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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, You are our God. Please draw near to all who are affected by the violence in Your house of worship in Sutherland Springs, TX. Comfort those who mourn, bring healing to the injured, and shower Your mercy upon us all.

Lord, keep our lawmakers composed even in life's storms. May they acknowledge their need of Your power, Your wisdom, and Your might. May they run toward life's challenges and hardships, knowing that they are never alone. Satisfy their souls with good things, and transform the mundane into the meaningful. Lord, purify their hearts, creating within them a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Reveal to them Your plans for their well-being, providing them with a future and hope.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of November 2, which notwithstanding rule XXII, be modified to have all executive session cloture motions ripen following the disposition of the Gibson nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Engel nomination, the time postcloture be counted as if invoked at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for most Americans, a church is a place of worship and love, a place where the faithful go to feel mercy and compassion, which is why what happened in Texas yesterday is so difficult for many to comprehend. Why would an individual do this? Families lost so much. Our hearts go out to them in this time of untold grief. Our gratitude goes out to the civilians and first responders who answer the call when others are in need.

As we continue to learn the details of yesterday's tragic events, I, along with all Members of the Senate, will keep the victims of this tragedy and their families in my prayers.

Mr. President, on a completely different matter, last Monday I said the Senate would confirm four excellent

judicial nominees by the end of the week. That is just what we did—Amy Barrett, confirmed; Joan Larsen, confirmed; Allison Eid, confirmed; Stephanos Bibas, confirmed.

After 8 years of a President who selected judges based upon an ideological litmus test designed to find nominees who favor certain groups or individuals over others, we now have a President who is sending over nominees who will ensure that the judiciary is actually living up to the role we expect in our democracy: treating everyone equally, giving every litigant a fair shake, applying the law as it is actually written, not as the judge wishes it might be. The four circuit court nominees the Senate confirmed last week will do just that.

Democrats have put up a lot of procedural roadblocks to prevent the Senate from moving forward all year. We have moved ahead anyway. As a result, despite all the obstacles from the other side, we are making significant progress.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and notable leadership of Judiciary Committee Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY, and I want to thank him again for everything he has done.

We are not finished yet. We are going to keep pressing forward on judicial nominees. We are going to keep confirming the other nominees before us as well.

This week the Senate will consider some of President Trump's other qualified nominees for various positions throughout the Federal Government. Each of these individuals will help lead their agencies to fulfill their particular mission in running the government.

First, we will advance the nomination of Steven Engel to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. Mr. Engel previously worked in the OLC, having done so under President Bush. He also served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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



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and counsel to the Assistant Attorney General. He obviously has a lot of experience advising senior policymakers on a wide variety of legal issues facing the executive branch. That is good because the role he has been nominated to has the responsibility for providing legal advice to the executive branch on all constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality.

I look forward to advancing Mr. Engel's nomination tomorrow so that he can begin putting his experience to work for our country as soon as possible, and then we will turn to the various other nominees before us so they can begin doing the same. Confirming the President's nominees is an important part of the Senate's business, and I urge all of our colleagues to work together so we can get this done.

TAX REFORM

Now on one final matter, Mr. President, today our colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee began marking up the tax reform legislation they unveiled last week. Under Chairman BRADY's leadership, the committee is continuing its work to get our economy reaching again for its true potential. This is yet more momentum for our country's once-in-a-generation opportunity to update the tax system, deliver relief to hard-working American families, and get our economy creating more opportunities and prosperity.

Under Chairman HATCH's leadership, the Senate Finance Committee is continuing to move forward on its own legislation to increase opportunity and to provide more take-home pay for American families. In an open process through regular order, members of the committee will continue to have input in the writing of this tax reform legislation.

Both Chambers are working with the President and his team to overhaul our country's complex and outdated tax system. We are united around a commonsense set of goals to make taxes lower, simpler, and fairer; take more money out of Washington's pockets and put more money in the pockets of America's middle class; and level the playing field for American workers and businesses so they can compete against foreign competitors on an equal footing and not only create more jobs in America but keep them here too. These are goals shared by so many across our country regardless of party.

It is time to deliver real tax relief for hard-working families, and we are going to keep working together to do just that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the mass shooting in Texas yesterday—the latest mass shooting in what seems like never-ending gun violence in our country. My heart breaks for the victims and their families and for the community of Sutherland Springs in Texas.

We are still gathering all the facts about this specific crime. We are still learning about what happened, how this murderer was able to purchase a gun, whatever his twisted rationale was for walking into a house of worship in a small town and slaughtering more than 20 people, including young children, with an assault weapon. Our incredible law enforcement officials are working hard to answer all of that, but the most important fact of all is something we already know very well. This was yet another case where someone on American soil who had absolutely no business getting his hands on a weapon of war was able to get one and use it to commit heinous mass murder.

Of the five worst mass shootings in our history, three of them have occurred in just the past 17 months. Think about that. In a small town in America, nearly 7 percent of the town's population was slaughtered just because they went to church that day. The weapon he used was based on a military weapon designed for a war zone, but this was not a war zone. It was a church. People were singing and praying and savoring life.

I reject the notion that it is too soon to act. If not now, then when? We should ban assault weapons and bump stocks today. People who don't want to have an honest conversation say we need to wait. Well, for how long? Because we wait, and we wait, and we will see evil rear its ugly head over and over again, and we are told to wait again.

We have enough information today for Congress to do its job and try to keep our constituents safe from gun violence. We had enough information before yesterday to act, but what Congress does not have is the political will to act. My friends, this must change. Thoughts and prayers are not going to stop the next mass shooting. Merely talking about doing something about the mentally ill obtaining guns isn't going to stop the next deranged person with hate in their soul from committing yet another mass murder. The Second Amendment does not mean that Americans should have to risk getting shot because they walked down the wrong street in a city or decided to go to a music festival in Las Vegas or a night club in Orlando or an elementary school in Newtown or a movie theater in Aurora or a church on Sunday in Texas.

After each of these horrific acts of violence, what happened here in Congress? Nothing. More than a month after Las Vegas, we still can't even tackle the most obvious fixes like banning bump stocks. Plain and simple,

Americans are being slaughtered and Congress is refusing to protect them.

I hear my colleagues who rightly say we can't pass laws to stop every instance of a deranged gunman who wants to kill innocent men, women, and children, just like our other criminal laws will not necessarily stop every instance of crime, but there is no excuse for not even trying. Everyone in this Chamber knows that a shooting in a church is something that should never happen in this country. Mr. President, I think you would agree with that. I think everyone who serves in this Chamber would agree with that. So then why aren't we doing anything to stop this violence? Why aren't we making it harder for a crazed, evil person to get their hands on a weapon of war?

It makes me wonder what our colleagues are waiting for. Are they waiting for the NRA to come in and give them cover and tell them it is OK to act? Are they waiting for the NRA to give them permission to stand up and do something? If the NRA said today assault rifles or bump stocks should be banned, it would be done tomorrow. That is the sad truth of this place, but we know the NRA will not say that because they want to keep selling these weapons of war to anyone who is willing to buy them, no matter how unsafe it makes it for the rest of us.

Congress has caved in over and over again to the enormous pressure by the NRA and the gun industry—which just wants to protect their profits—and has ignored the vast majority of Americans. Gun owners and nongun owners alike support commonsense measures to keep their fellow Americans safe.

These mass slaughters continue, and Congress has done nothing—absolutely nothing. To me, this is a monumental failure of leadership, and it is no wonder that gun violence and mass shootings happen here at a higher rate than any other developed country in the world. This has to change. It is not enough to solve the individual crime after the fact. We have to take meaningful, real action to prevent the next one. This is what has to happen. To those who doubt that Congress can actually get something done, we already know that, depending on the motivation, depending on whom Congress is actually listening to, Congress is fully capable of moving quickly to enact change. Instead of acting like its hands are tied and refusing to do anything—which is what is happening right now—far more often than not, Congress listens to the special interests instead of the people who actually elect them to keep them safe.

Look at the shameful state of our gun laws now and tell me if you think these laws came about because families in our States demanded them or was it because the NRA demanded them? Congress has turned a collective back on strengthening and expanding our national background check system. We should be fixing the holes in the system—whatever is necessary—not just

shrugging our shoulders and saying there is nothing that can be done. Who do you think demanded that we don't fix the background check system? Was it families in your State or was it the NRA? Congress refuses to ban high-capacity magazines, which are literally made for war, and let killers fire dozens of rounds without having to stop and reload. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Congress still refuses to ban assault weapons, which are designed for war—designed to kill as many people as possible as rapidly as possible but are given different names so they can be sold in the civilian world. Who do you think demanded that, our families or the NRA?

Congress is on the verge of passing legislation to make it easier right now for killers to buy suppressers, known by many of us as silencers, to attach to their weapons and make it harder for the police to do their jobs and catch violent criminals. Who do you think demanded that? Certainly not the police and not our families—the NRA.

Congress is dragging its feet on banning bump stocks, the inexpensive piece of equipment the killer in Las Vegas used to turn its already-powerful firearm into an automatic weapon capable of firing hundreds of rounds per minute. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Just this February, Congress overturned a rule that had prevented people who were so incapacitated that they could no longer handle their own finances from getting their hands on a gun. Who do you think demanded that, families or the NRA?

Congress even went so far as to pass a law that blocked the Centers for Disease Control from studying the issue of gun deaths the way they are allowed to study any other cause of death in this country. Why? Because it is an attempt to hide the overwhelming data showing that keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people would decrease gun crime. Who do you think demanded that? Who do you think demanded that Congress suppress the facts and the alarming data about gun violence? Do you think it was families or the NRA?

This really has to change. Congress needs to start protecting the people we were elected to represent. Their voices matter, and it really does matter whom you are listening to. Their voices matter, and they must be heard. We must listen and enact change that would actually help to keep our States safer from gun violence. We are the ones who need to act. We can't ignore our responsibility to keep our country safe from this kind of violence.

To all the people who are watching us right now, I would say this: After all these massacres, pay attention to what your elected leaders are saying. Pay attention to what they are actually doing. Watch how they react. Look closely at how they use their time here. Listen to what they say or don't say. After these mass shootings, did

they tell you we were going to bow our heads for a moment of silence and leave it there or did they tell you we were going to fight with every bit of energy to actually fix these broken gun laws and protect our American citizens?

Democracy only works when regular people stand up and demand action. I urge everyone listening today to demand that action and to hold elected leaders accountable and to ask them to pass meaningful gun reform now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today we join the stunned community of Sutherland Springs, TX—a small town near San Antonio—in mourning the loss of too many innocent lives. One innocent life is too many.

I listened to the impassioned comments of our colleague from New York asking us to do something, but I actually think it is important we understand exactly what did happen, and once the fog of this terrible tragic event lifts, after the law enforcement agencies can do the appropriate investigation, then I think it is appropriate for us to ask: What can we do, consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States—what can we do to make something like this less likely?

I wish I was optimistic there was some magic wand we could wave and that we could prevent terrible tragedies like this, but in a free and open society, unfortunately, we don't have that magic wand.

On the other hand, we have arrived at a consensus, I think, in this country, that background checks, for example, are appropriate for people suffering from mental illness, people who committed previous felonies. Those people are banned from possessing or purchasing firearms, and there is a consensus that they should be banned.

There are some early reports—and, again, the fog of this terrible tragedy has not yet lifted. We need clarity in order to know what did and did not happen and where we might be able to act to make a difference. There is some indication by some news reports that this individual had committed domestic violence and had been convicted of that by a court-martial. That, too, would likely have been a disqualifying factor in his ability to possess or purchase firearms. So we need to know exactly what the facts are.

I appreciate the passion of our colleague from New York. We are all stunned by what happened, but I think being rational people, we ought to want to know exactly what the facts are before we decide what the best course of action might be. It may be that, like we saw a few years back at Virginia Tech, an individual who had previously been adjudicated mentally ill, that determination, that judgment was not entered into the National Instant Background Checks System run

by the FBI, and because it wasn't—because of a failure of communication between the State and Federal authorities—he was able to purchase a firearm when he was legally disqualified from being able to do so.

So those are the sorts of things I think we could work together on. I know, for example, after the terrible shooting in Las Vegas, I was shocked, like so many others were, that somebody could essentially bypass the prohibition against making a semiautomatic weapon into an automatic weapon by the use of the so-called bump stock. As somebody who enjoys the outdoors and is a hunter and enjoys recreational shooting, I can tell you I know of no sportsman, no hunter, who uses a bump stock. It seems to me the sole purpose of this is to bypass the prohibition about turning semiautomatic weapons into automatic weapons. That is something I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will continue to look into and determine whether the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms ought to be extended the authority to regulate the so-called bump stocks.

Back when President Obama was President of the United States, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms said they did not believe they had the authority, but several of us have written to them and asked them to clarify for us just where they think they do have authority and where they feel they need additional authority so we can work with them, hopefully, to prevent terrible tragedies like that from occurring in the future.

Yesterday we all received the news that a gunman opened fire on parishioners at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, killing at least 26 people during the Sunday morning church service. I can't imagine a more vulnerable time. People were sitting in the pews with their heads bowed and their eyes closed and then were exposed to this madman unleashing death in that house of worship. The victims included young children and a pregnant woman, among others. All 26 of them are now gone, aged 18 months to 72 years old.

This small community and an entire Nation must now bind its wounds as we mourn the dead and meet the face of evil with moral clarity and a newfound determination to stem the violence that continues to plague the United States of the America.

