiencies that are difficult to find unless you can manipulate and analyze the Department's massive amounts of data.

Artificial intelligence will have an enormous impact on our economy, and that is why it is essential that the United States make significant investments in AI development and that we lead the world in developing this capability. We know that our competitors are taking AI very seriously. China has developed a national strategy to develop its AI capabilities, and Vladimir Putin has said that whoever leads in AI will rule the world. The United States must lead the way on artificial intelligence to best shape the future economy and our country, to strengthen our national security, and to address the moral and ethical questions that arise with any new technology.

Without question, the United States needs our own coordinated strategy on AI. That is why I wrote a provision in the bill that designates a senior official for artificial intelligence at the Department of Defense and cuts redtape, letting that person utilize all of the flexibilities Congress has provided to the Pentagon.

It is also important that we take steps to protect American ingenuity and innovation generally. That is why I also authored a provision in the bill that will allow the Department of Defense to require that companies and researchers receiving defense contracts not share new technologies and capabilities developed with any foreign entity, and if they do, they will lose the rights to that intellectual property. This will help ensure that investments made by DARPA and the DOD labs are not shared with our competitors.

Additionally, this bill also includes reform to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS. CFIUS works to ensure that investments in U.S. companies made by foreign investors do not threaten national security by providing other countries with access to the crown jewels of U.S. technology.

In closing, Madam President, I wish to point out that this bill is named for Chairman JOHN MCCAIN. We all know his presence is missed on the Armed Services Committee, as well as throughout the entire Senate. I wish him a speedy recovery. I am keeping him and his family in my prayers.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 2276

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the amendment the senior Senator from Arkansas has offered to the H.R. 5515, the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. Senator BOOZMAN's amendment is a thoughtful one. It proposes to solicit information from the Department of Defense to help us carefully think through our response to the changed strategic situation in Europe. Russia's military aggression and Military incursions in Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere have made it abundantly clear that we are no longer in the security environment that provided the context for the commitments we made in the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act.

The United States and Poland have a long record of highly effective cooperation in military matters. Poland has made important contributions to operations in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, and an American-led NATO battle group in Poland is playing an important role in reinforcing NATO's eastern flank today.

Still, a decision to permanently deploy U.S. forces to the territory of even such a stalwart ally should not be taken lightly. This amendment wisely requests that the Department of Defense provide its assessment of a number of factors that we will need to weigh when deciding whether to take

such a step, including the reactions we should anticipate from other allies, possible responses by Russia, and more practical considerations including cost and timing.

Poland needs no reminder about the external threats it faces. After all, it borders Ukraine. However, Poland faces an enemy within: democratic backsliding, which plays into Vladimir Putin's hands as he aims to undermine democratic values across Europe.

Since 2015, the Polish Government has challenged constitutionalism, eroded checks and balances, and indulged in historical revisionism. The breadth and depth of the government's actions led the European Commission to conclude in December that Poland's "executive and legislative branches have been systematically enabled to politically interfere in the composition, powers, administration and functioning of the judicial branch."

I discussed these concerns in a meeting with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Marek Magierowski in February, including a controversial law, introduced on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which may actually impede research, scholarship, and journalism about the Holocaust. The Department of State rightly observed that this law might have repercussions for "Poland's strategic interests and relationships—including with the United States and Israel. The resulting divisions that may arise among our allies benefit only our rivals."

Independence of the judiciary will take another hit on July 3, when a new law will go into effect forcing the early retirement of up to 40 percent of Poland's 120-member supreme court, the reintroduction of the Soviet-era feature of "lay judges," and make final judgments subject to "extraordinary appeals." These developments—very concerning both for Poland and the region—should be part of the administration's dialogue with Warsaw on comprehensive transatlantic security.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to highlight an issue concerning the industrial base that supports the strategic TRIAD. Currently the Air Force is developing the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent or GBSD. This will be the Nation's new land-based intercontinental ballistic missile and will replace the venerable Minuteman Three. Nearly 50 years ago, when Minuteman was built, there were five companies capable of producing large solid rocket motors. The industrial base that produces large solid rocket motors for the Nation's strategic TRIAD has shrunk to two, and if the GBSD program is not handled carefully, it could soon shrink to one. With each new missile likely to have three large solid rocket motors, it is important to maintain multiple companies that can produce them.

This problem was clearly identified in April 2018 when the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment released the Department of Defense's Annual Industrial Capabilities Report. I would encourage my

colleagues to go read the entire report for themselves. The report can be found at <http://www.businessdefense.gov/Portals/51/Documents/Resources/2017%20AIC%20RTC%2005-17-2018%20-%20Public%20Release.pdf?ver=2018-05-17-224631-340>.

The report is quite lengthy; however, I would like to read one paragraph from page 85, which accurately synthesizes the lack of oversight of the large solid rocket motor industrial base: "Maintaining a healthy and competitive solid rocket motor industrial base is also of concern to the Department. Solid rocket motors for tactical missiles are produced in a nearly even split between the two domestic suppliers, Orbital ATK and Aerojet Rocketdyne. However, in the very near future all the large solid rocket motors for strategic missiles and space launch will be produced by Orbital ATK."

Aerojet Rocketdyne has managed to maintain their large solid rocket motor capability for now with production of the boosters for the United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V space launch vehicle, and small development investments from the GBSD program. But ULA has chosen Orbital ATK's boosters to replace Aerojet Rocketdyne's on Atlas and future launch vehicles, leaving Aerojet Rocketdyne with no large solid rocket motor production. Aerojet Rocketdyne has chosen to close their Sacramento large solid rocket motor production facility.

While they have plans to reconstitute this capability at their Camden facility, they may not do so if they are not part of the winning team for GBSD, producing at least one solid rocket motor stage. This potentially leaves the United States with a single large solid rocket motor supplier, which can lead to cost increases due to lack of competition, decreases in internal research and development efforts, and risk of security of supply if a catastrophic accident should occur."

I am very concerned about what the Under Secretary has revealed in this report. I believe that the Nation must avoid a monopoly provider situation for the very reasons stated in the report. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe that we have a duty to be proper stewards of the defense industrial base, both for our current warfighters and for those who will follow. This is an issue that I will continue to monitor, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwith-

standing rule XXII, all postcloture time expire at 1:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of Senators, this sets up a series of votes this afternoon. We should expect three to four votes during this series.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

STEPHEN MICHAEL GLEASON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL BILL

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor to honor Washington State's finest, Spokane native and Washington State University Cougar Steve Gleason. I know my Senate colleagues will be here later this afternoon to do the same. My colleagues from Louisiana and Washington have introduced legislation to award Steve the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress's highest honor. I look forward to seeing this legislation pass later today by unanimous consent.

Many Washingtonians remember Steve as a standout student athlete whose dedication in the classroom earned him repeated academic honors and whose dominance on the football field and baseball diamond set records and dazzled fans. Everybody back home is pulling for Steve.

Instead of Steve going to the Seahawks, he signed with the New Orleans Saints. He quickly became a fan favorite for his work ethic and the joy he brought to the game.

In his first game back under the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina, he blocked a punt that was returned for a touchdown. It is a play I know Saints' fans around the country still remember fondly.

It is not Steve's athletic feats at Washington State University or in the Superdome that make him worth recognition, it is his perseverance, determination, his unbreakable spirit in the face of ALS, and his dogged advocacy for people who have been impacted by this disease.

That is why Steve is such an inspiration to the people of Spokane, throughout the State of Washington, and across the United States. Through his public advocacy and collaboration with Congress, Steve helped pass the Steve Gleason Act, which ensures that people with ALS and other degenerative diseases can access speech-generating devices, whether at home or in a health facility.

His leadership with the Gleason Initiative Foundation brought together the largest ALS research project in the world, and his work has helped us improve the lives of countless individuals who have been impacted by this disease.

We could not be more proud of him, and that is why we are here today, to make sure this legislation gives that appropriate recognition. Steve Gleason said: "Our potential is not contained in our physical bodies, but rather in our mind and in our spirit."

I so appreciate all he has done to help fight this disease. He has been such a leader in communicating the needs of those with ALS and showing the progress we all can make. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up en bloc: amendments Nos. 2289, 2295, 2300, 2322, 2365, 2440, 2441, 2464, 2486, 2509, 2544, 2550, 2579, 2587, 2589, 2598, 2600, 2611, 2617, 2623, 2633, 2634, 2653, 2654, 2686, 2691, 2695, 2721, 2723, 2729, 2737, 2742, 2755, 2758, 2768, 2794, 2799, 2800, 2810, 2815, 2818, 2830, 2862, 2863, and 2887. I further ask consent that these amendments be considered en bloc; that it be in order for the Lee amendment No. 2366 to be called up, and that there be up to an hour of debate on the amendments to run concurrently, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the en bloc amendments and the Lee amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I will object.

My colleague from Utah, who is a very smart man on the Judiciary Committee, like I am—I don't know if I am smart, but we are on the same committee—we are actually making progress here.

Just briefly, Senator CRUZ has had an amendment that says if someone is suspected of being part of an enemy force, they will have a hearing to strip their citizenship, which avoids the problem Senator LEE and I have. He is trying to combine that with his amendment.

Unfortunately, there is no ability to hold them as an enemy combatant during that process—and maybe we can work that out later—so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I appreciate the efforts made by my friend and distinguished colleague, the Senator from South Carolina. I wish to speak concerning the purpose for my making this request. I do so with great respect for this body, for its customs, its traditions, its rules, and for each of its Members.

At the same time, it is imperative that we point out what is happening. We have a bill—one of the most consequential pieces of legislation we vote on each year—the National Defense Authorization Act. We have been effectively shut out of a meaningful amendment process, one that has historically marked this body as one of its distinguishing characteristics; one that has historically helped this body to refer to itself as the world's greatest deliberative legislative body.

We have tested that in recent months and years as Members have started objecting with increasing frequency to

anyone getting a vote on any amendment they don't like, that they object to. The amendment at issue is based on a bipartisan piece of legislation called the Due Process Guarantee Act. I am the lead sponsor, along with my lead cosponsor, the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN.

The purpose of this amendment is simple. It is to make sure the U.S. Government has no authority and claims no authority to indefinitely detain U.S. citizens apprehended on U.S. soil. Most people listening to this—anyone listening to it—would think, why on Earth would we need legislation stating something so obvious? The fact is, we shouldn't.

It is the inexorable command of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments, not to mention other statutory and constitutional protections, that the indefinite detention without charge, without trial, without access to a jury, without access to counsel—these kinds of things are anathema to our way of life, to our constitutional system of laws.

Why then do we need this amendment? Well, about 7 years ago, toward the end of 2011, when Congress was considering, then ultimately passed, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, Congress included in that legislation a provision, section 2021 of that bill, that purported to give the U.S. Government that authority in certain circumstances.