We saw in New York that somebody used a vehicle—a car—to mow down people and to kill people as an act of terrorism.

We are vulnerable in so many ways because we are an open society. Unfortunately, these sorts of tragedies seem to come back to us time and again, and we in Texas are not immune.

We remember the knife attack at the University of Texas in Austin earlier this year. We remember the shooting of police officers in downtown Dallas last year, where five police officers perished, and at Fort Hood in 2009. Each of

these events has been shocking, inexplicable, and, certainly, reprehensible.

This tragedy may be the worst of all. That this event occurred in a house of worship makes it all the more grotesque and despicable. Hymns of praise were silenced, and those led to cries for help.

The shooting in Sutherland Springs has been called the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history. It is perhaps better understood by the words of one man whose mother and father were both killed yesterday. He was sitting on the curb, outside the emergency room, at Connally Memorial Medical Center in Floresville, a town nearby. Shaken to the core, he called the events of yesterday "unimaginable." It is impossible to comprehend what it must have felt like to wake up this morning in Sutherland Springs—a small, tight-knit, rural community that is roughly 35 miles southeast of San Antonio—with so many neighbors lost and the sound of yesterday's gunfire and sirens still ringing in the air.

One of the people who lost her life was Crystal Holcombe, who died with her unborn child and several relatives. Another was Annabelle Pomeroy, a shy 14-year-old girl, whose uncle describes her as an "angel in the flesh."

We know, thankfully, that two Good Samaritans turned on and pursued the shooter and may have prevented this nightmare from lasting even longer. We are grateful for the heroism and the quick decisive action of these two men. We know that about 20 injured remain in hospitals, including a 5-year-old, Ryland Ward, who was shot multiple times.

Yesterday I spoke with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt, Jr., and offered not only my condolences but my unequivocal and complete support. Sheriff Tackitt said that the bloody scene inside First Baptist was horrific, but that the response to the tragedy was instantaneous. First responders from the surrounding area, as well as State and Federal officials, inundated Sutherland Springs with logistical resources and personnel, offering their love and compassion, as well—a proud display of what I often see, which is an attitude that being a Texan doesn't describe just where you are from. It describes who your family is.

Today I join the sheriff, as well as Governor Abbott, and my friend Representative HENRY CUELLAR, in whose congressional district this tragedy occurred, my colleague in the Senate, Senator CRUZ, and so many other Texans in asking God for healing and for understanding.

We know the investigation into exactly what happened and why is ongoing, and it is important that we allow this investigation to be completed so we can know what happened and exactly what we might be able to do to prevent tragedies like this from occurring in the future.

I hope that Texans who call Sutherland Springs and First Baptist Church

home will soon have some answers. I send my thoughts and prayers to those who lost parents, children, friends, and relatives in this outrageous and inhuman act. I hope each of us will pledge to be a light in the darkness. To the families whose lives are forever changed by this atrocity, let us provide a strong shoulder of support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO pertaining to the introduction of S. 2076 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAX REFORM

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today the U.S. House of Representatives begins marking up H.R. 1, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, and as the U.S. Senate continues to debate tax cuts, I am reminded of a speech that former Democratic President John F. Kennedy delivered in New York City in 1962. In fact, it was in December of 1962, when he said:

In short, it is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today and tax revenues are too low and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now. The experience of a number of European countries and Japan have borne this out. This country's own experience with tax reduction in 1954 has borne this out. And the reason is that only full employment can balance the budget, and tax reduction can pave the way to that employment. The purpose of cutting taxes now is not to incur a budget deficit, but to achieve the more prosperous, expanding economy which can bring a budget surplus.

President Kennedy went on to say:

I repeat: our practical choice is not between a tax-cut deficit and a budgetary surplus. It is between two kinds of deficits: a chronic deficit of inertia, as the unwanted result of inadequate revenues and a restricted economy; or a temporary deficit of transition, resulting from a tax cut designed to boost the economy, increase tax revenues, and achieve—and I believe this can be done—a budget surplus. The first type of deficit is a sign of waste and weakness; the second reflects an investment in the future.

If someone had just tuned in, they might think I was quoting, perhaps, President Reagan or perhaps some

other Republican leader. This was President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

We need to cut taxes once again and put money back into the pockets of the American people. I can state that Montanans need more jobs, but, importantly, we need better paying jobs. Most importantly, they need bigger paychecks. The best way to give Montanans a pay raise—how about cutting their taxes? We need tax cuts.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Madam President, separately, I just want to express my sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the people of Sutherland Springs, TX. What a devastating turn of events there—men, women, and children showing up for worship on a Sunday in a church. This was an act of pure evil.

My wife Cindy and I are praying for the victims, their families, and the community that has been changed forever.

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.

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

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

NATURAL GAS LIQUID STORAGE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to talk about an issue in my State of West Virginia—really my region—that is becoming very important, I think, to this country's energy security and prosperity.

As we know, West Virginia has extensive natural gas liquid resources. Nearly a century ago, when these resources were discovered, the rapid growth that followed turned Central West Virginia into a national hub for the petrochemical industry. You know what, we have never looked back.

Today, chemistry remains our State's second largest industry and directly impacts other major sectors like energy, biomedical engineering, and manufacturing. West Virginia is home to 140 different chemical companies that employ nearly 13,000 workers. West Virginia's share of GDP from the chemical industry is the sixth largest in the country, and these products are about one-quarter of our State's major international exports. We still have one of the highest concentrations of chemical, polymer, and resin manufacturers in the world.

The sector is sort of a microcosm of the challenges and opportunities facing this important American industry during a time of fierce international competition. Estimates show, more than 100,000 workers in West Virginia already have the industrial skills to fill jobs in this sector, and there are thousands more who could easily be retrained to fill these jobs in this important industry. With our region's abundance of natural gas from Marcellus

and Utica shale, West Virginia is perfectly positioned for a massive increase of economic growth and new jobs.

Natural gas liquids provide the building blocks for many of the products used by our consumers every single day—products ranging from the dashboard in your car or the water bottle that many of us use. Right now, we don't have the right infrastructure in place to store and distribute the building blocks that make up these products. As a result, these valuable resources are being used to generate heat and electricity, instead of being made into consumer products. As Energy Secretary Perry put it, that's like cooking your breakfast over a fire of hundred dollar bills. This represents a huge opportunity to act on this administration's "America First" energy policy. It is an opportunity to grow an industry here at home with an American workforce and America's natural resources.

To elevate these issues in Congress, I am proud to serve as the cochair of the bipartisan Senate Chemistry Caucus. We host briefings about the importance of this industry to America's economy and national security. States that may not have robust petrochemical sectors, nonetheless, rely on its products for manufacturing, agriculture, and several other key industries.

For months—I would say more than months, years—I have been advancing the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquids market to improve our storage and distribution capabilities. New drilling technologies have unlocked access to trillions upon trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and their associated liquids in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. Some of our most downtrodden economic areas have this valuable asset right there.

Unpredicted just a decade ago, this asset can create a renaissance in the region's petrochemical industry, but this can only happen if policymakers and the private sector seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. To do that, we need to create a natural gas liquid storage hub in Central Appalachia. The concept of this new hub is simple. Right now, because we don't have a way to store these liquids, we are unable to fully maximize this resource. That hurts producers, refiners, and our manufacturers in the State of West Virginia, and Ohio, and beyond.

A storage hub and the necessary pipeline infrastructure would create a robust Appalachian market for natural gas liquids. This would have major national benefits, and here is why. Let's think about the hurricane that just occurred and devastated our friends in Texas. The gulf—and particularly Houston and the storage hub at Mont Belvieu, TX—dominate the domestic market there. Hurricane Harvey knocked out as much as 60 percent of that supply. It knocked it offline, and it took a month to get the hub back up and running. By establishing an Appa-

lachian storage hub away from Hurricane Alley, we would add redundancy that protects our economy and our national security. Having all this storage capacity in only one region of the country only drives up production costs for American manufacturers. I would also add that this resource is in Appalachia. Appalachia should have this storage hub to be able to capitalize and create the jobs right in our own neighborhood.

As Appalachia has become a robust producer of natural gas liquids, pipelines that used to flow from the gulf to the Northeast have been reversed. They are now sent to the gulf for storage and refining. It is sent back as ethylene to the interior of the country—often Appalachia itself—and to the Midwest for manufacturing. This back-and-forth obviously drives up prices for the goods you buy every day, from furniture to toys, to cars.

To be clear, development of an Appalachian hub would not come at the expense of the gulf's market. It is a comparative advantage. The Appalachian hub can more efficiently serve many of the domestic manufacturers, while the gulf can expand its export capacity. Besides making the national market more efficient and resilient, an Appalachian market will drive significant development in a region that desperately needs a boost.

A recent study found that the Appalachian States of West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky would see as much as \$35.8 million in new capital investment, creating more than 100,000 jobs by 2025 with this new hub.

When Secretary Perry accepted my invitation and visited West Virginia in July, the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquid storage hub and market was a great topic of emphasis. The Secretary met with several business leaders as part of a roundtable discussion to discuss paths forward in developing a regional ethane market. Needless to say, the Secretary saw the obvious benefits of such a project and that the hub could play a key role in the administration's related goals of rejuvenating the Appalachian economy and achieving an "America First" energy policy.

The Secretary and I have discussed how best to bring this public-private partnership to life since his visit to West Virginia. I think all of my colleagues—particularly those representing Appalachia—should be as excited about this concept as the Secretary and I are. Several private entities are undertaking that initial development work right now, with interest coming from both domestic and foreign investors.

I have been engaging frequently with Secretary Perry and with Commerce Secretary Ross about making this storage hub a reality. The Trump administration understands the importance of this project to the economies of West Virginia and the region. I appreciate their efforts to help move our State

forward beyond the economic disasters we have had over the last several years. I will continue my advocacy for this enormous economic development opportunity and encourage my colleagues—not just from the States I mentioned but all around the country—to join as partners in this effort.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF PETER ROBB

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this morning I drove from Cleveland to Youngstown. I was in Youngstown, OH—Mahoning Valley—at Teamsters Local 377 talking to workers. There were maybe 200 of them in the room, mostly retirees who are in danger of having their pensions cut—pensions they earned over a lifetime of hard work.

To understand how that happens, when workers are at the bargaining table, whether it is Teamsters, electricians, Steelworkers or SCIU, they so often are willing to give up wages today in order to have a secure retirement in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years.

That is what these workers chose to do. They chose to give up wages. Whether they worked for Schwebel's in Youngstown, whether they worked for Roadway, over the road, whether they were working for any number of companies, they were willing, at the bargaining table, to give up higher wages today to have money to set aside that was then invested often in Wall Street. We will get to that in a minute. It is bad enough Wall Street squandered those workers' money. It is worse that the government that is supposed to look out for these workers simply isn't doing it. One of the retired workers, Ed Barker, told us: We did our part. Now it is time for Members of Congress to cross party lines and do theirs.

We talk a good game in this body about how we respect workers and respect their work, but I am not sure we always live that. If we really value a hard day's work in this country, we start by keeping our promise to these hard-working Ohioans, Virginians, Montanans, and all over this country. We keep our promise to those hard-working people in our country, but we can't end there. That is just the beginning of what we need to do to ensure that hard work pays off for ordinary Americans.

During his campaign, Candidate Trump made a lot of big promises to workers in Ohio. He ran some of his big rallies across our State. He made big promises to workers in Ohio and across the country. He told them he would put American workers first. Well, the White House today looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives, and many of the people the President has put in charge have a record of doing the opposite of putting American workers first.

That is certainly true of Peter Robb, the nominee to serve as the general

counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. Mr. Robb has spent his career working to strip workers of their rights, defend corporations accused of mistreating workers, and he has tried to undermine the watchdog agency he is now seeking to join. He will be working at the National Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to strike a balance and advocate only for American workers. The President's nominee is someone who received a very high salary building his career defending corporations accused of mistreating workers, working to strip workers of their rights, and trying to undermine the NLRB's effort to get a fair shake and build a level playing field for workers.

Someone who views unions and collective bargaining as a threat to be dealt with was primarily the story of Mr. Robb's career, instead of helping to protect the central rights for workers. A person like that has no business serving as the top lawyer for the National Labor Relations Board.

His nomination is just the latest in a long line of evidence that work simply isn't valued in this country the way it used to be. People in Ohio and around the country work harder. They work more days, more hours, longer hours, harder than ever before, and they have less to show for it.

Over the past 40 years, GDP has gone up, corporate profits have gone up, and executive compensation has gone up—all because of the productivity of the American worker, but, fundamentally, the workers haven't shared in the wealth they have created. Again, GDP goes up, profits go up, executive salaries go up, productivity goes up, but workers' wages are stagnant or worse. We know that.

We also know people in this body rarely side with workers in that equation. One major reason the economic growth has not brought higher wages to workers is Americans are less likely to have a union card to protect them. When Americans reminisce about the good jobs that disappeared, I am willing to bet most of those jobs were union.

As manufacturing employment declined, the share of workforce represented by unions declined with it—only more rapidly. I can accept that the workforce is changing, but what we can't accept is more and more of our workers are paid less in wages, have fewer benefits, and have little economic security.

It is no coincidence that over the same timeframe, economic growth in this country has been shared among fewer and fewer Americans. Keep in mind, as the 1 percent gets richer, they take more and more of the profits, they take more of the productivity gains, and workers are left further behind.