In other words, there were circumstances based on the accusations against you, as an American citizen, that you could be apprehended on U.S. soil and held indefinitely without charge or trial. This violates everything we know about our system of government. It violates everything we know about the laws of any decent nation—any nation that recognizes the fundamental, essentially eternal dignity of the human soul. This is not something we do in the United States.

I raised objections to it at the time. I tried to fix it at the time. It didn't happen. The following year, late in 2012, when we were addressing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, toward the end of 2012, I introduced an amendment that is substantially identical to the one I am trying to seek a vote on today. It passed by a bipartisan supermajority vote. There were 67 Members who voted for this. That is more than a majority; more than the three-fifths it needed to close debate. In fact, it is equal to the sum required when you are proposing a constitutional amendment out of this body or trying to override a Presidential veto. That is what we had.

For reasons that escape me, that provision was removed in the Conference Committee when the Conference Committee was trying to recognize competing House and Senate versions of the bill. In the subsequent 6 years, I tried repeatedly to get a vote on this amendment again, recognizing that it passed overwhelmingly and that it was

inexplicably removed from the bill during the Conference Committee. Promise after promise has been made to help me get a vote on that amendment, which ever since hasn't panned out.

We have an opportunity to consider it here. Yesterday, something interesting happened. Yesterday, there was a motion to table this amendment. In other words, there were some Members of this body who didn't want to consider it at all so they made a motion to table. When you table something in the Senate, you are setting it aside, setting it on the table, saying: We are not going to address that. Do you know what happened? There were 68 people who voted against that motion to table. In other words, 68 people voted that we should have a vote on this amendment. That is more than a majority, more than the three-fifths or 60 needed to close debate. That is more than the threshold required to propose a constitutional amendment or override a Presidential veto.

Why then are we not discussing this? Why are we not voting on it so we have a number of amendments? You may have heard me reciting a series of about three dozen four-digit numbers, each referring to a separate amendment being proposed for a so-called managers' package.

If we are going to further amend this bill, we need to consider those with a vote, and we need a vote on my amendment. Yesterday, 68 Members of this body agreed that we should be considering this.

Ask any American you know—your friends, your neighbors, I don't care what State they live in, what party they identify with, where they go to church or synagogue, whether they are believers in God, regardless of their background, their socioeconomic status, what they do for a living—you ask people from almost any background, and I can almost guarantee you they are going to call this a no-brainer.

Why would we not want to remove a pernicious provision from a piece of Federal law that passed a few years ago, purporting to authorize the Federal Government to indefinitely detain U.S. citizens, without charge or trial or jury or counsel, based merely on the nature of the allegations against them? This is wrong, and the wrongness of that provision, which could be corrected by my amendment, is compounded still by the refusal of this body, by the refusal of 1 Member of this body, 1 Member out of 100, to allow us to get a vote on this. We must vote on this.

If we are going to lay claim to any type of status as the world's greatest deliberative legislative body, we have to start voting on amendments again. We have steadily, sadly, tragically relinquished that right by acquiescence.

As of today, I say no more. It has to stop. Let us vote on this. We will continue to push this. The laws of the United States and the principles that govern the behavior of decent people

everywhere dictate we should correct this error in the law.

I implore my colleagues, I implore my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from South Carolina, let us vote on this amendment.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Montana.

FLAG DAY

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Last year, just a few miles down the road in Virginia, a disabled World War II veteran, Richard Cohen, woke up to his burned American flag on his doorstep. Let me say that again. Richard Cohen, who was wounded by German machine-gun fire while defending our freedom in World War II, woke up to his American flag desecrated on his doorstep.

Unfortunately, this is just one of many astonishing stories of our American flag being ruined. In fact, since 2014, there have been 50 known offensive acts of American flag burning. That is 50 times that our symbol of freedom—that thousands of Americans have paid the ultimate sacrifice for—was destroyed.

That is why I am here today, Flag Day, to speak about my constitutional amendment that would prohibit the burning of the American flag. The colors of the flag—red, white, and blue—symbolize valor, purity, and perseverance. The American flag represents our Nation's history and the character of our Nation's Founding Fathers.

Beginning with those Founding Fathers, the American flag represents the patriotism and dedication of men and women who fought to defend our Nation's freedom when our country was founded more than 200 years ago today. Thousands of brave and selfless men and women have given their lives in sacrifice and service to our country and in defense of our flag.

That is why I have introduced this constitutional amendment to provide Congress with the authority to prohibit burning of the American flag. Our flag should be protected in honor of the countless American servicemembers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend it.

It is no wonder, by overwhelming majorities, our veterans and organizations like the American Legion support this because they have been on the frontlines defending our freedom.

Our veterans are the best example of why America is still the greatest country on Earth and why our freedoms and our liberties are worth defending.

In the words of that World War II veteran Richard Cohen, "I served under that flag and I bled for it, really, and it was a personal affront."

The American flag has been a symbol of hope, a symbol of freedom for centuries, and it ought to be respected. On this day, Flag Day, may God continue to bless our troops, our veterans, and this great United States of America.

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. HOEVEN. 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. HOEVEN. Mr. President, there is a reason we have passed the National Defense Authorization Act every year for the past 57 years, and that is because it is vital for the men and women who take responsibility for defending our country. Passing the Defense authorization bill is one of the most important things we do in this Chamber, and I look forward to passing the bill that we have before us out of the Senate and getting it through conference and signed into law very soon.

I want to start by briefly thanking the bill managers for including a number of my amendments, but one I will mention that they have added to the managers' package is an amendment that requires the Air Force and the National Nuclear Security Administration to submit a joint progress report every 6 months on their efforts to develop a new nuclear cruise missile capability. This will help ensure that their efforts are synchronized and that we stay on schedule. The nuclear cruise missile is an important part of our deterrent, and I am grateful for the committee's willingness to work with me on this amendment and include it in the managers' package.

This year's legislation certainly contains its share of noteworthy provisions. I will not be able to mention them all, but I do want to talk about some of them here today. For example, it authorizes a 2.6-percent pay raise for members of the armed services, which is the highest pay raise we have been able to include in more than a decade. It is something they very much deserve.

Thanks to the good work of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the bill also takes important steps to modernize the personnel system to provide greater career flexibility and make sure we can meet the needs of the professionals who serve across our magnificent Armed Forces.

In addition to personnel matters, I am pleased to note that the legislation supports our Nation's strategic priorities as reflected in the National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and the Nuclear Posture Review. Those documents rightly point out that we face emerging challenges from Russia and China. While we hope to avoid confrontation with these nations, there is no question we are in competition with them, and this year's NDAA helps align our forces to make sure we maintain our competitive advantage.

This legislation also authorizes significant numbers of fighter aircraft and additional numbers of submarines and surface ships. The reason we are able to do that is that we, in the budget agreement this year, provided more funding

authority for our military, which, again, is something we very much needed to do.

This legislation also fully authorizes the nuclear modernization program aimed at sustaining and modernizing all three legs of the nuclear triad, as well as extending the service lives of our nuclear warheads. Modernizing our nuclear forces is extremely important for our national security, as well as to my home State. In my State, the Minot Air Force Base is home to two of the three legs of the triad—bombers and ICBMs. These men and women of the Minot Air Force Base are on the frontlines of vital missions, and updating our nuclear force will help ensure they continue to fulfill this vital role in coming decades. In just the past few months, I have visited that base, and we have had ongoing deployments to the Korean Peninsula, based TDY out of Guam, as well as to the Middle East, taking an important role in what is going on in Iraq and Syria.

I also want to highlight in this legislation the Air Force's plan to replace the engines on the venerable B-52 aircraft, something I have worked on quite a bit. We expect that aircraft, which has been a workhorse for us for many years, to remain a key element of not only our nuclear deterrent but also an important component of our conventional bomber force for decades to come. New engines will help keep it flying and ensure that it will continue to fulfill those vital roles.

The legislation also provides for significant investment in emerging technologies that will position our forces to remain the most capable military on Earth, including investments in hypersonic weapons and directed energy weapons.

Another base in my State, the Grand Forks Air Force Base, has the Global Hawk mission. This legislation makes sure we continue support for the Global Hawk, which is an unmanned aircraft that provides an incredibly important role in ISR—intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance—which is a very important part of our global reach.

This legislation also authorizes the annual military construction program, with an Army readiness center in Fargo, ND, and a helicopter operations facility at the Minot Air Force Base representing two examples of military construction projects made possible through this legislation. Again, these are things I have worked hard on, as well as other support for our National Guard in my State and across the country.

This bill includes language that provides higher allowances for Guard members on lengthy or numerous deployments. It also addresses Federal delays in recognizing promotions for National Guard and Reserve members, who play such an important role in our Armed Forces.

There are too many provisions to go through all of them, obviously, but the point is we need to pass this legislation

for our men and women in uniform. We have the finest armed services in the world, and they deserve our careful and deliberate attention to ensure they have the benefits they deserve, the tools they need, and the support that we owe them.

Again, I look forward to completing work on this legislation, and then, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee—and I am on the Defense Appropriations Committee as well—I will work hard to make sure we have the appropriate funding to go with the authorization we provide in this legislation to make absolutely sure we support our incredible men and women in uniform. We owe them so much, and it is an honor and privilege to work on their behalf.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I want to take a second to thank Senator INHOFE and Senator REED and their staffs for all of their hard work on getting us to this point on the Defense authorization bill, which is so very important.

Through the European Deterrence Initiative, we have made important progress in preparing U.S. forces and allies to address Russian threats to American interests and the international order that protects them.

I was just in Poland visiting U.S. forces with Senators INHOFE, CAPITO, and ENZI. We saw firsthand the work they are doing to preposition equipment and to establish the necessary footprint to sustain operations.

The NDAA contains a provision that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of permanently stationing a U.S. Army brigade combat team in Poland. This amendment would require a report to accompany the assessment, detailing the requirements for combat enablers to deter aggression by Russia and to execute the Department of Defense's contingency plans. Combat enablers are the essential noncombat force that helps to maintain our defense posture around the globe.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment as the Senate continues to play its oversight role to ensure that we defend our interests and our allies in Europe against Russian aggression.