We know what will happen with this so-called tax reform that is being considered in the House. They are then going to negotiate it right down the hall here in the majority leader's office

the same way they did healthcare. They will be right down the hall in the majority leader's office with lots of lobbyists but no light shone, no public, and no media coverage.

We know what happens. We know what happens with tax reform like that. The rich get richer and the middle class shrinks. That is the story of those Teamsters in Youngstown today. As I walked with the crowd of Teamsters, I spoke with a number of them on the way in and the way out. I asked how long they had driven a truck. Most had driven 30, some 40, and a few 45 years. They worked that hard. They gave up wages today so they would have a pension in the future. Yet, right now, because of Wall Street misfeasance and malfeasance, in large part, and because government, the people in this body don't have the guts to stand up for these workers, we know what has happened to their pensions, and we know what will happen to their pensions if we don't step in and do the right thing come December this year.

We know what will happen with the tax reform bill, again, written down the hall in the majority leader's office—the same thing. The wealthiest 1 percent get richer. The rich get richer and the powerful get more power and what happens is, the middle class shrinks. We know that.

Last week, I was on the floor with many of my colleagues talking about a case before the Supreme Court—*Janus v. AFSCME*. The case is part of a decades-long attempt to chip away at workers' power in the workplace. Mr. Robb has been part of that effort. The nominee to be the top lawyer at the National Labor Relations Board has been part of the effort to chip away at workers' rights, to continue the demeaning and diminishing role of workers in this country, to suppress wages in this country. He is the person the President of the United States wants to serve as the top lawyer on the National Labor Relations Board.

What is wrong with that picture? He defended corporations accused of discrimination of not paying their workers the paychecks they earned. Imagine, he represented the corporations that tried to keep these workers from getting the paychecks they earned. He worked for an energy company that was working to defeat workers' organizing effort. His own law firm's website brags about how they delayed the election 2 more years.

You know how it works. My colleagues know this. These workers signed a petition. They signed a card, if you will, saying they would like to have a union election. A majority of these workers—probably a majority of 60, 70 percent—signed a card saying they wanted to have a union election. It is a right in this country. It is a right since the 1930s. When President Roosevelt pushed through the National Labor Relations Act, workers received the right to vote on a union. Mr. Robb's company was bragging. They

were bragging that they were able to delay the election for 2 years. So maybe they couldn't defeat the workers, but do you know what you do then? You delay the election because you have really good, high-priced lawyers who know how to do this for management, for the corporation.

If you delay the election for a week, for a month, for a quarter, for half a year, for a year, for 2 years, you know what happens. Many of those workers who signed that petition who thought they might have a shot at the union, some of them got fired, some just left, some of them were ready to retire, maybe some of them died. So by the time the election is held, you have pretty much defeated the organizing effort. That is why people like Mr. Robb don't belong at the National Labor Relations Board.

We need someone in this job who wakes up every day ready to defend American workers, not oppress them, not shut them down, not depress their wages. You don't want somebody who has spent his career trying to bring these workers down.

What Mr. Robb doesn't seem to understand is, it is not corporations that drive the economy, it is workers. We grow the economy from the middle class out.

I know you are going to hear a number of my colleagues who support this huge tax break in this tax bill. It is all about cutting the corporate tax so corporations make more money, have higher profits, have higher executive salaries. It will not have anything to do with wages. It never does. No matter how profitable the companies are, they are not willingly giving higher wages to its workers. You are going to hear from these companies. You are going to hear the defenders of these companies come to this body, and they are going to talk about how corporations are driving the economy; that if you give tax breaks to the richest people in the country, it will trickle down and create jobs and increase wages. Well, it hasn't worked that way in the past.

In the 1990s, Bill Clinton grew the economy. He focused the tax breaks in the tax bills on the middle-class workers and grew the economy out from the middle. Twenty-two million net private sector jobs increased during the Clinton years.

The next 8 years, under President Bush 2, the tax cuts all went to the rich, two major tax cuts—not entirely to the rich but overwhelmingly to the rich. For trickle down, zero net increase of private sector jobs. There were 22 million during the Clinton years because he focused on the middle class. There was zero job growth during the Bush years because it was trickle-down economics.

What is going on in the back room in the majority leader's, Senator McConnell's, back office? It is another tax cut for the rich, trickle down, see what happens. The rich get richer, and the middle class shrinks.

What Mr. Robb doesn't understand is, it is not corporations that drive the economy, it is workers. When the workers are doing better, they are buying more things, they are creating more demand, companies sell more products, the economy grows. If work isn't valued, if corporations short-change workers with the help of lawyers like Mr. Robb, then Americans can't earn their way to a better life for their families no matter how hard they work.

We all know, workers are working harder than ever before. They are working longer hours than ever before. They are more productive. Profits are up. Executive compensation is up. Wages have been flat. What is fair about that? What should we do about that? What we should do about that is not to put people on the National Labor Relations Board who want to do more of the same.

Whenever we face another attack on American workers and their freedom to organize, I think of the words of Pope Francis. He said: "There is no good society without a good union, and there is no good union that is not reborn every day in the peripheries—that does not transform the disregarded stones of the economy into cornerstones." We need laws that reflect the dignity of every discarded stone, of every American working too many hours for too little pay. The last thing we need is another nominee who doesn't value work, another nominee who doesn't respect the Americans who do it, another nominee who always lines up on the side of the richest people in the country and always is working to take rights away from workers, to take wages away from workers, and to take benefits away from workers. That is the story of Mr. Robb's work history in the private sector.

Is that the kind of person you want representing workers and representing the American economy at the National Labor Relations Board? I think not.

I urge my colleagues to listen a little bit more. Go to the Teamsters' hall in Youngstown like I did today. Listen a little more to the Americans we serve. Listen a little less at the country club, to the big corporations trying to squeeze every last penny out of these workers' hands, to squeeze every last penny out of these workers. Reject Mr. Robb's nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LOGAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a dear friend whom I have known for more than 30 years, Dr. John Logan III, of Henderson, KY. John was recently honored by his community for a lifetime of servant leadership. The city dedicated a plaque on the Henderson Riverwalk, which is one of the many landmarks that John had an indispensable hand in building and one I was proud to work with him to help secure. In a surprise ceremony—John thought he was simply going to lunch with a friend—they honored him for decades of philanthropy and service to his community.

The plaque includes a quote from author Margaret Mead, which reads, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." These words perfectly encapsulate the impact of my friend John.

John serves as the chief medical officer of the Methodist Hospital in Henderson, where he started working in 1962 specializing in family medicine. A number of years ago, John embarked on a mission to highlight the extraordinary history of the hospital. Because of his tireless work, the successes of this Henderson institution will continue to be remembered for years to come. In addition to his work caring for patients and leading the administration of the hospital, John gives of himself to other aspects of the community.

In 1971, John joined the Family YMCA's capital campaign, working to help the group move from its old home downtown to a much larger facility on 5 acres of land. He has continued to work with the YMCA, making sure that young people in Henderson have a well-equipped facility to enjoy and grow. John also helped establish other community initiatives, including Henderson's Depot Welcome Center and the Methodist Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

In 2012, the Henderson Community College board of directors presented John with an award recognizing his substantial service to the school. Through the years, John has taken a keen interest in the students. He worked with State legislators and community leaders to raise \$1 million to support scholarships to the college and to build a fine arts center. His impact will be felt by students for years to come.

John has spent his life giving to others—his community, the Methodist Hospital, and his friends. So many of the projects in Henderson would not have been possible without John's dedi-

cated leadership, and I am immensely proud to call him my friend. His decades of service have truly made Henderson and Kentucky a better place.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the selfless work of Dr. John Logan, a remarkable Kentuckian and a wonderful friend.

Mr. President, The Gleaner in Henderson recently published an article on John's career of service. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Gleaner, Oct. 26, 2017]

DR. JOHN LOGAN HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

(By Douglas White)

It's hard to name a community institution in Henderson that Dr. John Logan hasn't helped or been part of creating.

So when it came time to honor his decades of organizing, cheerleading and fundraising for the Henderson community as a whole, city officials picked perhaps the most scenic spot he's had a hand in bringing to reality.

"Every day he wakes up and works to make this community better," said Dr. Lee Newberry, one of Logan's colleagues at Methodist Hospital, as a plaque was dedicated Tuesday afternoon at the Seventh Street overlook on the Henderson Riverwalk.

"He's a true example of a servant leader."

Newberry and other speakers at the event offered a long list of community projects, programs and buildings that Logan has helped make happen.

A few examples include the modern YMCA facilities, the fine arts center on the campus of Henderson Community College, the downtown Depot building, St. Anthony's Hospice, Colonels to College, the Sandefur Center, and currently in the works, the new 1-69 bridge over the Ohio River.

Attorney David Thomason noted, "Many of those things wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for John."

Thomason recalled how Logan pushed for, and got, money inserted into the state budget for Henderson's fine arts center. It came literally at the midnight hour, but with a catch: Henderson would have to find a way to contribute \$200,000 to make the bonding a reality.

When asked, in the middle of the night, if Logan could make it happen, he replied quickly: "You're damned right!"

"He never met a challenge he didn't embrace," said Thomason. "Once he's on board, the ship doesn't sink. In my opinion, he has done more than any other volunteer in the past 50 years."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the November 2, 2017, vote on calendar No. 433, confirmation of the nomination of Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. circuit judge for the Third Circuit. I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING BERNARD SHAW

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Bernard Shaw devoted his life to supporting Maine's family farms and to preserving our State's agricultural heritage. His recent passing at 88 years of

age was a great loss, but he left behind a legacy that will be cherished for generations to come.

I rise today in tribute to this outstanding leader and to offer my deepest condolences to his wife Norma, family, and friends.

Growing up in Aroostook County, the heart of Maine's potato industry, I saw every day the importance of family farms to our way of life and to our communities. Bernard was a leader in this iconic Aroostook industry.

Born in Limestone, ME, near my hometown of Caribou, Bernard began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward. In addition to helping to build a strong and successful family business, he served the industry in numerous agricultural organizations at the local, State, and national levels.

Bernard served as Maine's commissioner of agriculture from 1988 to 1996 during Governor McKernan's administration. During my own service in State government, I had the pleasure of working alongside Bernard, a leader of uncommon energy, intelligence, and dedication.

During their 67 years of marriage, in both Aroostook County and our State capital of Augusta, Bernard and Norma were active volunteers in their community, serving youth programs, civic organizations, schools, and their church. Upon Bernard's retirement in 1996, the couple devoted countless hours to the Augusta Food Bank, helping their neighbors in need throughout the capital region.

In 2012, Bernard and Norma were honored with the Maine Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award. The citation accompanying that award described them as "two of the most accomplished, yet humble, contributors to Maine's agricultural community" who personified the traditional, hard-working Maine farm family.

Bernard Shaw was guided by the traditions that define Maine, and he strengthened them for the future. His invaluable contributions to agriculture and to our State will be deeply missed, but he will long be remembered for his leadership and vision.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we remember the life of Bernard "Bernie" Shaw, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 88. As a lifelong resident of Maine, a wonderful husband and father to three, and a champion for agriculture, future generations will continue to remember Bernie by the lasting impact he has left on the State.

Originally from Limestone, Bernie attend the Limestone schools and later the University of Maine. It was after this that he met his beloved wife, Norma. In over 65 years of marriage, Bernie and Norma raised three children—Steve, Susan, and Sara—all while running a successful family farm and giving back to their community in numerous ways.

Bernie first began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward, and eventu-

ally took over the family business, before moving to Augusta in 1987. From 1988 to 1994, Bernie served the State of Maine as the commissioner of agriculture. Over the years, he served on local, State, and national level agriculture committees, drawing from his own experience as a former Aroostook County potato farmer. Only a few out of the many groups he championed for, Bernie devoted his time to the Maine Potato Council, the Maine Potato Board, the Agricultural Bargaining Council, and the Land For Maine's Future Board.

After retiring, Bernie devoted much of his time to volunteering at the Augusta Food Bank, and the Windsor Fair. He was honored for this commitment back in 2012, when he received the Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award, along with his wife, Norma. Both were lauded for their weekly efforts with the food bank and their success in expanding the number of families able to be helped.

Bernie Shaw represented in so many ways the values we hold dear in Maine: family, faith, community, service, and tradition. We have much to be thankful for in Maine because of Bernie's dedication and service to the State, and he will be deeply missed by many.

RECOGNIZING CONNORS-EMERSON SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education at Connors-Emerson. Since first being named a Blue Ribbon School in 2004, educators and staff have deepened and expanded standards-based teaching and learning. More than half of the faculty have advanced degrees or certification as master level teachers. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Bar Harbor is the gateway to Acadia National Park, and the school has a strong ethic of environmental responsibility. Currently, the seventh grade students at Connors-Emerson are working on an expeditionary learning unit which is exploring the effects of climate change on Acadia and all of Mount Desert Island.

Bar Harbor also is home to the MDI Biological Laboratory and to the Jack-

son Laboratory, world-renowned research institutions. Connors-Emerson excels in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The math team and robotics team have received honors at both the State and national levels, and the school has been awarded several grants to advance STEM education.

Fully 98 percent of students in grades five through eight participate in after-school activities. From the State champion jazz band and drama to Destination Imagination and the Outdoors Club, students are encouraged to pursue their interests.

As a school community, Connors-Emerson is dedicated to the values of fairness, compassion, honesty, responsibility, respect, and courtesy that help to create a positive, diverse, safe, and caring learning environment.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Connors-Emerson School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire Bar Harbor community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Falmouth Elementary School in Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the fifth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Falmouth. Established just 6 years ago, the elementary school is relatively young; however, it has a rich history steeped in tradition. The union of two schools in 2011 created the largest elementary school in Maine. One of those schools, Plummer-Motz, received a Blue Ribbon Award in 2005, and the dedication to quality education was expanded through a transition that was guided by a team of representatives from each of the two schools.

Faculty and staff at Falmouth are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. They work to ensure a

safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members.

Students have rich and diverse learning opportunities in art and music, and library skills are part of every child's learning. World language instruction starts in the first grade, and computer science classes start in grade 3. Students benefit from interdisciplinary learning through the garden-greenhouse and through celebrations such as Arts Nights, Coder Express, and Engineering Night.

This award recognizes that Falmouth Elementary School students achieve at the highest level. The school involves all students in extracurricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Falmouth Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING FOURTEENTH STREET SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Fourteenth Street School in Bangor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from prekindergarten through the third grade, this outstanding school in the city I am proud to live in is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The success at Fourteenth Street School is the result of two guiding philosophies. The first is "meet the students where they are," with instruction and support tailored to the strengths and needs of each individual student. The second is "all hands on deck," a call for all staff members to engage with students and encourage them to achieve their full potential.

One of the unique features of Fourteenth Street School is the use of every opportunity during the school day to support learning. Whether in the classroom, preparing for recess, or standing in the lunchroom, students may be par-

ticipating in a math game, reciting a rhyme, or singing. The entire school eats lunch together daily, and a staff member uses this time to read aloud to students. This focus on literacy even extends to physical education classes, where the PE teacher often reads articles from sports magazines to students.

The impact of this dedication to individual students is evident. Over the last 5 years, average attendance exceeded 95 percent, and 100 percent of students participated in at least one afterschool activity.

Another important factor in the school's success is the emphasis on building strong relationships with families. Through schoolwide and classroom newsletters, parent meetings, parents and educators accelerating kids—PEAK—events, academic showcases, and, most important, direct communication with teachers, parents have the opportunity to play a significant role in their children's education.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students of Fourteenth Street School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. This outstanding school is making a difference in the lives of its students, helping them to become independent, responsible learners and citizens. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Fourteenth Street School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGI HANRAHAN

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to an Alabamian who has spent more than two decades in public service, Peggi Hanrahan.

Many people in Washington, DC, know Peggi as the executive assistant and gatekeeper to the former Alabama Senator, Jeff Sessions, who is now the U.S. Attorney General. For more than 20 years, Jeff Sessions has been a strong leader on the issues of legal reform and immigration. In order to speak with Jeff Sessions on any issue, you had to go through Peggi.

Peggi has earned praise from the countless people she has worked alongside throughout the years. Here are a few statements from her former colleagues.

Attorney General Sessions stated:

Peggi has been at the center of everything we have accomplished in public service. She loves America and its ideals, is smart, decisive, loyal, and a total professional. She speaks up for the high principles she believes in, and for two decades has been the key point of contact in our office for thousands of Alabamians and Americans all over the Country. She has provided invaluable service to me, the Nation, and the so many who she trained and mentored. Though we will miss her marvelous contributions, we wish her all the best as she and Kevin embark on this next adventure.

Kate Hollis, then-Senator Sessions' former scheduler, said the following:

For 14 years I had the pleasure of working side by side with Peggi for Senator Jeff Sessions. We were a great team and became great friends during that time. I can attest that she was one of the hardest working people in the United States Senate who always went the extra mile to assist Senator Sessions and our staff, as well as our constituents from the great State of Alabama.

Pete Landrum, former military legislative assistant under former Senator Sessions, stated:

Peggi Hanrahan is a great colleague and friend. She is a person that can be depended on when things are good or when things are bad—it doesn't matter.

Danielle Cutrona, counselor to the Attorney General, said:

Peggi is an institution in our office. Her loyalty and dedication to then-Senator, now Attorney General Sessions and to his staff has been unwavering. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Peggi all these years and will miss her tremendously.

Michael Brumas, former press secretary for Senator Sessions, said:

The phrase "best in the business" certainly applies to Peggi Hanrahan, who served for more than two decades as Jeff Sessions' executive assistant, first in the Senate and then at the Department of Justice. In many ways Peggi was the backbone of the Senate office, with a knack for solving those administrative dilemmas that always crop up in a busy Senate office as well making sure the senator stuck to his active schedule—not always an easy task.

Senator Sessions' first chief of staff in the Senate, Armand DeKyser, said the following:

From the earliest days of Senator Sessions' tenure when Peggi began sitting just outside Jeff's transition office, she never was more than 20 feet from his desk. She was THE constant among all the many staff that worked for Senator and now Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Her calm demeanor combined with a wonderful work ethic are so very vital to the successful operation of a complex staff operation. She was composed, efficient and trustworthy on the most harried of days—a presidential inauguration, a swearing-in, or even the fateful 9/11 day. Even on a normal day—if there is ever one of those—Peggi's demonstrated support both up and down the ladder of responsibility was one of her best traits and one most admired by all.

Alan Hanson, now Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, said:

Peggi Hanrahan is a national treasure. She is both a trusted confidante and an invaluable colleague. While she will be sorely missed by all of us, her retirement is both hard earned and well deserved.

Paige Hanson, a former Sessions staffer, said:

While I know the Attorney General will miss the benefit of having Peggi around, we are truly happy for her and grateful for her service and friendship.

Stephen Boyd, former communications director for Senator Sessions and now Assistant Attorney General, said:

It is difficult to overstate the important role that Peggi played for all those years in the Senate office. If things got done, it was usually because Peggi made it happen. Her service to then-Senator and now Attorney General Sessions, the Senate, and to the people of Alabama has been tremendous. She is one of many who asked not for recognition

or public appreciation, but only for the opportunity to serve her country alongside a leader she respected. It was a pleasure to work with her for many years, and I certainly hope that she enjoys the retirement that she has clearly earned.

Finally, Rick Dearborn, Senator Sessions' longtime chief of staff and now White House Deputy Chief of Staff, said:

Peggi Hanrahan was an extraordinary member of Senator Sessions' former Senate staff. She is part schoolmarm, part drill sergeant, with a pinch of traffic cop and a spoonful of soft marshmallows all rolled into one. Indispensable in the Senator's office, Peggi made it all run. She organized the Senator's office, our lives, his life, kept up with all our constituents and friends back home, both with personal notes she and the Senator would spend significant time on and checkup calls. She'd place those calls with his good friends back home, often early in the morning and after hours. She was, along with Kate Hollis, the Senator's scheduler, the glue that held us all together. It would have been impossible to manage the Senator's office without her. She was my Senate colleague, my teammate, and continues to be my very dear friend. I wish her and her husband Kevin the absolute best as they enter the next chapter of their lives, separate from the two institutions they served so well, the Senate and the House.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to join all of those who are wishing Peggi and Kevin a very happy retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARTA FORD

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an Iowan who served bravely during the Vietnam war as an Active-Duty nurse and spent nearly three decades in the Army Reserves.

LTC Marta Ford grew up in the small town of Killduff in Iowa's Jasper County. Her father was a World War II veteran who served as a bombardier, flying missions over Europe. She decided to join the Army Nurse Corps at the age of 19, while still in nursing school. Ford underwent basic training in 1966 at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Then, she was stationed at Fort Lee in Virginia. Ford served as an Active Duty member of the Army Nurse Corps until 1969 and remained in the Army Reserves until 1975. She rejoined the Reserves in 1980 and served until retirement in 2004.

Currently, Ford serves her local community as chair of the Jasper County Commission of Veterans Affairs. In 2013, Ford became the first female commander at the American Legion Post 111 in Newton, IA.

She is just one of the many women and Iowans who served our Nation during the Vietnam war era. All those who honorably served deserve our thanks for their service to our country. I ask my colleagues to join me as I proudly recognize LTC Marta Ford, an Iowan who dedicated her life to service and sacrifice on behalf of this great Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOHN T. NOBLE AND RECOGNIZING THE MAINE VETERANS CEMETERY IN CARIBOU

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the significance of Maine Veterans Cemetery-Caribou and the individual and community spirit of generosity that sustains it as an honored and hallowed resting place for our Nation's veterans.

Conceived in 1998, the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou was created because of a small but determined grassroots effort in Aroostook County, ME, that I was proud to support when I was Governor of Maine and am proud today to acknowledge as Senator for Maine. A diverse team of dedicated people came together to create the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery Corporation, NMVCC, comprised of members from various veteran service organizations, community members, and veterans themselves who knew the significance of this undertaking. Since the first concept many hands have helped develop and beautify these 46 acres which provide inground burial for 12,000 and columbarium wall niches for over 1,000 more of our honorably discharged veterans. But this cemetery represents so much more than a final resting place.

It is fitting to include in this statement the name of John T. Noble, the distinguished veteran who epitomizes the efforts behind this cemetery. John would not want all the credit to go to him, and indeed there were many who worked tirelessly to make their dream come to fruition; however, it was the late John T. Noble, along with his wife Joyce, who made the first significant and lasting donation of 33 acres of his family's land to honor veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. They went on to donate even more land and provide countless donations to ensure this cemetery was one to be proud of. John lived by example as a person of great ethics, compassion, and generosity. He possessed these traits throughout his life as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, a businessman, a husband, and a quiet philanthropist who didn't seek recognition for his good works. His motivations were never about himself but about how he could give back to others.

Our veterans risk their lives in the service to our great Nation. They make countless personal sacrifices to protect freedom, and many go on to continue to find ways to serve others—like the honorable efforts of a small community in northern Maine to turn what once was farmland into a reverent final resting place for those who gave so much. It is my honor to recognize the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery-Caribou and to pay tribute to John and Joyce Noble. Due to the generosity they demonstrated, the northern region of Maine is able to provide a proper final resting place for our brave veterans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13712 OF NOVEMBER 22, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO BURUNDI—PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to the situation in Burundi, is to continue in effect beyond November 22, 2017.

The situation in Burundi, which has been marked by killing and other violence against civilians, unrest, the incitement of violence, and significant political repression, and which threatens the peace, security, and stability of Burundi and the region, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712 with respect to the situation in Burundi.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12170 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1979, WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12938 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1994, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—PM 21

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2017.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the

House of Representatives announcing that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 304) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 304. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on November 3, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 849. An act to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

H.R. 3922. An act to extend funding for certain public health programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), clause 10 of rule 1, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. GALLAGHER of Wisconsin, to fill the existing vacancy thereon; Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER of Maryland.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 849. An act to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3922. An act to extend funding for certain public health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 2, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 782. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, 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-3380. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Freedom of Information Act Regulation" (RIN3133-AD44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3381. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for fiscal years 2013-2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3382. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Annual Report to the Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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. WYDEN:

S. 2075. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2077. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2078. A bill to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2079. A bill to promote economic security and workplace accountability for the workers of air carriers, and their subcontractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2080. A bill to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2081. A bill to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2082. A bill to terminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 355

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 563

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 591

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 744

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 744, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to delay the inclusion in consumer credit reports and to establish requirements for debt collectors

with respect to medical debt information of veterans due to inappropriate or delayed billing payments or reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 778

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs and to facilitate information sharing among States.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 818, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 948

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

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

S. 1108

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1108, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

S. 1113

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

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins for digestive and inherited metabolic disorders under Federal health programs and private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 1333, a bill to

provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1730

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1730, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1753

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

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1842

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

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to establish a public health plan.

S. 2006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2006, a bill to require breast density reporting to

physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2044, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to restrict the use of funds for kinetic military operations in North Korea.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 2073

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2073, a bill to establish a vegetation management pilot program on National Forest System land to better protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfire, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Nevada, Senator CORTEZ MASTO, to introduce the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's—or BOLD—Act. I am pleased that Senator CAPITO and Senator KAINE are also joining us as original cosponsors.

Our legislation would create a public health infrastructure aimed at combating Alzheimer's disease and preserving brain health. Alzheimer's disease is one of the greatest and most under-recognized public health threats of our time. Former Surgeon General David Satcher has said that it is the most under-recognized public health threat of the 21st century. Five and a half million Americans are living with the disease, and that number will soar as our population continues to grow older and lives longer.

In addition to the human suffering it causes, Alzheimer's is our Nation's

most costly disease. The United States spends more than \$259 billion per year, including \$175 billion in Medicare and Medicaid costs. The financial impact of this dreadful disease will only continue to grow. In fact, it is estimated that by the year 2050, Alzheimer's will cost our country \$1 trillion and afflict 16 million Americans.

While Alzheimer's is the only one of our Nation's most deadly diseases without an effective treatment or cure, tantalizing new research suggests that there are steps we can take to promote prevention and improve treatment.

The first step we should take is to recognize Alzheimer's as a public health crisis. It is because of public health advancements that we have safe water to drink, vaccines to prevent deadly diseases, interventions to quit smoking, and emergency preparedness tools to save lives. The effort to combat Alzheimer's disease requires a similar unified, national public health effort. That effort is gaining steam.

In 1999, when I founded the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's, there was virtually no focus in Washington on this devastating disease. In fact, people were afraid to even refer to the disease, just as years ago people did not talk about cancer.

Seven years ago, I coauthored with then-Senator Evan Bayh the bipartisan National Alzheimer's Project Act, which set the primary goal of preventing and effectively treating the disease by the year 2025. That bill created an expert council, which has calculated that \$2 billion in Federal funding per year is needed to achieve that goal.