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



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

AMENDMENT NO. 2273 WITHDRAWN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 2273.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2273) was withdrawn.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2885

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Reed amendment would name a fellowship program on behalf of Senator JOHN MCCAIN. I can't think of anything more fitting, in addition to the naming of this bill, than naming this fellowship program on behalf of Senator MCCAIN.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in voting unanimously for Senator MCCAIN's fellowship program.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2885, offered by the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

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 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Coons	Graham
Baldwin	Corker	Grassley
Barrasso	Cornyn	Harris
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blumenthal	Cotton	Hatch
Blunt	Crapo	Heinrich
Booker	Cruz	Heitkamp
Boozman	Daines	Heller
Brown	Donnelly	Hirono
Burr	Durbin	Hoeven
Cantwell	Enzi	Hyde-Smith
Capito	Ernst	Inhofe
Cardin	Feinstein	Isakson
Carper	Fischer	Johnson
Casey	Flake	Jones
Cassidy	Gardner	Kaine
Collins	Gillibrand	Kennedy

King	Perdue	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Peters	Sullivan
Lankford	Portman	Tester
Leahy	Reed	Thune
Lee	Risch	Tillis
Manchin	Roberts	Toomey
Markley	Rounds	Udall
McCaskill	Rubio	Van Hollen
McConnell	Sanders	Warner
Menendez	Sasse	Warren
Merkley	Schatz	Whitehouse
Murkowski	Schumer	Wicker
Murphy	Scott	Wyden
Murray	Shaheen	Young
Nelson	Shelby	
Paul	Smith	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	McCain	Moran
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The amendment (No. 2885) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2276

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2276, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, for the Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN.

The amendment (No. 2276) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2282, AS MODIFIED, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 2282, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, as modified and amended.

The amendment (No. 2282), as modified, as amended, was agreed to.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune.

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 H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Baldwin	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Booker	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Heitkamp	Rubio
Brown	Heller	Sasse
Burr	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schumer
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Cardin	Inhofe	Shaheen
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Casey	Jones	Smith
Cassidy	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Sullivan
Coons	Klobuchar	Tester
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tillis
Cotton	McCaskill	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Udall
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Nelson	Young

NAYS—15

Corker	Harris	Merkley
Durbin	Johnson	Paul
Feinstein	Kennedy	Sanders
Flake	Lee	Warren
Gillibrand	Markley	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Duckworth	McCain
Manchin	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 15.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

STEPHEN MICHAEL GLEASON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I join Senator CASSIDY and many of our colleagues in recognizing one of Washington State's favorite sons—Spokane's own Steve Gleason.

I have to say, as a fellow Cougar, sponsoring this legislation to recognize Steve's legacy of excellence—from

Martin Stadium in Pullman, to the NFL, to his avid work as an advocate in the health world—was a no-brainer for me. But our bill to award Steve the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can bestow on an American citizen—has been embraced and cosponsored by more than 70 Members of this Chamber from both sides of the aisle is a testament not just to the incredible respect Steve has garnered across our Nation as a standout athlete but to his inspiring leadership and tireless advocacy that has made an indelible impact on our Nation and our culture.

Of course, Steve's skills and talents on the football field are legendary. Many will not soon forget that iconic blocked punt at the Superdome in 2006—a play that helped lift up the spirits of an entire community that was still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Yet it has been Steve's work off the gridiron that has had perhaps the most lasting impact on our country and on our future.

Since being diagnosed with ALS in 2011, Steve has become a passionate warrior for ALS survivors and their families. Through his Gleason Initiative Foundation, Steve actively supports critical research efforts to combat ALS and helps to raise much needed public awareness about the condition while also providing ALS patients with leading-edge technology, equipment, and services to help them not only live with their ALS diagnoses but to thrive.

In motivating others by his lived example, Steve, together with his wife, his mother, and everyone at Team Gleason, has inspired hope in individuals throughout Washington State and across the globe, and he has undoubtedly changed countless lives for the better.

Few people make Washington State as proud as Steve Gleason, and I am delighted to sponsor this legislation to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. I urge our colleagues to support our efforts.

I thank my colleague Senator CASSIDY for his leadership on this and for working with me on an important piece of legislation that will recognize an incredible human being.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am here to speak about honoring Steve Gleason with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Steve is well known in Louisiana and throughout the gulf coast and to football fans across the country. He is a Washington State native, as Senator MURRAY recently spoke, but he lives in New Orleans with his wife Michel and son Rivers.

Steve played in the NFL for 8 seasons, mostly with the New Orleans Saints. He is famous as a New Orleans Saint. On September 25, 2006, on "Monday Night Football," the first game

back in the Superdome when it reopened after Hurricane Katrina, the Saints were playing their archrival and division opponent, the hated Atlanta Falcons. The Presiding Officer probably likes the Falcons.

The Falcons were punting from deep in their own territory. Steve broke through the line and blocked the punt. Fellow Saint Curtis Deloatch recovered the ball for a touchdown.

The stadium erupted. There were 70,000 fans in the Superdome stadium. I was watching on TV. Al Michaels was blown away. It was an incredible moment, not just for the football team but because it was the first game in the Superdome, having just been reopened after Hurricane Katrina, which had almost destroyed the city and, indeed, the whole gulf coast, and it had much more meaning.

The emotion was for the play but also for what the play symbolized for the game. Steve Gleason's blocked punt symbolized, as Steve would say, "no white flags." New Orleans and the gulf coast were back, and despite Katrina's devastation, we would not surrender.

Now Steve demonstrates that "no white flags" resolve in another arena. In 2011, Steve was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease. He cannot speak and, except for moving his eyes and blinking, he cannot move. But Steve can still think, and because he can think and because of what he has done with his thoughts is why he inspires and why we wish to honor him with a Congressional Gold Medal.

He has a difficult challenge, but his accomplishments addressing that challenge are what is noteworthy. After his diagnosis, Steve and his wife began a mission to show that patients with diseases such as ALS cannot only live, but they can thrive.

Steve declared that there would be "no white flags," and that became the mantra of something he began: the Gleason Initiative Foundation. This foundation helps to provide individuals who have neuromuscular disease or other injuries with cutting-edge technology, equipment, and services. It raises global awareness about ALS to find solutions and an end to the disease. It has also helped hundreds of people with ALS experience life adventures they never thought possible.

Steve's story and mission have been chronicled by national and local media outlets as well as a 2016 documentary, "Gleason," which shows what his life has been like since 2011.

When first meeting Steve, you would expect to feel pity. Yet, as you walk in and meet him and see what he has done, as he speaks to you through the machines he has helped to develop, you feel inspired. His perseverance and commitment to giving hope to others is amazing.

I will give a partial list of what he and his wife have done since his diagnosis. He founded the Gleason Initia-

tive Foundation, of which I just spoke. Steve, in partnership with Microsoft,—and I have a poster here showing Steve and the Microsoft team—developed eye-tracking technology that allows him to communicate and to move.

So as Steve looks up—again, he can only move his eyes and blink his eyes—he can look at this keyboard and if it says, "Turn my wheelchair to the right," he looks there and blinks his eyes and his wheelchair will turn to the right.

He has prerecorded statements. So if you walk in, he will blink at a prerecorded statement that says: "Hello. My name is Steve Gleason. How are you?"

If he wishes to say something spontaneously, he can blink, blink, blink, and it will say: "Well, let's discuss this further."

It is not all just "let's talk business." He has his iTunes on there. He can blink and get his favorite song. There is a multiplicity of functions that allow the man to live—and not just him, because among other accomplishments Steve Gleason and his wife Michel have achieved, he led efforts to enact legislation, the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act, to make these devices available to those suffering from neurodegenerative diseases. It was a bill that I was privileged to introduce and that has passed into law.

Steve continues to challenge the heads of industry and medicine to improve the technology and the science to find a cure for ALS. He opened the Team Gleason House for Innovative Living, where up to 18 people can live as productively and as independently as possible.

A few years ago, Steve hosted a global summit, bringing together researchers, patients, caregivers, and others in the ALS community. The summit resulted in the single largest coordinated and collaborative ALS research project in the world, called Answer ALS. It has nearly 2 dozen research institutions, 1,000 patients, and 20 trillion data points that will help to find unknown pathways to lead to new treatments or to cures.

In recognition of Steve's work, in April I introduced legislation with Senators MURRAY, KENNEDY, and CANTWELL to honor Steve Gleason with the Congressional Gold Medal. Steve's story is so compelling that in less than 2 months, over 70 of our colleagues joined to affirm Steve's inspiring story and impact upon his fellow Americans to make him worthy of the highest honor Congress can bestow.

Steve should be awarded this medal. He is an example of what makes our country great. He has given hope to many. He gives hope to all those who have ever received a devastating diagnosis, and his message is simple: Your life still has meaning. Your best years can still be ahead of you.

Steve is a role model, not just for those in the disability community but for all Americans. I suspect that what

he may appreciate most about this honor is the attention it brings to find solutions and cures for those with diseases such as ALS.

I would like to thank my colleagues, their staff, and everyone else who has helped build support for this legislation including Microsoft, the ALS Association, the NFL, and the New Orleans Saints.

I wish to encourage my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this legislation and to pass it as soon as possible.

I would like to thank Steve for continuing to be an example of commitment, perseverance, and inspiration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2652 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.  
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2652) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2652) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2652

*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 “Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Stephen “Steve” Gleason was born March 19, 1977, in Spokane, Washington to Mike and Gail Gleason.

(2) Steve attended Gonzaga Preparatory School for high school where he excelled as both a football and baseball player.

(3) In 1995, Steve enrolled at Washington State University where he was a 2-sport athlete for the baseball and football teams and helped the Cougars football team advance to the 1997 Rose Bowl.

(4) In 2000, Steve signed a professional football contract with the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League as an undrafted free agent but later joined the New Orleans Saints in November of that same season.

(5) Steve would go on to play 7 more seasons as a member of the New Orleans Saints.

(6) Steve will always be remembered for his blocked punt on September 25, 2006, against the Atlanta Falcons, the night the Louisiana Superdome reopened for the first time after Hurricane Katrina in a game the Saints would win 23 to 3.

(7) In January, 2011 Steve was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, considered a terminal neuro-muscular disease.

(8) Following his diagnosis, Steve, with the loving support of his wife, Michel, began a

mission to show that patients can not only live but thrive after a diagnosis of ALS and established The Gleason Initiative Foundation also known simply as “Team Gleason”.

(9) At the time of his diagnosis, however, Steve said there will be “No White Flags”, which has become the mantra of Team Gleason.

(10) The Gleason Initiative Foundation helps provide individuals with neuro-muscular diseases or injuries with leading edge technology, equipment and services, raises global awareness about ALS to find solutions and an end to the disease, and has helped hundreds of people with ALS experience life adventures they never thought possible after their diagnosis.

(11) Steve’s story and mission have been told by the NFL Network, ESPN, HBO, ABC, CBS, CNN, and many local media outlets, as well as in a 2016 documentary titled “Gleason”, which was heralded at the Sundance Film Festival and premiered across the country with Variety calling the production “an emotional powerhouse”. The documentary won several awards, including the 2016 Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award for Best Documentary.

(12) Steve was named one of two Sports Illustrated’s Inspirations of the Year in 2014, has been a keynote speaker for Microsoft and at two United Nations sponsored Social Innovation Summits, and received the 2015 George S. Halas Courage Award, given to a NFL player, coach or staff member who overcomes the most adversity to succeed.

(13) Steve helped advocate for the Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-40; 129 Stat. 441), and the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017, H.R. 2465, 115th Congress (2017), which permanently ensures people living with diseases such as ALS have access to speech generating devices regardless of their setting, whether at home or a healthcare institution.