On the Appropriations Committee, I have worked hard with Senator BLUNT and others to turn the words of that recommendation into action. The funding bill for this year provides another \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, and that includes a \$414 million increase for Alzheimer's research—the largest in history. That brings the total for Alzheimer's research to \$1.8 billion—well within reach of the \$2 billion goal, which the experts tell us is necessary for breakthroughs.

While this research is moving forward, we must put into practice what we know and enhance the quality of care and support for those living with Alzheimer's and their families. In March, the Aging Committee, which I chair, held a hearing on the arc of Alzheimer's, from preventing cognitive decline to ensuring quality care for those living with dementia. The hearing shed light on the fact that although we do not yet know how to prevent Alzheimer's, we are advancing in our understanding of the disease. Its progression does not happen overnight; it is preceded by years and perhaps decades of changes in the brain and a continuum of changes in behavior, including cognitive decline. A growing body of evidence suggests that lifestyle factors, such as regular physical activity

and attention to heart health, may reduce the risk of cognitive decline. There is so much we have yet to know.

Alzheimer's is a public issue for those living with the disease, for those caring for their loved ones with the disease, for all of us as taxpayers, and for those who know that our brain is our most precious resource. Alzheimer's exacts a tremendous personal and economic toll on families and communities. More than 40 million Americans know all too well the compassion, commitment, and endurance that it takes to be a caregiver of a loved one facing a chronic disease like Alzheimer's.

The legislation we are introducing today would apply a new public health approach to Alzheimer's disease. It would establish Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice dedicated to promoting effective Alzheimer's disease management and caregiving interventions, as well as educating the public on the disease, cognitive decline, and brain health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is already doing tremendous work to combat Alzheimer's within the Public Health Road Map of the Healthy Brain Initiative. This legislation would create centers of excellence across the country to implement the CDC's Public Health Road Map. The centers would take a number of key steps against Alzheimer's. They would work to support early detection and diagnosis, lessen the risk of avoidable hospitalizations, reduce the risk of cognitive decline, enhance support to meet the needs of caregivers, reduce health disparities, and support care planning and management for those with the disease. The Centers' activities would support health and social services professionals as well as families and communities.

In addition to establishing the Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice, this bill would spread the opportunity for communities across America to create the necessary core capacity to combat Alzheimer's and to enhance existing efforts in this regard. The legislation would establish and distribute cooperative agreements to public health departments to support systems change, communications, and programmatic interventions. These agreements would also support the actions in the CDC Healthy Brain Initiative's Public Health Roadmap.

Finally, at the heart of public health is data. This legislation would direct the CDC to collect data on cognitive decline, cognitive impairment, caregiving, and health disparities within its current systems. The bill would also create cooperative agreements for the analysis and reporting of data to ensure that the results are disseminated to the public and are used, ultimately, to improve brain health.

For far too long, we have viewed Alzheimer's disease as an aging issue that plagues our seniors today and threatens to affect many more tomorrow. In fact, the disease is far more than that.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017.

It is a public health issue with a course that we can change. If we do not take action, both in this new public health approach and by continuing to build on the research, this disease will bankrupt the Medicare and the Medicaid Programs. We cannot afford to spend over \$1 trillion in the year 2050 on just this one disease. We cannot afford to lose 16 million Americans by that year to this devastating disease. We cannot afford to allow the heartache and devastation of this disease to affect more and more American families.

There are steps that we can take today to prevent cognitive decline and to improve the lives of those who are living with Alzheimer's and the lives of their caregivers. This public health approach is not only empowering, but it is key to avoiding the terrible impacts that I have outlined.

After decades of expanding much needed biomedical research in Alzheimer's, we are ready for the next step—to translate research into policy. The BOLD bill would create a new, enlightened public policy out of promising research by creating the first ever national public health infrastructure for Alzheimer's disease.

I am pleased to say that the bipartisan bill that the Senator from Nevada and I have introduced, with our colleagues from Virginia and West Virginia, is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association, the Alzheimer's Impact Movement, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and the National Association of Counties.

I ask unanimous consent that their letters of support be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical and bipartisan legislation.

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

ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT MOVEMENT,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2017.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM KAINE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO AND KAINE: On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the bipartisan Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

As scientists continue to search for a way to prevent, cure, or slow the progression of Alzheimer's through medical research, public health plays an important role in promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level change, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would provide this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's centers of excellence across the country and funding state, local and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly institutionalized care. These goals are consistent with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which includes a strategy to "work with state, tribal, and local governments to improve coordination and identify model initiatives to advance Alzheimer's disease and related dementias awareness and readiness across the government."

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would also increase the collection, analysis and timely reporting of Alzheimer's data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies. Finally, the bill would also strengthen implementation of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Road Map, which includes strategic action items for state and local public health departments and their partners to promote cognitive functioning, address cognitive impairment and help meet the needs of care partners.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Senior Director of Federal Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT EGGE,
Chief Public Policy Of-
ficer, Executive Vice
President, Govern-
ment Affairs, Alz-
heimer's Association.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM KAINE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO AND KAINE: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership on the important public health issues facing our nation, including the urgent issue of Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We are pleased to support the bipartisan Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

Former Surgeon General and Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. David Satcher recently said, "Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized threat to public health in the 21st century." More than 5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system.

Public health plays an important role in protecting the health and well-being of Americans, including promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level change, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would provide this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's centers of excellence across the country and funding state, local and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly institutionalized care.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would also increase the collection, analysis and timely reporting of data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies. Finally, the bill would also strengthen nationwide implementation of the CDC's Public Health Road Map, which includes strategic action items for state and local public health departments and their partners to promote cognitive functioning, address cognitive impairment and help meet the needs of care partners.

We deeply appreciate your leadership on behalf of the public health community and

all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill.

Sincerely,

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION,
ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT
MOVEMENT,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHRONIC DISEASE,
DIRECTORS, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES.

Ms. COLLINS. I am now very pleased to yield to the coauthor of this important bill. Senator CORTEZ MASTO has been an extraordinary member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. She attends every single hearing, which is amazing, given our schedules, and she contributes so much to the debate and questioning in those hearings. I am delighted to join in this effort with her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleague from Maine, whose amazing work as chair of the Aging Committee continues to inspire me.

I also rise to share a story that is very personal to me. It is a story about one of the smartest people whom I have known, my grandmother Katherine, whom I was named after. She was the daughter of an Italian immigrant and his Italian-American wife. She was exactly the kind of person you think of when you think of an Italian grandmother. If you have ever had one, you know that she loves to feed people and invite the whole family—aunts, uncles, cousins, everyone—over to her house for dinner on Sunday nights. The other 6 days of the week, she worked on volunteer projects throughout Las Vegas with her sorority, Beta Sigma Phi.

She never graduated from college, but she was a leader in our community, and she was always reading. If you walked into her house, it was full of books. In fact, the first thing that you saw when you walked into her house was, on one wall, floor to ceiling, a bookcase with all of the books that she had read.

She was brilliant. She was one of my greatest inspirations. Her work in our community in Las Vegas is one of the reasons that I decided to pursue a career in public service.

Unfortunately, in the 1990s, my grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. At first, you could barely notice a difference. There were small things, things that could happen to anyone—lost keys, mismatched socks, books left in odd places. Then a woman who had spent her entire life loving to cook for her family and grandchildren had suddenly stopped cooking.

Over the next 10 years, she got progressively worse. We could see the changes in her every single day, but our lives changed too. My grandfather became her caregiver. My mother became her caregiver. My aunt became

her caregiver. My cousins and I and my sister all became caregivers. That is what happens when someone is diagnosed. It does not affect just one person; it affects an entire family.

There is a common misconception that people who are suffering from Alzheimer's are not aware of what they are losing, that their memories are gone but not missed. That was not the case for my grandmother. I do not think it is the case for anyone who is struggling with this disease. My grandmother frequently had these moments of clarity when it was clear that the losses were just as painful for her as they were for all of us.

One thing that happens to many people with Alzheimer's is that they tend to wander. They wander away from home or they get lost. She had had one of those moments of clarity after she had wandered away from home one day, and the entire family had spent an afternoon looking for her in our neighborhood. My aunt and I had found her and had gone to pick her up in a car. I will never forget it, as I sat in the back seat while my aunt drove.

My grandmother, who had been seated on the front passenger's side, asked my aunt: Why am I doing this? Why am I in my housecoat and slippers? Why am I doing this?

My aunt looked at her and she said: Mom, you are sick. You have something they call Alzheimer's, and that means that it is impacting your brain and your memories, and you are forgetting.

We were so powerless. We couldn't do anything but make her comfortable and bring her home.

For many, many families who are dealing with Alzheimer's, they have gone through those same moments—those moments when they are dealing with their loved ones either trying to explain to them what is happening or giving them comfort because they know their memories are gone, and they want to make sure they are giving them the comfort they need and they deserve.

We know, unfortunately, that there is no cure for Alzheimer's. My grandmother passed away, as many people with Alzheimer's do, when her illness got so bad that she lost the ability to eat or drink, but the experience of caring for my grandmother opened my eyes to the true impact of this disease. I saw that when one person is diagnosed, whole families' lives are transformed too. I think about my grandmother every day. Every day, I return to some piece of wisdom or guidance that she shared with me. I am committed now to honoring her memory by fighting to prevent Alzheimer's and to provide caregivers with the support they need and deserve.

When my grandmother was first diagnosed, we did not understand Alzheimer's like we do today. We did not have enough healthcare programs for it or support for the caregivers. It was seen as an individual disease that

struck at random, with no cure and no hope. Although there is still no cure, we know now that there are things that we can do to help to keep the brain healthy longer and possibly reduce the risk of Alzheimer's and that there are things that we can do now to promote prevention.

For those who are already living with Alzheimer's and for their caregivers, like my family was for my grandmother, there are things that we can do to dramatically improve their experiences and to help lessen some of that burden. Today there are things we can do to invest in finding that cure for Alzheimer's. It is just a petri dish away, but we have to believe that it is there and that we can continue and support that investment. I have visited the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas and met with its director, Dr. Jeffrey Cummings. I have seen the incredible work they have done, including their methods for the early detection of Alzheimer's, which simply did not exist only a few years ago. Yet education in the community and the spreading of best practices still lag behind.

There is no longer any doubt that this is a public health crisis. That is why I am so grateful and proud to be sitting on a committee and working with a chairwoman, my colleague from Maine, who has made an effort here in Congress to really bring attention to Alzheimer's disease and to help to fight for funding and investment in a cure.

I am proud to join my colleagues from Maine, West Virginia, and Virginia in introducing legislation that is known as the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. This bill will create Centers of Excellence that will be dedicated to promoting effective interventions and educating the public on Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health. It will provide grants to State and local health departments to build the infrastructure that is necessary to address this public health crisis, and it will collect the data that is necessary to keep pushing the frontiers of what we know about this disease.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital, bipartisan piece of legislation that has the potential of having a positive impact on millions of Americans across this country.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1579. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1579. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL)) proposed an amendment to the

bill H.R. 1370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATION THROUGH THE BLUE CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 434. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘human trafficking’ means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a program, which shall be known as the ‘Blue Campaign’. The Blue Campaign shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Blue Campaign shall be to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary, working through the Director, shall, in accordance with subsection (e)—

“(1) issue Department-wide guidance to appropriate Department personnel;

“(2) develop training programs for such personnel;

“(3) coordinate departmental efforts, including training for such personnel; and

“(4) provide guidance and training on trauma-informed practices to ensure that human

trafficking victims are afforded prompt access to victim support service providers, in addition to the government assistance required under section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105), to address their immediate and long-term needs.

“(e) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—The Blue Campaign shall provide guidance and training to appropriate Department personnel and other Federal, State, tribal, and law enforcement personnel, as appropriate regarding—

“(1) programs to help identify instances of human trafficking;

“(2) the types of information that should be collected and recorded in information technology systems utilized by the Department to help identify individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking;

“(3) systematic and routine information sharing within the Department and among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies regarding—

“(A) individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking; and

“(B) patterns and practices of human trafficking;

“(4) techniques to identify suspected victims of trafficking along the United States border and at airport security checkpoints;

“(5) methods to be used by the Transportation Security Administration and personnel from other appropriate agencies—

“(A) to train employees of the Transportation Security Administration to identify suspected victims of trafficking; and

“(B) to serve as a liaison and resource regarding human trafficking prevention to appropriate State, local, and private sector aviation workers and the traveling public;

“(6) utilizing resources, such as indicator cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, posters, brochures, and radio and television campaigns—

“(A) to educate partners and stakeholders; and

“(B) to increase public awareness of human trafficking;

“(7) leveraging partnerships with State and local governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking; and

“(8) any other activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the Blue Campaign.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following:

“Sec. 434. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign.”.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance required under section 434(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, the integration of information technology systems utilized within the Department to record and track information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status and effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign; and

(2) provides a recommendation regarding the appropriate office within the Department of Homeland Security for the Blue Campaign.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$819,000 to carry out section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Tunisia	Dinar		412.00						412.00
Egypt	Pound		448.00						448.00
Jordan	Dinar		569.81						569.81
United States	Dollar				4,855.26				4,855.26
Paul Grove:									
Pakistan	Rupee		110.00						110.00
Turkey	Lira		131.00						131.00
Iraq	Dinar		22.00						22.00
United States	Dollar				9,389.96				9,389.96
Tim Rieser:									
Mexico	Peso		1,119.00						1,119.00
United States	Dollar				3,148.00				3,148.00
Kate Kaufer:									
South Korea	Won		1,056.00						1,056.00
Japan	Yen		1,226.67						1,226.67
United States	Dollar				4,281.50				4,281.50
John Lucio:									
South Korea	Won		1,056.00						1,056.00
Japan	Yen		1,226.67						1,226.67
United States	Dollar				5,803.05				5,803.05
Allen Cutler:									
Norway	Krone		600.00						600.00
United States	Dollar				6,896.00				6,896.00
Jason Wheelock:									
Kosovo	Euro		173.53						173.53
Serbia	Dinar		566.00						566.00
United States	Dollar				2,842.76				2,842.76
Senator Roy Blunt:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,081.00						1,081.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		379.65						379.65
Stacy McBride:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		339.24						339.24
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,081.00						1,081.00
Croatia	Kuna		379.65						379.65
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Linda Good:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,079.00						1,079.00
Croatia	Kuna		339.24						339.24
Slovenia	Euro		885.00						885.00
Laura Friedel:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,079.00						1,079.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.24						339.24
Chris Hall:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.24						339.24
Kay Webber Cochran:									
Montenegro	Euro		262.00						262.00
Croatia	Kuna		342.00						342.00
Slovenia	Euro		149.00						149.00
Senator Jerry Moran:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		47.00						47.00
Germany	Euro		564.20						564.20
Caroline Ross:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		47.00						47.00
Germany	Euro		564.20						564.20
Michael Zamore:									
Japan	Yen		458.91						458.91
South Korea	Won		1,056.27						1,056.27
China	Renminbi		386.64						386.64
Christy Gleason:									
Nigeria	Naira		1,299.18						1,299.18
Ghana	Cedi		428.95						428.95
Cote D'Ivoire	Euro		465.60						465.60
Delegation Expenses:*									
Mexico	Peso						493.33		493.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
Pakistan	Rupee						287.63		287.63
Turkey	Lira						323.38		323.38
Iraq	Dinar						6,180.00		6,180.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Tunisia	Dinar						19.92		19.92
Egypt	Pound						657.83		657.83
Jordan	Dinar						168.20		168.20
Delegation Expenses:*									
Slovenia	Euro						2,726.85		2,726.85
Montenegro	Euro						3,003.91		3,003.91
Croatia	Kuna						3,829.42		3,829.42
Albania	Lek						1,966.00		1,966.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						387.94		387.94
South Korea	Won						408.26		408.26
China	Renminbi						808.35		808.35
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ghana	Cedi						204.14		204.14
Gambia	Dollar						59.31		59.31
Cote D'Ivoire	Euro						1,761.40		1,761.40
Delegation Expenses:*									
Serbia	Dinar						153.00		153.00
Kosovo	Euro						43.27		43.27
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,035.41		1,035.41
South Korea	Won						586.01		586.01
Total			28,705.89		37,216.53		25,103.56		91,025.98

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 26, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				15,827.28				15,827.28
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		232.58						232.58
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		21.00						21.00
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Truman Anderson:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator David Perdue:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Caitlin Poling:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		85.00						85.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		405.68						405.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Senator Elizabeth Warren:									
United States	Dollar				12,715.26				12,715.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		402.68						402.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Sasha Baker:									
United States	Dollar				6,122.26				6,122.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.10						345.10
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				328.89				328.89
Pakistan	Rupee				226.89		1,958.17		2,185.06
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Egypt	Pound		639.30						639.30
Greece	Euro		1,071.02						1,071.02
Belarus	Ruble		1,195.02						1,195.02
Theda Khrestin:									
Egypt	Pound		450.14						450.14
Greece	Euro		572.61						572.61
Belarus	Ruble		826.66						826.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
Egypt	Pound						2,070.24		2,070.24
Greece	Euro				518.85		695.71		1,214.56
Belarus	Ruble						3,763.47		3,763.47
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				12,076.66				12,076.66
Italy	Euro		202.24						202.24
Daniel Lerner:									
United States	Dollar				23,114.76				23,114.76
Australia	Dollar		1,904.70						1,904.70
New Zealand	Dollar		425.99						425.99
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				14,698.90				14,698.90
Australia	Dollar		1,502.32						1,502.32
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar				318.00				318.00
New Zealand	Dollar				657.53				657.53
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				26,481.59				26,481.59
Uzbekistan	So'm		748.24						748.24
Jordan	Dinar		1,106.00						1,106.00
Lebanon	Pound		100.00						100.00
Australia	Dollar		440.00						440.00
New Zealand	Dollar		350.00						350.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Uzbekistan	So'm				185.16		294.84		480.00
Jordan	Dinar				1,365.18		1,711.30		3,076.48
Lebanon	Pound						6,581.49		6,581.49
Australia	Dollar				1,098.00				1,098.00
New Zealand	Dollar				709.79		93.48		803.27
Senator Tom Cotton:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		882.36						882.36
Slovenia	Euro		332.13						332.13
Alex Wong:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,365.23						1,365.23
Croatia	Kuna		890.65						890.65
Slovenia	Euro		323.53						323.53
Senator Thom Tillis:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		854.04						854.04
Slovenia	Euro		332.13						332.13
Chad Rhoades:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,370.01						1,370.01
Croatia	Kuna		835.51						835.51
Slovenia	Euro		323.53						323.53
Delegation Expenses:*									
Montenegro	Euro				462.57		1,376.57		1,839.14
Croatia	Kuna				1,055.42		1,445.43		2,500.85
Slovenia	Euro				271.43		1,397.88		1,669.31
Albania	Lek						561.71		561.71
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				10,678.86				10,678.86
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,443.22						1,443.22
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling				2,615.00				2,615.00
Senator Elizabeth Warren:									
United States	Dollar				11,528.36				11,528.36
Poland	Zloty		233.72						233.72
Estonia	Euro		212.73						212.73
Germany	Euro		221.22						221.22
Jon Donenberg:									
United States	Dollar				12,923.20				12,923.20
Poland	Euro		242.46						242.46
Estonia	Euro		200.87						200.87
Germany	Euro		213.45						213.45
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						1,121.18		1,121.18
Estonia	Euro				1,218.97				1,218.97
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				12,509.86				12,509.86

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		351.00						351.00
Ghana	Cedi		711.00						711.00
Liberia	Dollar		290.00						290.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Ghana	Cedi				224.23				224.23
Jason Potter:									
United States	Dollar				9,698.86				9,698.86
Bahrain	Dinar		1,184.14						1,184.14
Delegation Expenses: *									
Bahrain	Dinar				83.64		365.48		449.12
Will Quinn:									
United States	Dollar				14,468.16				14,468.16
Qatar	Riyal		512.16						512.16
Bahrain	Dinar		393.53						393.53
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Riyal						41.82		41.82
Bahrain	Dinar						263.05		263.05
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				13,580.20				13,580.20
Germany	Euro		86.37						86.37
Italy	Euro		228.83						228.83
Romania	Leu		85.80						85.80
Bulgaria	Lev		240.00						240.00
Jordan	Dinar		129.50						129.50
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				14,814.56				14,814.56
Germany	Euro		86.37						86.37
Italy	Euro		228.83						228.83
Romania	Leu		85.80						85.80
Bulgaria	Lev		240.00						240.00
Jordan	Dinar		129.50						129.50
Delegation Expenses: *									
Romania	Leu						59.36		59.36
Bulgaria	Lev						86.80		86.80
Jordan	Dinar				108.40		32.45		140.85
Senator Gary Peters:									
Ghana	Cedi		353.14						353.14
Nigeria	Naira		1,274.47						1,274.47
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		581.89						581.89
Bentley Johnson:									
Ghana	Cedi		387.98						387.98
Nigeria	Naira		876.39						876.39
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		614.76						614.76
Delegation Expenses: *									
Nigeria	Naira						385.60		385.60
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc						2,544.42		2,544.42
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				16,205.50				16,205.50
Italy	Euro		2,657.32						2,657.32
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro				431.14		234.36		665.50
Germany	Euro						708.88		708.88
Senator John McCain:									
Italy	Euro		1,956.28						1,956.28
Christian Brose:									
Italy	Euro		968.14						968.14
Truman Anderson:									
Italy	Euro		968.14						968.14
Dustin Walker:									
Italy	Euro		1,160.95						1,160.95
Delegation Expenses: *									
Italy	Euro				3,424.18		4,184.00		7,608.18
Totals			44,517.18		286,544.84		31,977.69		363,039.71

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Oct. 25, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				6,495.64				6,495.64
Marshall Islands	Dollar		407.80						407.80
Micronesia States	Dollar		568.81						568.81
David Gillers:									
United States	Dollar				6,495.64				6,495.64
Marshall Islands	Dollar		456.30						456.30
Micronesia States	Dollar		689.50						689.50
Total			2,122.41		12,991.28				15,113.69

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 18, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Mark Appleton:									
Japan	Yen		615.42						615.42
South Korea	Won		1,181.27						1,181.27
China	Renminbi		309.02						309.02
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Korea	Won						408.27		408.27
China	Renminbi						808.36		808.36
Total			2,105.71				1,216.63		3,322.34

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 30, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Mexico	Peso		571.30						571.30
El Salvador	Dollar		141.85						141.85
Honduras	Lempira		362.33						362.33
United States	Dollar				4,737.89				4,737.89
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Mexico	Peso		571.30						571.30
El Salvador	Dollar		141.85						141.85
Honduras	Lempira		197.78						197.78
United States	Dollar				8,354.91				8,354.91
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						5,135.60		5,135.60
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Ghana	Cedi		342.53						342.53
Nigeria	Naira		1,124.06						1,124.06
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		557.00						557.00
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Ghana	Cedi		371.44						371.44
Nigeria	Naira		732.99						732.99
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		543.02						543.02
Shane Warren:									
Togo	CFA Franc		596.44						596.44
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Rory Heslington:									
Togo	CFA Franc		525.44						525.44
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Anderson Heiman:									
Togo	CFA Franc		610.91						610.91
United States	Dollar				8,865.56				8,865.56
Christopher Armstrong:									
China	Yuan		1,207.71						1,207.71
Hong Kong	Dollar		872.00						872.00
United States	Dollar				12,464.26				12,464.26
Shane Warren:									
Mexico	Peso		481.63						481.63
United States	Dollar				1,486.09				1,486.09
Douglas Petersen:									
Mexico	Peso		1,006.58						1,006.58
United States	Dollar				1,096.59				1,096.59
Jayne White:									
Mexico	Peso		1,007.25						1,007.25
United States	Dollar				3,240.49				3,240.49
Elissa Alben:									
Mexico	Peso		607.30						607.30
United States	Dollar				3,240.49				3,240.49
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						73.00		73.00
Christopher Campbell:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,147.00						1,147.00
United States	Dollar				17,603.56				17,603.56
A. Jay Khosla:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,059.60						1,059.60
United States	Dollar				14,234.46				14,234.46
Shane Warren:									
Singapore	Dollar		1,102.78						1,102.78
United States	Dollar				13,909.56				13,909.56
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						481.00		481.00
Jayne White:									
Germany	Euro		910.77						910.77
United States	Dollar				12,820.96				12,820.96
Shane Warren:									
United States	Dollar				3,139.07				3,139.07
Douglas Petersen:									
Canada	Dollar		1,234.17						1,234.17
United States	Dollar				3,132.22				3,132.22
Jayne White:									
Canada	Dollar		1,232.89						1,232.89
United States	Dollar				3,111.02				3,111.02
Elissa Alben:									
Canada	Dollar		642.33						642.33
United States	Dollar				3,111.02				3,111.02
Greta Peisch:									
Canada	Dollar		1,263.32						1,263.32
United States	Dollar				3,136.72				3,136.72
Delegation Expenses: *									
United States	Dollar						105.00		105.00