(14) In 2014, Steve and Team Gleason hosted a global summit to bring together researchers, patients, caregivers, and all ALS stakeholders to create a plan to ultimately end ALS. That summit resulted in the single largest coordinated and collaborative ALS research project in the world, Answer ALS, which brings together nearly two dozen research institutions, 1,000 patients and 20,000,000,000 data points that are important to the project and that will define the unknown pathways that will lead to treatments or finally a cure.

(15) In 2015, Steve and Microsoft worked together to create a method for people who are completely paralyzed to navigate their power wheelchairs with their eyes. Today, Steve, Microsoft and all wheelchair manufacturers are working collaboratively to make it widely available to all who need this technology. In addition, Microsoft has also made eye tracking technology part of all Windows 10 products across the globe.

(16) In 2011, 10 months after his diagnosis, Steve and Michel made their most significant accomplishment, becoming parents to their son Rivers.

(17) Steve and Michel Gleason continue to fight to find a solution for ALS so they can share many years together and as parents to Rivers.

#### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Stephen Michael Gleason.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter

in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

#### SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Ohio.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I come back to the floor of the Senate to talk again about the opioid crisis that has gripped the country and my State of Ohio.

I want to focus on the issue of fentanyl. This is the most deadly of the drugs now. It is a drug that is causing the most overdoses at a time in which we have unprecedented numbers of overdoses.

Fentanyl is a synthetic form of heroin and opioids. It is coming through the mail. It is coming mostly from one country—China. It is the poison that has contributed more in the last few years to the rise in opioid use than anything else.

Over the past week, we have made some significant progress in pushing back against fentanyl, and I want to report on that today.

As I am talking today, the U.S. House of Representatives is going to take up legislation called the STOP Act, which we have been working on here in the Senate for a couple of years. I am very pleased about that. I suspect the vote today will be bipartisan. I suspect it will pass the House.

I also want to report that here in the Senate we have had a breakthrough in the last week. Not only have we negotiated something with the House that is, in my view, an improvement from the legislation that passed the House Ways and Means committee a couple of weeks ago, but also, in the Senate Finance Committee this week, we had a markup and got a commitment from the chairman and ranking member that the Finance Committee will also mark up the same legislation—identical legislation—as is likely to pass the House of Representatives today.

I thank Chairman ORRIN HATCH and Ranking Member RON WYDEN for working with us to ensure we could get this legislation marked up in committee and onto the floor of the U.S. Senate as part of whatever we do in terms of the opioid crisis here in the coming days and weeks.

Of course, I also commend my House colleagues for the vote today and for the work they have done on this, particularly the Ways and Means Committee chairman, KEVIN BRADY, Representatives MIKE BISHOP, DAVE

REICHERT, BILL PASCRELL, and JOHN FASO for their efforts on this bill to combat the opioid crisis. Again, my hope is the bill that passes the House today will be identical to the bill we will take up here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, so we can ensure we can get this bill to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

This is an urgent issue. This is not just an important issue; it is an urgent issue. We need to push back, and we need to push back hard.

The drug fentanyl is so dangerous that a couple milligrams of it, a few flecks of it, can kill you. Again, it is something that is causing the most overdoses right now. It is not just affecting those who are overdosing on it; it is affecting all of us, including our first responders, including young children who come in contact with it. The stories of kids exposed to fentanyl are really heartbreaking, perhaps because someone left it behind at a party, perhaps because their parents or other family members left it behind, and these young children are overdosing and dying. This is happening in my State. This is happening around the country.

First responders are being affected. I hear stories about it when I am home, whether it is a firefighter, someone in the healthcare industry, or someone who is in law enforcement. A story, which I have mentioned before, is about an East Liverpool, OH, police officer. He pulls over two suspects, notices they are spreading white powder inside the car, trying to hide it. Wisely, he puts on gloves and a mask. He makes the arrest. When he is back at the police station booking these individuals—not for the traffic violation so much as for the fentanyl—he looks at his shirt and notices a couple of flecks of something white on his shirt, and brushes it off like that. His fingers are exposed to the fentanyl. Immediately, he falls to the ground unconscious and has to be revived by Narcan, not once, not twice, but for Chris Green, a big guy—6 feet 2 inches, 200-some pounds, in great shape—four doses of Narcan were necessary to save his life and keep him alive.

As his police chief said, if they weren't right there with him, what would have happened? What would have happened if he had gone home, had those flecks on his shoulder, and hugged his kids? This is an incredibly dangerous substance, and we have to deal with it.

Last year, law enforcement officials in Massachusetts said that with two doses of Narcan, they revived a man who said he had been smoking only marijuana. How could this be? It was because fentanyl was mixed with that marijuana.

I was in Lorain, OH, last week for a meeting with folks involved in pushing back against this substance abuse problem—law enforcement, social workers, treatment providers. Law enforcement told us a story that was very

much the same—a young man who had to be revived by using Narcan. He said: I was just smoking dope.

It couldn't be. Sure enough, when they checked, they found out the marijuana had been laced with fentanyl. It is also going into cocaine. It is also going into crystal meth. In fact, crystal meth now is becoming a bigger problem in my home State of Ohio, and we know for a fact that this is a bigger problem in part because it is being mixed with fentanyl.

The Dayton area recently released its county overdose report. The Dayton area experienced three times as many crystal meth-related overdose deaths in 2017 as compared to 2016. Again, they believe fentanyl mixed into these drugs is the contributing factor.

The county coroner from Cincinnati said that she has now seen fentanyl mixed with cocaine and marijuana, as well as a number of street drugs. Fentanyl and its variants are now the deadliest drugs of the opioid epidemic.

One of the takeaways I have had from my meetings around the State, talking to people about how we push back on fentanyl, is a growing consensus that we need to make much more progress in keeping the fentanyl from coming into our communities in the first place. Again, we know this is what is causing the big increase in overdoses and deaths at a time when we are doing more at home to address the opioid crisis. If not for fentanyl, I strongly believe we would be making progress. We would be seeing a reduction in overdoses.

This body has passed the CARA legislation—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act; it has also passed the 21st Century Cures Act. I have been at different places in the State in the last few weeks where they have been using that funding well, to do things like quick response teams—when somebody is revived with Narcan, the miracle drug that reverses the effects of the overdose, then, be sure you are getting that person treatment by working with law enforcement, treatment providers, and social workers together. It is working.

In one case where they are using funding from the CARA legislation, 80 percent of the people whom they are coming into contact with are going into treatment. That is a tremendous improvement from, unfortunately, what is generally happening, which is that very few people are actually going from the Narcan overdose saving the person's life into treatment. We have to deal with that gap.

So we are making progress, yet the fentanyl is overwhelming the system. So it is time for us to figure this out, and push back harder.

In 2013, in my home city of Cincinnati, we experienced a 1,000-percent increase in fentanyl deaths. In the first 5 months of this year, more than 90 percent of the drugs seized by the Hamilton County crime lab contained fentanyl—more than 90 percent.

Most of the drugs we talk about pushing back against—think of cocaine, heroin, even crystal meth—come in overland, mostly across the southern border from Mexico. What law enforcement tells us and what the intelligence community tells us is that fentanyl comes in primarily by the U.S. mail system. So instead of coming overland—and the need for helping to secure our southern border is clear partly because of that—here we have a situation where this drug is coming in through our own Federal agency, the U.S. mail service. They tell us it comes primarily from one country—China. It is made in a laboratory in China, and it is shipped over here.

We spent about 18 months studying this issue. We went undercover and contacted a lot of different websites, and they all told us the same thing, which is this: If you are going to buy from us, ship it by U.S. mail. If it comes by U.S. mail, we guarantee delivery. If you don't send it by U.S. mail, we are not so sure we can guarantee it.

Why is that? Because 16 years ago, this body and the U.S. House of Representatives, after the tragic incidents of 9/11, decided we were going to tighten up on packages coming into our country and the law enforcement screening of those packages. So we required all the private carriers—FedEx, UPS, DHL, and others—to provide law enforcement data about those packages, where they were from, what was in them, where they were going. They had to provide that data electronically and in advance so that law enforcement could use big data and use analytics to determine what packages were suspect to be able to pull them offline.

I have been to those facilities where this happens. It is very impressive. It is also very dangerous. These packages, once identified, have to be taken into a room where there is adequate ventilation and other precautions taken—gloves and masks and so on—because of the danger of fentanyl.

But the U.S. Post Office was not required 16 years ago to provide that information. Instead, the legislation said that the post office needed to study the issue, leaving it clear in legislative history that Congress considered it a problem but wanted to give the post office time to look into it. Specifically, they asked the Postmaster General and Department of Homeland Security to come up with a report. It never happened.

So here we are, 16 years later. The post office doesn't have that requirement, and these other ways you can send packages mailed into the United States do have that requirement. So guess where the traffickers go.

The post office in the last year or so has begun to step up its efforts, and I am happy about that. I believe they did it because of our hearings and because of the pressure from Congress and because of this legislation called the

STOP Act. They now say that they are screening about 36 percent of their packages. Again, that is a big improvement. However, there are about 900 million packages a year. That means about 315 million packages are being looked at, and this is a big improvement, but we still have so many hundreds of millions of packages not receiving that kind of screening.

In addition, we learned through our hearings and investigation that 20 percent of the time, when law enforcement had identified a Postal Service package that was suspect, it was not presented to law enforcement. In other words, it went into the community anyway.

Clearly, we have a big problem. We are not screening adequately, we are not providing the information for enough packages, and we are not giving law enforcement the tools they need to do their job. By the way, with regard to the private carriers, it is 100 percent required.

So the legislation we are proposing is to tell the post office: This poison has to be stopped in every way we possibly can. This is a crisis. This is not just important; it is urgent. It is something we want you to address.

So it says that by 2020 we have to have 100 percent of packages screened, and we have to give law enforcement the tools they need. Law enforcement, of course, is desperate to get this information. If they have the information, they can help. They can help to keep these packages out of our country. They can also help to raise the price.

Some packages that are stopped, of course, would otherwise have gone to a post office box or someone's home or an abandoned house and been distributed. Packages that could have poisoned hundreds of thousands of people and killed hundreds of thousands of people have been seized in the State of Ohio. There was a package found recently in Nebraska that could have killed millions of people. In a relatively small quantity, this is incredibly powerful, dangerous stuff.

Now, with this legislation, we will be able to identify more of these packages and get them offline and, again, at a minimum, be able to raise the cost.

One of the reasons fentanyl has taken over and pushed out other drugs—by the way, it is 50 times more powerful than heroin. One reason is that it is relatively inexpensive. This will raise the price and reduce the volume and help to save lives.