Total	21,165.57	133,929.90	5,794.60	160,890.07
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* Delegation Expenses include Embassy overtime, Security, transportation, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 29, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Ghana	Cedi		435.00						435.00
Nigeria	Naira		1,144.77						1,144.77
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		550.89						550.89
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Ghana	Cedi		425.33						425.33
Nigeria	Naira		731.88						731.88
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc		676.51						676.51
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ghana	Cedi						627.99		627.99
Cote d'Ivoire	Franc						2,129.70		2,129.70
Gambia	Dalasi						1,008.35		1,008.35
Senator Ron Johnson:									
Poland	Zloty		242.10						242.10
Serbia	Dinar		217.68						217.68
Kosovo	Euro		166.49						166.49
Greece	Euro		205.71						205.71
United States	Dollar				12,389.16				12,389.16
Lydia Westlake:									
Poland	Zloty		233.15						233.15
Serbia	Dinar		217.68						217.68
Kosovo	Euro		162.93						162.93
Greece	Euro		206.91						206.91
United States	Dollar				10,800.16				10,800.16
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						23.00		23.00
Serbia	Dinar						1,367.00		1,367.00
Kosovo	Euro						973.49		973.49
Greece	Euro						2,480.00		2,480.00
Senator Ed Markey:									
Japan	Yen		533.91						533.91
Korea	Won		1,245.15						1,245.15
China	Yuan Renminbi		461.64						461.64
Phillip McGovern:									
Japan	Yen		533.91						533.91
Korea	Won		1,181.27						1,181.27
China	Yuan Renminbi		309.02						309.02
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Japan	Yen		452.70						452.70
Korea	Won		1,265.65						1,265.65
China	Yuan Renminbi		456.43						456.43
Jeremiah Baumann:									
Japan	Yen		418.32						418.32
Korea	Won		1,162.50						1,162.50
China	Yuan Renminbi		422.05						422.05
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,548.58		1,548.58
Korea	Won						1,633.04		1,633.04
China	Yuan Renminbi						3,233.42		3,233.42
Brooke Eisele:									
France	Euros		717.00						717.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,012.32						1,012.32
United States	Dollar				6,340.26				6,340.26
Grant Mullins:									
France	Euros		717.00						717.00
Jordan	Dinar		988.32						988.32
United States	Dollar				6,340.26				6,340.26
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euros						698.00		698.00
Jordan	Dinar						334.62		334.62
Heather Flynn:									
Kenya	Shilling		745.28						745.28
Sudan	Pound		414.00						414.00
United States	Dollar				5,225.28				5,225.28
Delegation Expenses:*									
Sudan	Pound						351.00		351.00
Caleb McCarry:									
Uzbekistan	Dollar		940.00						940.00
United States	Dollar				2,896.36				2,896.36
Sarah Downs:									
Uzbekistan	Dollar		889.00						889.00
United States	Dollar				2,896.36				2,896.36
Damian Murphy:									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		865.00						865.00
Bosnia	Bosnian Mark		464.43						464.43
United States	Dollar				2,553.86				2,553.86
Megan Bartley:									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		819.27						819.27
Bosnia	Bosnian Mark		443.40						443.40
United States	Dollar				2,553.86				2,553.86
Delegation Expenses:*									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						416.00		416.00
Stacie Oliver:									
Qatar	Riyal		604.00						604.00
Kuwait	Dinar		692.64						692.64
Bahrain	Dinar		363.33						363.33
United States	Dollar				2,981.00				2,981.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Qatar	Riyal						153.49		153.49
David Andrew Olson:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,087.31						1,087.31
Thailand	Thai Baht		470.97						470.97
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Scott Richardson:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,042.45						1,042.45
Thailand	Thai Baht		449.92						449.92
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Jim Greene:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,246.00						1,246.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thailand	Thai Baht		470.97						470.97
United States	Dollar				3,072.46				3,072.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar					656.00			656.00
Thailand	Thai Baht					114.35			114.35
Michael Schiffer:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,077.33						1,077.33
United States	Dollar				2,741.86				2,741.86
Totals			30,579.52		66,935.80		17,748.03		115,263.35

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 23, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 3, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Brooke Ericson:									
United States	Dollar				959.16				959.16
United Kingdom	Pound		831.60						831.60
Daniel Lips:									
United States	Dollar				926.56				926.56
United Kingdom	Pound		803.49						803.49
Julie Klein:									
United States	Dollar				957.26				957.26
United Kingdom	Pound		855.60						855.60
Nicholas Rawls:									
United States	Dollar				957.26				957.26
United Kingdom	Pound		855.60						855.60
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound					970.00			970.00
Jose Bautista:									
United States	Dollar				3,108.36				3,108.36
Greece	Euro		884.32						884.32
China	Renminbi		1,213.09						1,213.09
Hong Kong	Dollar		902.29						902.29
Caitlin Warner:									
United States	Dollar				1,410.96				1,410.96
Greece	Euro		783.02						783.02
Jennifer Selde:									
United States	Dollar				2,470.76				2,470.76
China	Renminbi		1,114.69						1,114.69
Hong Kong	Dollar		778.85						778.85
Charles Moskowitz:									
United States	Dollar				2,470.76				2,470.76
China	Renminbi		1,076.71						1,076.71
Hong Kong	Dollar		769.63						769.63
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	Renminbi					1,878.62			1,878.62
Delegation Expenses:*									
Hong Kong	Dollar					3,147.00			3,147.00
Totals			10,868.89		13,261.08		5,995.62		30,125.59

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 20, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
United States	Dollar				21,560.26				21,560.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		402.68						402.68
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Christopher Mewett:									
United States	Dollar				6,087.26				6,087.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		345.95						345.95
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		19.00						19.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham					582.77			582.77
Pakistan	Rupee				45.38	391.63			437.01
Senator John Cornyn:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,015.89						1,015.89
Croatia	Kuna		746.81						746.81
Slovenia	Euro		312.86						312.86
Donald Bergin:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,086.00						1,086.00
Croatia	Kuna		885.00						885.00
Slovenia	Euro		339.23						339.23
Delegation Expenses:*									
Montenegro	Euro				215.87	642.40			858.27

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Croatia	Kuna				492.53		674.53		1,167.06
Slovenia	Euro				126.75		652.34		779.09
Total			5,222.42		28,528.05		2,943.67		36,694.14

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 27, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Susan Collins			981.00						981.00
			822.00						822.00
			379.64						379.64
Ryan Kaldahl			979.00						979.00
			843.51						843.51
			339.24						339.24
John Matchison			552.30						552.30
			1,389.49						1,389.49
			408.65						408.65
					15,275.76				15,275.76
Jongsun Kim			552.29						552.29
			1,381.49						1,381.49
			408.66						408.66
					15,275.76				15,275.76
Delegation Expenses *							371.90		371.90
Senator Ron Wyden			1,119.77						1,119.77
			1,343.71						1,343.71
			1,782.71						1,782.71
					12,678.26				12,678.26
Ben Widness			1,019.77						1,019.77
			1,208.10						1,208.10
			1,626.74						1,626.74
					11,702.26				11,702.26
Isaiah Akin			1,119.77						1,119.77
			1,308.10						1,308.10
			1,782.71						1,782.71
					11,736.76				11,736.76
Delegation Costs *							21,101.76		21,101.76
Ryan White			608.25						608.25
			624.83						624.83
			611.01						611.01
						15,593.18			15,593.18
Brian Walsh			608.25						608.25
			624.83						624.83
			626.01						626.01
						15,593.18			15,593.18
Delegation Expenses *							56.18		56.18
Senator Richard Burr			1,007.55						1,007.55
			860.00						860.00
					10,905.46				10,905.46
Chris Joyner			1,007.55						1,007.55
			544.00						544.00
					9,467.96				9,467.96
Christian Cook			1,007.55						1,007.55
			860.00						860.00
					9,467.06				9,467.96
Delegation Expenses *							600.00		600.00
Senator John Cornyn			412.32						412.32
			704.18						704.18
					6,977.66				6,977.66
Dave Hanke			837.54						837.54
			704.18						704.18
					6,355.16				6,355.16
Delegation Expenses *							1,735.65		1,735.65
Total			32,996.70		141,029.36		23,865.49		197,891.55

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Oct. 27, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Egypt	Pound		1,871.00						1,871.00
Greece	Euro		1,120.00						1,120.00
Belarus	Ruble		1,137.00						1,137.00
Ambassador David Kilton:									
Egypt	Pound		969.00						969.00
Greece	Euro		1,120.00						1,120.00
Belarus	Ruble		1,416.00						1,416.00
United States	Dollar				11,729.56				11,729.56
Paul Massaro:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Jordan Warlick:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Alex Tiersky:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Everett Price:									
Egypt	Pound		821.00						821.00
Greece	Euro		716.00						716.00
Belarus	Ruble		852.00						852.00
Bob Hand:									
Belarus	Ruble		1,988.00						1,988.00
United States	Dollar				4,294.96				4,294.96
Scott Rauland:									
Belarus	Ruble		1,704.00						1,704.00
United States	Dollar				11,419.26				11,419.26
Delegation Expenses: *									
Egypt	Pound						7,245.84		7,245.84
Greece	Euro						4,190.00		4,190.00
Belarus	Ruble						17,054.35		17,054.35
Ambassador David Killion:									
Poland	Zloty		2,646.67		9,827.46				12,474.13
Erika Schlager:									
Poland	Zloty		3,450.67		11,630.36				15,081.03
Janice Helwig:									
Poland	Zloty		3,450.67		1,114.30				4,564.97
Jordan Warlick:									
Poland	Zloty		2,646.67		9,827.46				12,474.13
Mischa Thompson:									
Poland	Zloty		2,512.67		11,748.26				14,260.93
Everett Price:									
Poland	Zloty		2,378.67		1,651.16				4,029.83
Scott Rauland:									
Poland	Zloty		2,378.67						2,378.67
Germany			1,320.31		13,323.26				14,643.57
Delegation Expenses: *									
Poland	Zloty						4,835.21		4,835.21
Germany	Euro						322.97		322.97
Erika Schlager:									
Austria	Euro		931.50		12,230.36				13,161.86
Delegation Expenses: *									
Austria	Euro						98.70		98.70
Ambassador David Killion:									
Turkey	Lira		2,096.00						2,096.00
France	Euro		1,911.00		12,943.96				14,854.96
Paul Massaro:									
Turkey	Lira		2,096.00						2,096.00
France	Euro		1,911.00		12,938.86				14,849.86
Delegation Expenses: *									
Turkey	Lira						342.27		342.27
France	Euro						3,738.00		3,738.00
Paul Massaro:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		1,720.59		10,589.66				12,310.25
Delegation Expenses: *									
Czech Republic	Koruna						40.00		40.00
Alex Tiersky:									
Belarus	Ruble		711.00		11,529.06				12,240.06
Delegation Expenses: *									
Belarus	Ruble						4.08		4.08
Janice Helwig:									
Austria	Euro		24,684.00		6,146.88				30,830.88
Total			77,727.09		152,944.82		37,871.42		268,543.33

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Oct. 17, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				9,048.96				9,048.96
France	Euro		521.00		415.50				936.50
United Kingdom	Pound		991.55						991.55
Total			1,512.55		9,464.46				10,977.01

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, Sept. 28, 2017.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2017

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				1,693.11				1,693.11
South Korea	Won		716.62				640.48		1,357.10
Japan	Yen		425.15				1,487.09		1,912.24
Total			1,141.77		1,693.11		2,127.57		4,962.45

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Oct. 18, 2017.

TSP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3031, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (H.R. 3031) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 (H.R. 3031) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1370 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 legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (H.R. 1370) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson-McCaskill substitute amendment be considered and agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 1579) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign Authorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COORDINATION THROUGH THE BLUE CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 434. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘human trafficking’ means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a program, which shall be known as the ‘Blue Campaign’. The Blue Campaign shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Blue Campaign shall be to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking.

“(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary, working through the Director, shall, in accordance with subsection (e)—

“(1) issue Department-wide guidance to appropriate Department personnel;

“(2) develop training programs for such personnel;

“(3) coordinate departmental efforts, including training for such personnel; and

“(4) provide guidance and training on trauma-informed practices to ensure that human trafficking victims are afforded prompt access to victim support service providers, in addition to the government assistance required under section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105), to address their immediate and long-term needs.

“(e) GUIDANCE AND TRAINING.—The Blue Campaign shall provide guidance and training to appropriate Department personnel and other Federal, State, tribal, and law enforcement personnel, as appropriate regarding—

“(1) programs to help identify instances of human trafficking;

“(2) the types of information that should be collected and recorded in information technology systems utilized by the Department to help identify individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking;

“(3) systematic and routine information sharing within the Department and among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies regarding—

“(A) individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking; and

“(B) patterns and practices of human trafficking;

“(4) techniques to identify suspected victims of trafficking along the United States border and at airport security checkpoints;

“(5) methods to be used by the Transportation Security Administration and personnel from other appropriate agencies—

“(A) to train employees of the Transportation Security Administration to identify suspected victims of trafficking; and

“(B) to serve as a liaison and resource regarding human trafficking prevention to appropriate State, local, and private sector aviation workers and the traveling public;

“(6) utilizing resources, such as indicator cards, fact sheets, pamphlets, posters, brochures, and radio and television campaigns—

“(A) to educate partners and stakeholders; and

“(B) to increase public awareness of human trafficking;

“(7) leveraging partnerships with State and local governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking; and

“(8) any other activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the Blue Campaign.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following:

“Sec. 434. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign.”.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with the Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance required under section 434(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, the integration of information technology systems utilized within the Department to record and track information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status and effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign; and

(2) provides a recommendation regarding the appropriate office within the Department of Homeland Security for the Blue Campaign.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$819,000 to carry out section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2.

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

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 1370), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for debate only until 11 a.m., at which point the Senate proceed to executive session and consideration of the Gibson nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senator DURBIN.

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

The Senator from Illinois.

WISHING SENATOR PAUL WELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me first say at the outset that many of us have extended well wishes to our colleague, Senator PAUL, who was injured over the weekend. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he returns soon. He is an important part of the Senate and an important colleague to those of us on both sides of the aisle.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday there was another gun massacre and horrible circumstances. I know the Presiding Officer came to the floor earlier today to say a word about his feelings and the feelings of his family. They are shared by all of us. It is heartbreaking to think that some person so demented, so unusual would come into a worship setting and kill innocent people.

Yesterday, in Sutherland Springs, Texas, at least 26 people were killed and 20 others were wounded when a gunman opened fire in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church. The reported shooter, Devin Kelley, used an assault rifle to commit this mass murder. The victims range in age from 18 months to 77 years. About a dozen of those who were killed were children, including the daughter of the church's pastor. This is heartbreaking. Our nation grieves for the victims and their loved ones.

The shooter reportedly drove up to the church wearing a bulletproof vest and tactical gear, and he began firing in the parking lot before entering the church. At some point, a local resident who lived near the church began firing back. The shooter then drove off, with two residents in pursuit, eventually crashing his car. He was found dead from a gunshot wound, which may have been self-inflicted.

President Trump and others have said that this exchange of fire with citizens responding saved lives and shows that the policy response to the shooting should be to arm more good guys with guns. Let us not forget that 46 people were shot before these citizens came on the scene.

This reported shooter, 26 years old, had served in the U.S. Air Force from 2010 until 2014, working on logistics readiness. In 2012 he was court-martialed for two counts of assault on his then-wife and child. He was sentenced to confinement for 12 months. He received a bad conduct discharge in 2014. He remarried in 2014, and had worked as an unarmed security guard at a water park. He reportedly bought four guns, one each year from 2014 to 2017, and three of those weapons—the assault rifle that he used in this crime and two handguns—were found at the scene.

Local law enforcement said that the shooter was likely motivated by a domestic situation. His wife's grandmother was one of the victims.

There are so many things that come to mind. First and foremost is the grief and sorrow we all feel for the families who were affected. It is so sad that when people go to church on Sunday, they are not safe from gun violence and gun massacres, which are occurring way too frequently across the United States. Just over two years ago, nine people were killed by a gunman in the Charleston Emanuel AME Church. And just last month we saw the worst mass shooting in modern American history in Las Vegas, with 58 people murdered and over 500 wounded. In Chicago, at least 29 people were shot, five fatally, over this past weekend.

There are things that we need to do, and that only we can do in Congress, to make the laws better and safer.

I respect the Second Amendment. I respect the fact that there are men and women in my family, friends, and people I represent across Illinois who own guns and use them safely and respon-

sibly. We have sportsmen and hunters in my family. We have people who buy guns for sporting purposes and for self-defense. They store the guns carefully and safely. They take very seriously that they are dealing with a deadly weapon. They don't want anyone innocent to be hurt. I respect that very much. I think we all should. But I also call on them now. They need to lead us into a more sensible policy when it comes to gun safety.

Owners of firearms, overwhelmingly, when asked, believe we should have comprehensive background checks to keep guns out of the hands of those who misuse them. Overwhelmingly, a majority of gun owners feel that way, as most Americans feel. Why can't we do that? We certainly know it is within our power.

In my State of Illinois, in the city of Chicago, we are approaching 600 homicides this year—600—most of them from gunfire. It is heartbreaking. That doesn't include those who were injured by being shot as well. Where are these guns coming from? There are no gun stores in the city of Chicago. That is true. But when it comes to purchasing guns, it makes no difference. The suburbs have plenty of gun dealers. Of course, there are gun shows in neighboring States, like Indiana. We also know gun stores in the suburbs of Chicago supply 25 percent of the identified crime guns. We know many of those are sold in what is known as a straw purchase. They are sold to someone who buys a gun for someone who is not legally qualified. It is a girlfriend or someone who buys a gun because she has no criminal record so her boyfriend can use it—misuse it—and kill innocent people. Can't we toughen that law and make sure there are real penalties for straw purchases? That is not going to slow down any legitimate gun owner or anyone who wants to use a gun in a responsible fashion. That is one thing we can do.

Then there is the gun show loophole. We know, with Columbine and other places, that it was a gun show loophole that opened the way for the purchase of guns that killed innocent people. Let's do something about that. We should. If we are serious, we should.

We also know that the 1996 Lautenberg amendment prohibits convicted domestic abusers from buying or using guns. That applies, as well, to military personnel. Questions need to be asked and answered about this shooter in Texas and what happened after he was court-martialed for domestic abuse in the Air Force in 2012. How did he purchase a gun after that, in violation of the Lautenberg amendment?

We need to also ask why in the world anyone needs to own an assault weapon. I understand people buy rifles and shotguns and even handguns for sporting and self-defense. But why does anyone need to own a military-style weapon—one that can be converted, as we found in Las Vegas, to a weapon that discharges 100 rounds in 7 seconds?

That is totally unnecessary for any legitimate legal purpose. It is available, perhaps, for military use, perhaps, for law enforcement but not for the ordinary American citizen who would purchase and own a gun for legitimate purposes.

Next, we need to make sure that we understand why gun violence is growing in America. The number of people who have been killed or injured just grows by the year. It is getting worse. According to a CDC report issued just last week, gun deaths increased for the second year in a row last year. There were more than 38,000 gun deaths in 2016, up from 36,000 in 2015 and from 33,500 the year before that. We are experiencing a public health crisis of gun violence in America, according to the American Medical Association.

Of course, there is no single law or policy that would prevent every shooting death, just as there is no single law or policy that would prevent every drug overdose death. But we have to start working together, on a bipartisan basis, to bring these shooting numbers down.

We need to also talk about the issue of mental health, raised by the President in response to this tragedy in Texas. The President said:

This isn't a guns situation. . . . I think that mental health is your problem here.

Despite the fact that most violence in the United States has nothing to do with mental illness, many are arguing that mental health is really the issue. What have we done in the Senate when it comes to mental health and guns this year? Senate Republicans used the CRA to repeal a regulation that directed the Social Security Administration to share mental illness information with the background check compilation of information. There was advocacy for massive cuts to Medicaid, which would throw millions of people with mental health needs off coverage. There was an attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would have allowed insurers to refuse coverage of essential health benefits, including mental health treatment. And there was a refusal to provide additional Federal funding to help provide mental health care. We don't have a very good record this year in the Senate when it comes to taking mental illness seriously, and we should.

I will also introduce a bill that I am working on to encourage more crime-gun tracing in light of last week's crime-gun trace report from the Chicago Police Department.

We focus on terrorism and what it does to our country, and we should. That is our responsibility. Anyone who would do harm to innocent Americans—as in 9/11, killing 3,000 in that particular instance—needs to be taken extremely seriously by all of us in Congress and in the White House. Foreign sources of terrorism need to be carefully watched when it comes to our border security, when it comes to background checks, and the like. But let's

be honest. More Americans are dying from Americans killing Americans with guns than by terrorist activity. It is just as much a death as any foreign terrorist threat would be, and we need to consider it just as seriously as we do when it comes to the issues of terrorism and safety for the people of America.

Why doesn't the Congress take this up? Why don't we even have a debate? I am on the Senate Judiciary Committee. We have not had a single bill this year that addresses gun safety—not one—despite the gun violence that takes place every day and despite tragedies like this tragedy over the weekend in Sutherland Springs, TX.

Every time a terrible shooting occurs, Republican leaders in Congress say now is not the time to act. And then Congress never acts.

Congress still has not acted to close the 72-hour background check loophole that allowed the Charleston church shooter to buy his gun in 2015.

Congress has done nothing to address the bump stocks that enabled the Las Vegas shooter to turn a concert into a war zone.

Congress still hasn't even addressed the gun show loophole that allowed the Columbine shooters to commit that massacre back in 1999.

Will Congress act in response to this latest tragedy? Will the Republicans who control Congress finally stand up to the gun lobby and put legislation on the floor to bring down the number of gun deaths? Or will the Republican-controlled Congress ignore this public health crisis once again?

The Republicans in Congress are rushing to pass massive changes to our tax code in a matter of weeks, and yet they refuse to do anything to prevent the next mass shooting. If the Republicans treated this gun violence epidemic with a fraction of the urgency they are showing when it comes to cutting taxes for the wealthiest one percent and the largest corporations, we could save many lives.

I pray for the victims of gun violence in this nation, but I also pray that my colleagues will act to reduce this gun violence epidemic.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 5, 2 months ago, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration's repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, better known as DACA.

DACA provides temporary legal status to immigrant students if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks. It was renewable on a 2-year basis.

The young people protected by DACA are also known as Dreamers. They came to the United States as children. They grew up knowing only this country, believing this was their home and their future. Many of them in their

teenaged years were told quietly by a parent that their legal status was not the status of an American citizen. These kids, who grew up singing the Star Spangled Banner and pledging allegiance to the American flag, have no country.

It was 7 years ago that I sent a letter to President Obama, joined by Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. On a bipartisan basis, we asked President Obama to establish a program like the DACA Program. The President responded, and DACA has been a success. Almost 800,000 Dreamers have come forward. They have surrendered to their government the information that many of their families kept secret for years. They trusted us. They gave this information to the government and said: We want to become part of America's future, and we are willing to sign up, submit ourselves to the background check, pay our taxes, pay our filing fee, and do whatever is necessary. They trusted us. These young people who came forward and received DACA have then gone on to contribute more fully to their country. They are teachers, nurses, engineers, first responders, and servicemembers in our military.

Now, because of President Trump's announcement, the deportation clock is ticking on these young people. Beginning on March 5, 2018, not that long from now, every workday for the following 2 years approximately 1,400 Dreamers will lose their work permits and be subject to deportation. These young people who trusted our government will now, with the decision to end DACA, find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position.

When they lose their DACA protection, if they are teachers, they are forced to leave their students. If they are nurses, they are forced to leave their patients. If they are first responders, they leave their post. If they are soldiers willing to die for our country, they are forced to leave our military service.

This isn't just a looming humanitarian crisis. It is also an economic crisis. The nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reports that DACA-eligible individuals contribute an estimated \$2 billion a year in State and local taxes. The Cato Institute, a conservative operation, estimates that ending DACA and deporting DACA recipients will cost \$60 billion and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next 10 years.

Poll after poll shows overwhelming bipartisan support for these Dreamers. Even FOX News—no liberal media outlet—recently found that 79 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for Dreamers, including 63 percent of those who voted for President Trump. Sixty-three percent, or almost two out of three Trump supporters, supports a legal status for Dreamers.

The answer is clear. Congress needs to pass the Dream Act, and we need to

do it before we leave Washington, DC, for the holidays.

It was 16 years ago that I first introduced this bipartisan legislation to give a path of citizenship to these young people. In July I introduced the most recent version with my friend, LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican Senator from South Carolina.

Over the years I have come to the floor almost 100 times to tell individual stories of the Dreamers. These stories tell us what is at stake when we consider the fate of DACA and the Dream Act. Today, I want to tell you about Ha Eun Lee.

When she was 6 years old, her family came to the United States from Korea. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Here is what Ha Eun says about her childhood in the United States: "I was fortunate enough to grow up learning that diversity is encouraged and differences are not just tolerated but welcomed."

Ha Eun was a good student and committed to public service. In high school she was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Principal's Academic Achievement Award, and was an Oakland Activities Association Scholar Athlete. She was a member of the track and field team during all 4 years of high school.

Ha Eun is now a senior at the University of Michigan, majoring in English. She volunteers with the Red Cross, and she is copresident of an organization called The Supply, which raises money to help students in Nairobi, Kenya, obtain an education. As copresident, Ha Eun has expanded this organization's efforts, and they are now volunteering locally near Detroit.

Ha Eun was also a policy and programs intern for the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Center.

As Ha Eun completes her last year of college, her dream is to become a lawyer. She wrote me a letter, and here is what she said:

Although I'm legally labeled as an "alien" in this country I call home, I believe I am an American. And I believe this not solely because I live, study, work and contribute to this country, but because I believe in the

core values all Americans share as a nation: liberty, justice, and prosperity.

Ha Eun and other Dreamers have so much to contribute to our country, but without DACA or the Dream Act, they will be deported back to countries where they haven't lived since they were children. Will America be stronger if we deport people like Ha Eun? I think the answer is obvious.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator GRAHAM said: "The moment of reckoning is coming." That moment has arrived. Congress has a responsibility to do our job and make the Dream Act the law of the land before the end of the year, before we go home for the holidays; otherwise, we will bear the responsibility for forcing hundreds of thousands of talented young immigrants out of the workforce and putting them at risk of immediate deportation.

Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are interested in finding a path to get this done. I salute all of them who in good faith have offered their help. We have to focus now. We have to come together and focus.

Many of my Republican colleagues have said that we need to put in border security elements. Count me in. Let's sit down and have an honest discussion about making our borders safer and stronger. I will gladly join that conversation. I think there are many things we can agree on that will lessen the likelihood that there will be those coming across the border in the years to come.

I recently met with the head of border security, and we talked about things that might be done. There is something called a Z Portal. I didn't know about it. It is a virtual x ray machine, a low-level radiation x ray machine that can x ray vehicles and determine whether they are secreting individuals or contraband that shouldn't be allowed in this country. He talked about one particular border crossing and said: We have a Z Portal there, but it can be used on only about one out of every five vehicles. He said: I would like to have more of them.

I think he should. Why wouldn't we make that part of border security? I

said: What about other things coming into this country, other than people?

He said: One thing we are concerned about is fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a chemical that is used to enhance the addiction of heroin, and, sadly, it is deadly. Many heroin addicts die when they lace the heroin with fentanyl and inject it, so we try at the borders to stop the importation of this fentanyl from China and other countries into the United States. I asked him about it.

He said: Sadly, we don't have enough new spectrometers, which are used to test these chemicals. We need them to stop the flow of this deadly drug into our country and to protect the men and women who are doing the actual surveillance.

Isn't that something we can agree on, on a bipartisan basis, to make our borders safer, to lessen the likelihood of people dying from the opioid heroin crisis? These are things we can do together.

Somehow we haven't been able to come up with a list of particulars from the other side of what they would like to move forward on, but I am ready, willing, and determined to get this done.

We have to do this this year. There is no excuse. There are too many lives at stake, not just the 780,000 DACA individuals but all of the people whom they are helping in their lives today. They are depending on us.

We are running out of time. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this constructive and bipartisan effort.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:11 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 10 a.m.