We now have over one-third of the U.S. Senate as cosponsors of this legislation, including Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN. Again, I appreciate their support and their work on this. We also have about half of the House of Representatives who have supported the STOP Act in the other Chamber.

It is time for us to take the next step: pass this legislation, get it in place, and immediately tell countries like China, if you want to send packages to us, you have to provide this information.

We have done everything we can in other ways to encourage China to crack down on these labs, the evil scientists who are continuing to make this product. We are taking other steps, of course, to do that. We are taking other steps to deal with this issue in terms of increased prevention and education efforts. That is in the CARA legislation. There is \$10 million right now available for the administration to come up with a national media campaign that I would strongly support. They have already started a smaller media campaign with the private sector. I support that as well. We need to push back every way we can, letting people know the dangers, including the fact that any street drugs you take now potentially can have deadly consequences, including fentanyl.

We need to do more in terms of getting people into treatment. This is a disease, and it needs to be treated as such. We are not going to be able to make progress unless we take people who are already addicted and get them into the treatment and longer term recovery they need. Longer term recovery is funded by CARA and Cures. This is the first time Congress has done this. It is very important because if you get people into longer term recovery programs—sober housing and group discussions, helping to support them—you have a much higher likelihood of somebody getting clean, being successful, being able to get back on track, getting back with their family, getting back to their job.

Finally, we have to do more in terms of helping law enforcement. Again, that is partly what we are doing here, giving them the tools to be able to stop some of this poison from coming in, in the first place.

I am encouraged with the progress we made just in the last week. We now have a House bill that is being voted on, as I speak. We now have a Senate bill that has been agreed to be reported out of committee coming onto the floor. They are identical. They both do the job. They both tell the post office we have to change behavior.

By the way, in terms of the post office, someone told me today that the postal union was concerned about this legislation. I encourage you to talk to rank-and-file mail carriers, postal carriers, and ask them what they think. They don't want to be carrying this poison into our communities. They don't want to be potentially exposed to this poison, should a package leak, because of the danger of it.

The people I talk to agree, we absolutely have to crack down on this. We are not asking the post office to do it alone. We are providing funding to Customs and Border Protection to be there with them. The postal inspectors, the folks who are actually local law enforcement, are desperate to ensure that we can do this because they are tired of it. They are tired of seeing this stuff come in, like an avalanche coming into our country, and creating all these

problems across the board in our communities, every sector of our community being affected. People are desperate for solutions because they acknowledge the problem.

I had a tele-townhall meeting last week in Washington where I called in and spoke to thousands of Ohioans at once. We do this on a monthly basis. For the last few years, we have been asking questions about opioids in our survey. It is a very simple question. It says: Have you been directly affected? Has anybody you know been directly affected by this opioid crisis?

Unbelievably, we have gotten typically about 50 percent of the people who called—again, these are thousands of people randomly selected—saying: Yes, my family or someone I know has been directly affected by opioids.

At the call last week, two-thirds of the people on the call said they have been directly affected or someone they know has been directly affected. That is why people are desperate for a solution because it is affecting them. It is affecting their lives. It is affecting their families. It is affecting our communities. It is affecting every single aspect of our community—the healthcare system, the foster care system, the prison system, the court system. It is time for us to step up and do more. Yes, prevention, treatment, longer term recovery but also helping law enforcement to be able to push back and stop some of this poison from coming into our communities in the first place.

Let's pass the STOP Act to give law enforcement the tools they need against this new scourge of this epidemic, and by doing so, we will save lives.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING PHILO T. FARNSWORTH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Utahn whose impact has been felt by generations of Americans every day: the "Father of Television," Mr. Philo T. Farnsworth. A true American inventor, Farnsworth's image has graced Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building since 1990 in larger-than-life fashion, as one of two statue contributions by Utah.

Just a few months ago, the Utah State Legislature voted to replace the Farnsworth statue with that of Martha Hughes Cannon, the first woman State senator in Utah and the Nation. Her influence as a Mormon pioneer, a Utah women's rights advocate, and early female physician opened doors and paved

the way for millions to follow. In 1896, when she defeated her own husband to become the first female State senator elected in the United States, she made history for our State and for women across the country.

Martha's contributions have been far-reaching in Utah, but in no way should the changing of the statues diminish the contributions of Philo T. Farnsworth as one of America's greatest innovators. I have always been proud to show the thousands of constituents who visit the Capitol each year the Farnsworth statue. This iconic sculpture has been a wonderful representation of the traits that our State was founded on: hard work, innovation, and industry.

Farnsworth was born in 1906 in Beaver, UT, a small rural town settled in 1856 by Mormon pioneers traveling the road to southern Utah. His early pioneer roots encouraged a work ethic and can-do attitude that propelled his lifelong love of learning and invention. From a very young age, he imagined and later implemented scientific designs, including a machine to convert electric power in his family home and a tamper-proof lock, but it was in a high school chemistry class in Rigby, ID, that he began to sketch an idea for a vacuum tube that would forever change the media and entertainment landscape. Farnsworth's sketch was the blueprint for what would eventually become the modern-day television.

Farnsworth had a special knack for taking big ideas from paper to practice—first, as a student at Brigham Young University, then later as a businessman. He didn't just stop with television. In fact, his scientific mind made great inroads in other areas of advancement, including sterilizing milk using radio waves.

In later years, Farnsworth continued research in further technologies, including radar, the infrared telescope, and nuclear fusion. In fact, in 1967, he moved back to Utah to run a fusion lab at Brigham Young University, which was later relocated to Salt Lake City operating as the Philo T. Farnsworth Association.

Unfortunately, Farnsworth had to endure legal battles throughout his career regarding patent claims. He also faced great financial hardship. He passed away from pneumonia on March 11, 1971, in Salt Lake City, UT, just as having a home television set became the norm in most American households. Sadly, Farnsworth did not live to see the full impact of his revolutionary invention, but his influence lives on.

Whether you are gathering friends to watch the latest playoff game, laughing at a comedy series, or keeping updated on what is happening in the world, your life has been touched in one way or another by Philo T. Farnsworth. Who would have thought that the rough sketches of a day-dreaming schoolboy would one day change the world?

Utah is proud of its native son, Philo T. Farnsworth. He was not only the "Father of Television" but truly one of the most brilliant minds and creative innovators of the 20th century. His statue will be missed here in the Capitol, but through his singular invention, Farnsworth's influence in our daily lives will be ever present.

Farnsworth's statue has represented—and will continue to represent—the honor and appreciation Utahns have for his monumental life achievements. His image has honorably served our State well for almost three decades, and I am hopeful it will find the right home. It has been a pleasure sharing the Capitol with the image of Philo T. Farnsworth.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, while my vote would not have changed the outcome, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to invoke cloture on the Toomey amendment. I was questioning nominees at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on nominations at the time of the vote.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the Senate adopted amendment No. 2276 to H.R. 5515 by voice vote, though I opposed this amendment and would have voted against it. This amendment would further study the feasibility of establishing a permanent U.S. troop presence in Poland. We should be looking at where we can reduce our footprint abroad, not where we can expand it. As our government continues to pile up debt, we should be asking our NATO allies to step up and prioritize their own defense. The more that we assume the security burden, as this amendment would do, the less incentive these countries will have to contribute their share toward our mutual defense.

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

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 124 on the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. On vote No. 124, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 125 on amendment No. 2885. On vote No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted yea on amendment No. 2885.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 126 on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended. On vote No. 126, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA BONINE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an excellent member of my staff, Melissa Bonine, who is moving on to a new challenge. For the past year, Melissa has coordinated daily operations in my office, helping to create order out of the chaos of my schedules.

Having worked for Congressman Rick Boucher, Senator Jim Webb, and Secretary Castro at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Melissa has many friends on Capitol Hill, and she was an immediate asset to my office. With a cool head under pressure and excellent diplomatic skills, Melissa has kept the trains running on time and put out the occasional fire. She has worked with the rest of my staff to manage priorities and coordinate each day efficiently while assisting in long-term planning.

Our entire team will miss her counsel and sense of humor. I am sure she will make a tremendous impact on her next project, an exciting new advocacy group where she will continue to fight for progressive values. I hope her new job will also give her some more time with her husband, David, daughter, Penny, and cats, Rex and Willie Nelson, and I look forward to hearing about the extraordinary work she does next.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO NICOLE SHERMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Nicole Sherman of Roosevelt County for her dedication to the Sherman Inn in Wolf Point.

Nicole began her career at the Sherman Inn in eighth grade where she served as a waitress. At the time, both of her parents worked at the Inn. A few years later, her parents bought the Inn, and she joined the family business full time following school.

Today, Nicole is the general manager of the hotel and runs it with her sister-in-law. They pride themselves on being a family-owned and operated business, one that gives back to the community frequently. The Sherman Inn sponsors any events they can around the community.

Nicole is focused on offering a great experience for her customers. Whether they are visitors from all over the country or locals looking for a good meal, she strives to provide a memorable experience to her customers. She instills this mentality in the business through the 45 hard-working employees that the Sherman Inn employs.

I congratulate Nicole on her success in the business. The community of Wolf Point is stronger with the staple that is the Sherman Inn, and that would not be possible without Nicole's passion for the business.●



## REMEMBERING EDDIE FUNG

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, California and the nation lost a trailblazer and a war hero. Mr. Eddie Fung served our country bravely throughout his tour with the Army National Guard as part of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery of the 36th Infantry Division, including 3½ years in a Japanese prisoners of war camp. Mr. Fung will be buried with full military honors at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, CA, on June 20, 2018.

Born in San Francisco in 1922, Eddie left home at 16 to become a cowboy in Texas. He joined the National Guard at 17, and his unit was activated in November 1941 as part of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery of the 36th Infantry Division that was sent to Java, now part of Indonesia, to fight the invading Japanese in the early months of WWII.

Eddie became the only Chinese-American soldier captured by Imperial Japan during World War II. His battalion was known as the Lost Battalion, as it was not until near the end of the war that there was any news of what happened to the men.

Of the 558 men and officers who landed on Java on January 11, 1942, 534 became prisoners of war, POWs. Ninety-nine were sent to Japan to be slave laborers at Japanese factories and mines, and 435, including Eddie, were sent to work on the Thai-Burma "Death" Railway that was made famous by the film "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Eddie endured nearly 4 years of grueling work, near-starvation, beatings, and tropical diseases as he worked on the infamous railroad project that resulted in the loss of over 12,000 Allied POW and 70,000 Asian lives. Eighty-nine of the men from the battalion died in captivity.

Although Eddie said his capture was a defining moment in his life, the horrific experience is just one aspect of his long and rich life. It includes his Chinese-American upbringing and his life after the war, when he studied chemistry at Stanford University on the GI bill. He also worked as a metallurgist at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and became a Tai Chi master after retirement.

As he concluded in his autobiography, "The Adventures of Eddie Fung: Chinatown Kid, Texas Cowboy, Prisoner of War," University of Washington Press: "Taking my life as a whole, I've had many more good days than I've had bad ones. But even the bad days serve a purpose. They remind me of how good I have it now, in the sense that if you have never known hunger, you will not appreciate food; if you have never been enslaved, you will not appreciate what it means to be free."

Eddie Fung is a hero and a role model, and we will miss his vibrant spirit. The thoughts of San Franciscans and Californians are with his wife, Judy Yung of Santa Cruz.●

## REMEMBERING KITTIE MOORE WILSON

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I recognize the passing of Kittie Moore Wilson, of New London, NH.

Today, I wish to celebrate the life of Kittie and her service to New Hampshire.

While Kittie was born in Bangor, ME, she spent a majority of her life as a Granite Stater. She attended Epsom High School and then went to Plymouth State University, as well as the University of Connecticut. After graduating, Kittie taught third grade for 15 years at Kearsarge Regional School District before going on to oversee and teach the Mindstretch Program throughout the entire district for the next 16 years.

Known affectionately as the Loon Lady, Kittie had a deep love of the environment and was dedicated to protecting loons and conserving Pleasant Lake in New Hampshire. For her work and her passion, she received the Loon Preservation Committee's Spirit of the Loon Award and the EPA's Meritorious Lifetime Achievement Award.

During my time as Governor of New Hampshire, I had the pleasure of working with Kittie and the Loon Preservation Committee on SB 89, legislation that helped to protect our loon population from deadly lead poisoning and to preserve an important part of our State's natural beauty that helps drive our economy.

Kittie is survived by her husband of 29 years, John, her brother Michael Moore and his family, her sister Karen Johnson and her family, her stepson Jeb Wilson, and her Scottish Terriers Aberfeldy and Macallan.

I join with Kittie's friends and family, and many people across the Granite State in remembering and honoring her legacy.●

## REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER T. BACON

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss last week of Christopher T. Bacon, a beloved husband, father, resident of my State of North Dakota, and an agent with the Customs and Border Protection, CBP, Office of Intelligence.

Chris was a wonderful person. His career and service make it clear that he was a man who was guided by strong values and commitment to service. Through his actions, he embodied our Nation's tradition of serving others, dedicating his energy to protecting families all across our Nation.

He was born in San Antonio, TX, and traveled all over our Nation and world. He started his service in the Army and joined CBP in 1995 as a border patrol agent. He advanced through the ranks during his 22 years with the agency. His final posting was as an intelligence collection operations manager, stationed at the National Air Security Operations Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Our Nation, my State, and his family were all fortunate to have him in our midst. He raised a great family and will always be remembered by his colleagues, friends, and neighbors. Through his courage, skill, and commitment, he has left his community and Nation a better and safer place for all who follow.

My heart goes out to his wife, Rhonda, and his children, Kristen, Christopher, Jr., Jake, and Jasmine, in this time of grief. On behalf of my own family and the State of North Dakota, I extend my sincere condolences to Chris's family, friends, and colleagues. I pray that all who knew him can find comfort in their memories of Chris and the positive impact he had on so many lives.●

## REMEMBERING RED SCHOENDIENST

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of one of St. Louis's, the State of Missouri's, and baseball's great treasures, Hall of Fame Cardinal Red Schoendienst. Red played 15 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals, made 10 All-Star teams, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989. Red passed last week at his home in Town and Country, MO, just outside of St. Louis, at the age of 95. He had been the oldest living member of the Hall of Fame.

Born Albert Fred Schoendienst 40 miles east of St. Louis in Germantown, IL, Red would make a big impact on the city and the sport of baseball. Red's father, a coal miner who played sandlot ball, got him hooked on the game.

After leaving school, Red joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he nearly lost his eye in an accident. He also faced chronic shoulder pain, but stuck with the game. In 1942, he hitchhiked to St. Louis for Cardinals try-outs and made the team. After a stand-out minor league career and a period of Army service, Red played his first Big League game in 1945.

Red played second base for nearly his entire career, leading the National League in fielding percentage seven times. He was such a talented fielder that his teammate and longtime friend, Cardinal legend Stan Musial, once said, "He had the greatest pair of hands I've ever seen."

Red wasn't too shabby at the plate either. He batted over .300 in five seasons as a switch-hitter. Unfortunately, Red's only World Series victory came in 1957 with Hank Aaron and the Milwaukee Braves, not the Cardinals, but we will not hold that against him.

While playing for Milwaukee, Red faced another health challenge. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to have part of a lung removed. Still, Red was a fighter, and just as he overcame his eye and shoulder injuries, he came back to play with the Braves before finishing his career as a Cardinal in 1963.

After Red's retirement from playing, he wasn't done being a Cardinal. Red became the Cardinals' manager in 1965 and skipped the team until 1976. Under his leadership, the Cardinals won two pennants and beat the Boston Red Sox in the 1967 World Series. Red remained a part of the organization until his passing.

All counted, Red spent 70 years as a part of Major League Baseball, and left his mark on the game. Not only was Red a Hall of Fame player and manager, he was a fan favorite and a revered teammate. His teammates always spoke of how he loved the game, and how they loved playing with him.

I wish to offer my condolences to Red's family, including his brother, four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. I know that they will remember Red fondly, as will Cardinals fans and baseball fans everywhere.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:09 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 bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1091. An act to establish a Federal Task Force to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2147. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4635. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4655. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5294. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to address the impact of drug abuse on economic development in Appalachia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5752. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of certain drugs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5889. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate information, resources, and if requested, technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers and professionals working with young children on ways to properly recognize and respond to children who may be impacted by trauma related to substance abuse.

H.R. 5890. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to States in complying with, and implementing, certain provisions of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act in order to promote better protections for young children and family-centered responses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5891. An act to establish an inter-agency task force to improve the Federal response to families impacted by substance abuse disorders.

H.R. 5892. An act to establish an Advisory Committee on Opioids and the Workplace to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the Department of Labor can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace.

H.R. 6029. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the comprehensive opioid abuse grant program, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3331. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4635. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4655. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5294. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to address the impact of drug abuse on economic development in Appalachia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5752. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of certain drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5889. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate information, resources, and if requested, technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers and professionals working with young children on ways to properly recognize and respond to children who may be impacted by trauma related to substance abuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5890. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to States in complying with, and implementing, certain provisions of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act in order to promote better protections for young children and family-centered responses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5891. An act to establish an inter-agency task force to improve the Federal response to families impacted by substance abuse disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5892. An act to establish an Advisory Committee on Opioids and the Workplace to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the Department of Labor can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 6029. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the comprehensive opioid abuse grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 14, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1869. An act to reauthorize and rename the position of Whistleblower Ombudsman to be the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator.

S. 2246. An act to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

#### 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-5530. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5531. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 Corrosion Prevention Report"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5532. A communication from the Chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5533. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5534. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5535. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary and Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5536. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Higher Volume Port Area - State of Washington" ((RIN1625-AB75) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0576)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-246. A resolution adopted by the Lauderdale Lakes City Commission, Lauderdale Lakes, Florida congratulating students participating in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program

at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School for being finalists in a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) competition and for developing a method to purify lead-contaminated water in school drinking fountains; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DAINES, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3071. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-274).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3072. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-275).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3073. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-276).

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

H.R. 1496. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3585 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Marvin Gaye Post Office".

S. 2549. A bill to designate the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office".

H.R. 2673. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, as the "Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office".

S. 2692. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Stanley Michels Post Office Building".

H.R. 3183. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the "U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Riggsby Post Office".

H.R. 4301. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 Tom Hall Street in Fort Mill, South Carolina, as the "J. Elliott Williams Post Office Building".

H.R. 4406. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building".

H.R. 4463. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6 Doyers Street in New York, New York, as the "Mabel Lee Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 4574. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 West Schick Road in Bloomington, Illinois, as the "Bloomington Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4646. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, as the "Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 4685. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the "First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 4722. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

111 Market Street in Saugerties, New York, as the "Maurice D. Hinchey Post Office Building".

H.R. 4840. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 East Franklin Street in Oviedo, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Alwyn Crendall Cashe Post Office Building".

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Allen Cothrel Winsor, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

Patrick R. Wyrick, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Charles L. Goodwin, of Hawaii, to be United States Marshal for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

R. Don Ladner, Jr., of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Susan Llewellyn Pamerleau, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Texas for the term of four years.

Gadyaces S. Serralta, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida 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. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3065. A bill to prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3066. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow the release of education records to facilitate the award of a recognized postsecondary credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3067. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3068. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 3069. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 3070. A bill to reform the living will process under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3071. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3072. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 3073. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3074. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for studies and reports relating to the impact of legislation on spending on children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3075. A bill to amend title 31 of the United States Code to require that Federal children's programs be separately displayed and analyzed in the President's budget; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 3076. A bill to establish a national commission on the Federal response to the 2017 natural disasters in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3077. A bill to provide for certain contracting requirements to promote fair and safe workplaces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 547. A resolution designating June 19, 2018, as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 548. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that high performance buildings improve the quality of life for millions of individuals, produce a more resilient and sustainable world for current and future generations, reduce operating costs, and improve the productivity, comfort, and health of occupants, and designating the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as “High Performance Building Week”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 549. A resolution designating June 15, 2018, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution recognizing the close relationship between the United States and Taiwan and the important role of the American Institute in Taiwan in strengthening such relationship; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 308

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require applicable manufacturers to include information regarding payments made to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advance practice nurses in transparency reports submitted under section 1128G of such Act.

S. 519

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 519, a bill to amend the Safe Water Drinking Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish maximum contaminant levels for certain contaminants, and for other purposes.

S. 781

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 781, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster.

S. 1092

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was

added as a cosponsor of S. 1092, a bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions.

S. 1401

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to address lead contamination in school drinking water.

S. 2000

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2000, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve transparency under the national primary drinking water regulations for lead and copper, and for other purposes.

S. 2060

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2430, a bill to provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities and related benefits for survivors of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any period of lapsed appropriations.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide advanced notice to Congress before changing any questions on the decennial census, and for other purposes.

S. 2584

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2584, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2712

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2712, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a farm and ranch stress assistance network, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2884

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2884, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a standard letter format to be provided to individuals who are indebted to the United States by virtue of their participation in benefits programs administered by the Secretary, to provide notice of debt by electronic means to such individuals when so elected, and for other purposes.

S. 2979

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2979, a bill to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974.

S. 2986

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2986, a bill to award grants to States to support efforts at institutions of higher education to increase degree attainment, and for other purposes.

S. 3036

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from

Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3036, a bill to limit the separation of families at or near ports of entry.

S. 3051

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3051, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes.

S. 3057

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3057, a bill to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3057, *supra*.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3058, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the requirement that the taxpayer's basis in a building be reduced by the amount of the rehabilitation credit determined with respect to such building.

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 355, a resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 435, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine.

S. RES. 526

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 526, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that politicians should not interfere with a woman's personal health care decisions or attempt to prevent providers from offering their full medical recommendations to their patients.

AMENDMENT NO. 2411

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2411 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2630

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2630 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2632

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2632 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2759

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2759 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2799

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2799 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2805

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2805 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2886

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2886 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize ap-

propriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2895

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2895 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3067. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN, that would remove an unnecessary, outdated barrier for Medicare beneficiaries managing diabetes. Our legislation would allow physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) to satisfy the Medicare documentation requirement certifying a patient's need for therapeutic, or diabetic, shoes, which will improve access to care, reduce barriers to proper diabetic management, and help to reduce the prevalence of costly complications that can arise if diabetic symptoms are not managed properly. This bipartisan bill, the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, is a companion to H.R. 1617 from my fellow Diabetes Caucus Co-Chair, Representative TOM REED of New York, which has growing support on both sides of the aisle in the House.

As the founder and co-chair of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, I have worked since the very beginning of my Senate service to increase awareness of the threats posed by diabetes, invest in research, and improve access to treatment options for the over 30 million Americans, including twelve million seniors, who suffer from diabetes. In addition to the human toll, diabetes is also the most expensive chronic illness in the country. A new American Diabetes Association report released in March titled, "Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2017," found that the direct and indirect costs of diagnosed diabetes in the U.S. cost \$327 billion in 2017, which is a 26 percent increase in just the last five years.

Preventable complications contribute enormously to the influx of dollars being spent on diabetic care and

management. Today, more than one in five health care dollars and one in three Medicare dollars are spent on care for people with diabetes.

Under the current Medicare statute, physician assistants or nurse practitioners are required to refer their patients with diabetes to a physician in order to certify the patient's need for therapeutic shoes, which often results in delays in treatment and added costs. The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act would fix this problem by allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants to certify a Medicare beneficiary's need for therapeutic shoes, which will improve timeliness and access to care while reducing costs.

Therapeutic shoes are a cost effective, preventive treatment option intended to avoid the costly complications that can arise if maintenance of diabetic care is delayed or unavailable. Types of complications that can result from unmanaged diabetic symptoms include poor circulation, infections, and foot ulcers that can require hospitalization, or even result in the amputation of toes, feet, or legs.

In addition to preventable complications and additional costs that can result from delays in treatment, the current documentation requirement under Medicare can also disrupt the trusted patient-provider relationship many patients have with an NP or PA. Current statute requires the certifying physician to be a patient's provider for diabetic care moving forward, which is often in conflict with a patient's preference. Moreover, in rural areas, including many parts of my home state of Maine, access to diabetic management though a PA or NP is not only necessary, but it is sometimes unavoidable due to the shortage of primary care providers in the area. Maine alone has 68 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care practitioners. These health care professionals are already providing accessible, high quality diabetic care across the country. In fact, a March 2018 article in the American Journal of Medicine concluded that PAs and NPs are able to perform as well as physicians in the management of diabetes at diagnosis through the first five years of follow-up care.

Stephanie Podolski, President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants, which represents over 700 PAs in Maine, reiterated these points and the importance of the physician assistant profession in diabetes management in a letter of support for our bill saying, "In a State like Maine, there are many rural communities that at times are served only by a PA as a primary care provider (PCP). The inability to order diabetic shoes is an outdated barrier to care that impacts both middle-aged and older Americans who frequently live in areas facing provider shortages."

The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act is endorsed by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the

American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the American Podiatric Medical Association. I am pleased to join Senator BROWN in introducing the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, which will improve access to diabetic care, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 547—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2018, AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH SLAVERY LEGALLY CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150 years;

Whereas 45 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of de-

mocracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2018, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 548—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS, PRODUCE A MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, REDUCE OPERATING COSTS, AND IMPROVE THE PRODUCTIVITY, COMFORT, AND HEALTH OF OCCUPANTS, AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JUNE 11 THROUGH JUNE 15, 2018, AS "HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 548

Whereas the term "high performance building" is defined in section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061) as "a building that integrates and optimizes on a life cycle basis all major high performance attributes, including energy conservation, environment, safety, security, durability, accessibility, cost-benefit, productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations";

Whereas, because individuals spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors and buildings are the single largest consumer of energy and water in the United States, built environments have a vast impact on virtually all aspects of life and national security in the United States;

Whereas the United States benefits technologically, economically, and environmentally from innovative technologies developed for use in high performance buildings;

Whereas research and programs that are supported by government entities and private industry and relate to high performance buildings benefit the United States and individuals in the United States; and

Whereas investing in resilient and robust building systems protects individuals and businesses in the United States from the impacts of man-made disasters and natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as "High Performance Building Week"; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) improve the performance of existing and future buildings through—



(i) the adoption of best practices and voluntary consensus standards relating to commercial and residential buildings; and

(ii) participation by interested parties in—

(I) government programs, including those at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy;

(II) public-private partnerships; and

(III) private initiatives;

(B) create awareness of the beneficial impacts that high performance buildings have on communities, including reductions in operating costs, improvements in the health and productivity of occupants of high performance buildings, and enhancements in community resiliency;

(C) encourage interested parties to engage in dialogues on innovative policies and programs relating to the build environment that address needs relating to resiliency, workforce development, and energy and water efficiency;

(D) support investment in research and programs that incentivize investments in high performance commercial and residential buildings, as investment in high performance buildings is in the overall interests of the United States; and

(E) invest in training and education for, and celebrate the work of, engineers, architects, builders, code officials, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, and others in the construction industry who work to advance high performance buildings.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 549—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2018, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Federal Government estimates that more than 1 in 10 persons over the age of 60 are victims of elder abuse each year;

Whereas abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults in the United States are unidentified and unreported because of an inability to report or a fear of reporting;

Whereas only 1 in 14 cases of financial abuse of older adults is reported;

Whereas at least \$2,900,000,000 is taken from older adults each year due to financial abuse and exploitation;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas older adults who are abused are 3 times more likely to die earlier than older adults of the same age who are not abused;

Whereas ½ of all older adults with dementia will experience abuse;

Whereas providing unwanted medical treatment can be a form of elder abuse and exploitation;

Whereas there is evidence of an increase in elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation linked to individuals with opioid addiction;

Whereas the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.) was signed into law on October 18, 2017, but there is still more that can be done to stop elder abuse;

Whereas financial abuse of older adults has consistently been one of the top 10 complaints made each year to the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate;

Whereas public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of elder abuse by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention;

Whereas private individuals and public agencies must work together on the Federal, State, and local levels to combat increasing occurrences of abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable older adults and vulnerable adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

Whereas 2018 is the 13th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2018, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, long-term care ombudsmen, social workers, health care providers, professional guardians, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse; and

(3) encourages members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse, and by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—RECOGNIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN IN STRENGTHENING SUCH RELATIONSHIP

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas Taiwan is—

(1) a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people; and

(2) an important contributor to peace and stability around the world;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.)—

(1) states that it is the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan”;

(2) states “Programs, transactions, and other relations conducted or carried out by the President or any agency of the United States Government with respect to Taiwan shall, in the manner and to the extent directed by the President, be conducted and carried out by or through ... the American Institute in Taiwan”;

(3) established the American Institute in Taiwan, which is responsible for—

(A) managing unofficial United States relations with Taiwan; and

(B) implementing United States policy toward Taiwan, including a wide range of activities such as commercial services, agricultural sales, consular services, and cultural exchanges;

Whereas the 3 pillars of the American Institute in Taiwan’s mission are—

(1) security and defense cooperation;

(2) commercial and economic relations; and

(3) people-to-people ties;

Whereas the American Institute in Taiwan—

(1) will open its new office complex in Taipei on June 12, 2018, which—

(A) consists of 14,934 square meters of office space constructed at a cost of \$250,000,000, underscoring the United States’ commitment to its relationship with Taiwan;

(B) will allow all of its sections and operations in Taipei to be co-located in a modern, secure, and energy efficient facility;

(C) was built with a combination of materials from the United States and Taiwan;

(D) will be staffed by a workforce of approximately 500 employees from the United States, Taiwan, and other countries; and

(E) will host a permanent “Art in AIT” collection of works by United States and Taiwan artists that embodies the artistic and cultural confluences of innumerable person-to-person ties that link Taiwan and the United States;

(2) also has a branch office in Kaohsiung, which has more than 30 employees; and

(3) processed 34,000 visas in 2017;

Whereas President Tsai Ing-wen visited the American Institute of Taiwan on May 15, 2018 and plans to attend its official opening on June 12, 2018;

Whereas since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has intensified its efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations;

Whereas in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, the United States declared its intention to support Taiwan’s participation in appropriate international organizations;

Whereas Taiwan is a full member of the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and the Asian Development Bank;

Whereas according to the Department of State, “the United States supports Taiwan’s membership in international organizations that do not require statehood as a condition of membership and encourages Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations where its membership is not possible”;

Whereas Taiwan maintains full diplomatic relations with 18 nations around the world;

Whereas on February 28, 2018, the United States Senate unanimously passed the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135), which was signed into law on March 16, 2018, declaring that it should be the policy of the United States to allow officials at all levels of the United States Government to visit Taiwan in their official capacities; and

Whereas the United States National Security Strategy, which was released in December 2017, states: “We will maintain our strong ties with Taiwan in accordance with our ‘One China’ policy, including our commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act to provide for Taiwan’s legitimate defense needs and deter coercion.”;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) welcomes the opening of the new American Institute of Taiwan office in Taipei, which will—

(A) cultivate the relationship between the United States and Taiwan; and

(B) further demonstrate the United States’ commitment to bolstering its friendship and its commercial and defense partnership with Taiwan;

(2) recognizes that the American Institute of Taiwan—

(A) reflects the democratic values shared by the United States and Taiwan; and

(B) represents close cooperation on emergent regional and global issues;

(3) emphasizes that the new American Institute of Taiwan facility—

(A) demonstrates a strong United States-Taiwan partnership; and

(B) reflects the increasing depth of our unofficial relationship;

(4) expresses hope that the United States and Taiwan will continue to foster and seek new ways to build upon the robust relationship, facilitated through the American Institute of Taiwan; and

(5) urges the Executive Branch to fully implement the Taiwan Relations Act, the Taiwan Travel Act, and other relevant policy directives that strengthen the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2902. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2903. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2904. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2905. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2906. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2907. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 503, commemorating the tricentennial of the City of San Antonio, Texas.

SA 2908. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2902. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and

for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 1713, strike the closing quotation marks and period and insert the following:

“(4) DISCLOSURE BY CONGRESS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent disclosure by either House of Congress.”.

#### SEC. 1714. INFORMATION SHARING BY CONGRESS.

Section 721(g)(2)(A) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(g)(2)(A)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

SA 2903. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

#### SEC. 1066. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS; AGENCY STATEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency” means—

(1) a designated Federal entity, as defined in section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) an establishment, as defined in section 12(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) REQUIRED REPORTS.—In the annual budget justification submitted to Congress, as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, each agency shall include—

(1) a report listing each public recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that has been designated, such as through a priority recommendation letter, by the Comptroller General of the United States or a designee thereof as warranting priority attention, and is further designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented” as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted;

(2) a report listing each public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action has been taken as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(3) a report on the implementation status of each public recommendation described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which shall include—

(A) with respect to a public recommendation that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as warranting priority attention and as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”—

(i) that the agency has decided not to implement, a detailed justification for the decision; or

(ii) that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for full implementation;

(B) with respect to a public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action or action not recommended has

been taken, an explanation of the reasons why no final action or action not recommended was taken with respect to each audit report to which the public recommendation for corrective action pertains;

(C) with respect to an outstanding unimplemented public recommendation from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for implementation; and

(D) an explanation for any discrepancy between—

(i) the reports submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the semiannual reports submitted by the Office of Inspector General of the agency under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(iii) reports submitted by the Government Accountability Office relating to public recommendations that are designated by the Government Accountability Office as warranting priority attention and as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”.

(c) COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS.—Each agency shall provide a copy of the information submitted under subsection (b) to the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General of the agency.

(d) TIMELINE FOR AGENCY STATEMENTS.—Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “61st” and inserting “181st”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “60” and inserting “180”.

SA 2904. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

#### SEC. 12. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed as authorizing the use of force against Iran.

SA 2905. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

#### SEC. 1006. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPENDING REDUCTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION.

If during any fiscal year after fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Defense determines that a department, agency, or other element of the Department of Defense has not achieved an unqualified opinion on its full financial statements for the calendar year ending during such fiscal year—

(1) the amount available to such department, agency, or element for the fiscal year

in which such determination is made shall be equal to—

(A) the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such department, agency, or element for the fiscal year; minus, in a manner taken proportionally from each program, project, and activity of such department, agency, or element

(B) the lesser of—

(i) an amount equal to 0.5 percent of the amount described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) \$100,000,000; and

(2) the Secretary shall deposit in the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction all amounts unavailable to departments, agencies, and elements of the Department in the fiscal year pursuant to determinations made under paragraph (1).

**SA 2906.** Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 6202.

**SA 2907.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 503, commemorating the tricentennial of the City of San Antonio, Texas; as follows:

Strike the 18th whereas clause and insert the following:

Whereas San Antonio has been home to several notable individuals, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, President Theodore Roosevelt, Congressman David Crockett, Congressman Garlington Jerome Sutton, General Douglas MacArthur, General Jimmy Doolittle, Colonel James Bowie, Lieutenant Colonel Ed White, Master Sergeant Raul Perez Benavidez, Charles Lindbergh, Joan Crawford, Johnny Cash, Rosita Fernandez, and Santiago Jimenez;

**SA 2908.** Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 proposed by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 823. DEBARMENT OF CONTRACTORS THAT FRAUDULENTLY MISREPRESENT STATUS FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING CERTAIN SET ASIDE CONTRACTS.**

(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§4713. Debarment of contractors that fraudulently misrepresent status for purposes of obtaining certain set aside contracts**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any business concern that is determined by the head of an execu-

tive agency to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented the status of that concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans or as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for the purpose of qualifying for a contract awarded in accordance with section 8127 of title 38 or as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for the purpose of qualifying for a contract awarded in accordance with the Government-wide goals for procurement pursuant to section 15(g)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)) shall be debarred from contracting with the Federal Government for a period of not less than five years.

“(b) PROCESS.—In the case of a debarment under subsection (a), the head of the executive agency shall commence debarment action against the business concern by not later than 30 days after determining that the concern willfully and intentionally misrepresented the status of the concern as described in subsection (a) and shall complete debarment actions against such concern by not later than 90 days after such determination.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In making a determination under this section, the head of an executive agency shall, as appropriate, consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—The debarment of a business concern under subsection (a) includes the debarment of all principals in the business concern for a period of not less than five years.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘small business concern’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

“(2) The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by veterans’ has the meaning given the term in section 8127(1) of title 38.

“(3) The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(q)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(2)).”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4712 the following new item:

“4713. Debarment of contractors that fraudulently misrepresent status for purposes of obtaining certain set aside contracts.”

(b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 801, is further amended by inserting after section 2339a the following new section:

**“§2339b. Debarment of contractors that fraudulently misrepresent status for purposes of obtaining certain set aside contracts**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any business concern that is determined by the head of an agency to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented the status of that concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for the purpose of qualifying for a contract awarded in accordance with the Government-wide goals for procurement pursuant to section 15(g)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(1)) shall be debarred from contracting with the Federal Government for a period of not less than five years.

“(b) PROCESS.—In the case of a debarment under subsection (a), the head of the agency shall commence debarment action against the business concern by not later than 30 days after determining that the concern willfully and intentionally misrepresented the

status of the concern as described in subsection (a) and shall complete debarment actions against such concern by not later than 90 days after such determination.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In making a determination under this section, the head of an agency shall, as appropriate, consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—The debarment of a business concern under subsection (a) includes the debarment of all principals in the business concern for a period of not less than five years.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘small business concern’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

“(2) The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(q)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(2)).”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 801, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2339a the following new item:

“2339b. Debarment of contractors that fraudulently misrepresent status for purposes of obtaining certain set aside contracts.”

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the National Telecommunication and Information Administration.”

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Harry B. Harris, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Tibor Peter Nagy, Jr., of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (African Affairs), and David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (Near Eastern Affairs), all of the Department of State.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the following nominations: Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Allen Cothrel Winsor, to be United States

District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, Patrick R. Wyrick, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Edward W. Felten, of New Jersey, and Jane Nitze, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and Susan Llewellyn Pamerleau, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Texas, Gadyaces S. Serralta, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida, R. Don Ladner, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Florida, and Charles L. Goodwin, to be United States Marshal for the District of Hawaii, all 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, June 14, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrew Hampton, an intern in Senator SULLIVAN's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my defense fellow, a U.S. Marine Corps officer, Alexander Monte, be granted floor privileges for the length of the current debate on the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

#### COMMEMORATING THE TRICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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. 503.

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. 503) commemorating the tricentennial of the City of San Antonio, Texas.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the Cornyn amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to, the preamble, as amended, 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. 503) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2907) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the 18th whereas clause and insert the following:

Whereas San Antonio has been home to several notable individuals, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, President Theodore Roosevelt, Congressman David Crockett, Congressman Garlington Jerome Sutton, General Douglas MacArthur, General Jimmy Doolittle, Colonel James Bowie, Lieutenant Colonel Ed White, Master Sergeant Raul Perez Benavidez, Charles Lindbergh, Joan Crawford, Johnny Cash, Rosita Fernandez, and Santiago Jimenez;

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 503

Whereas in 1718, the Mission San Antonio de Valero, the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar, and the Villa de Bejar were founded in the area that would become the City of San Antonio (referred to in this preamble as "San Antonio");

Whereas in 1821, San Antonio became a part of the Mexican empire;

Whereas in the Battle of the Alamo in 1836, Mexican forces led by General Lopez de Santa Anna stormed the Alamo and more than 200 United States colonists, Texans, and Tejanos died defending the future State of Texas;

Whereas in 1836, the new government of the State of Texas formed the county government of Bexar, and made San Antonio the county seat of Bexar;

Whereas in 1837, by action of the City Council, Ciudad San Antonio de Bejar was officially renamed the City of San Antonio;

Whereas the United States Army post at San Antonio was established in 1865, and is known today as Fort Sam Houston;

Whereas in 1877, the first passenger train of the renamed Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio railroad arrived in San Antonio;

Whereas Brooks Air Force Base was built in 1917 in San Antonio and operated until closure in 2011;

Whereas Kelly Field, also known as Kelly Air Force Base, was founded in 1917 and operated until 2001, making it the oldest continuously operating air base in the United States;

Whereas in 1931, Randolph Air Force Base began operating as a training facility in San Antonio and is now part of Joint Base San Antonio;

Whereas in 1941, Lackland Air Force Base began operating as a training facility in San Antonio and is now part of Joint Base San Antonio;

Whereas in 1968, San Antonio hosted a 6-month international exposition known as "HemisFair '68", which welcomed more than 6,000,000 visitors from across the world;

Whereas in 1973, San Antonio received the first and only major professional sports team of the city, the San Antonio Spurs, which has won a total of 5 National Basketball Association championships;

Whereas in 1987, Pope John Paul II became the first and only pontiff to visit the State of Texas and San Antonio;

Whereas in 1992, the United States, Mexico, and Canada signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in San Antonio;

Whereas in 2017, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization inscribed the 5 Spanish colonial missions in San Antonio as a World Heritage Site;

Whereas San Antonio is also called the Alamo City, the Mission City, and the River City, and was officially trademarked "Military City, USA" in 2017;

Whereas San Antonio has been home to several notable individuals, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Lyndon B. Johnson, President Theodore Roosevelt, Congressman David Crockett, Congressman Garlington Jerome Sutton, General Douglas MacArthur, General Jimmy Doolittle, Colonel James Bowie, Lieutenant Colonel Ed White, Master Sergeant Raul Perez Benavidez, Charles Lindbergh, Joan Crawford, Johnny Cash, Rosita Fernandez, and Santiago Jimenez;

Whereas San Antonio hosts one of the largest annual marches in the United States for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, with nearly 300,000 participants;

Whereas San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the United States based on population;

Whereas San Antonio contributes to the cultural life and historical understanding of the State of Texas through events such as—

- (1) Fiesta;
- (2) Luminaria;
- (3) the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo;
- (4) the Armed Forces River Parade; and
- (5) the Texas Folk Life Festival; and

Whereas during the first week of May, 2018—

(1) San Antonio will honor and celebrate the tricentennial anniversary of the city; and

(2) each day of that week will have a specific focus, including a Day of Reflection, History & Education Day, Founders Day, Arts for All Day, Legacy Day, and Military Appreciation Day; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates 2018 as the year of the "San Antonio Tricentennial"; and

(2) honors the history and founding of the City of San Antonio, Texas.

#### JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 547, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 547) designating June 19, 2018, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 547) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 18,  
2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Monday, June 18; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of

H.R. 5515. I further ask that it be in order for Senator SANDERS or his designee to raise a single Congressional Budget Act point of order that lay against amendment No. 2282 on the bill, as amended, and that a motion to waive then be considered to have been made and the Senate vote on the motion without intervening action or debate; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on H.R. 5515, as amended, expire at 5:30 p.m., Monday, and the cloture motion filed today ripen following disposition of H.R. 5515.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JUNE 18, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:33 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 18, 2018, at 3 p.m.