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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Dr. Tommy Middleton, director of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, from Baton Rouge, LA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Good morning. Let's pray.

Father, we are grateful for this life and health and strength that You have given us so that we may serve You and serve others, so thankful for Your hand of blessing and favor that is rested upon this Nation. And, O God, may that continue.

So, Lord, we pray for these Senators, that, Lord, You would give them wisdom in the decisions they make and the crafting of legislation; Lord, that You would give them compassion as they deal with others—fellow Senators, legislators, elected officials, constituents; and that You would give them courage to make decisions based upon truth. Although there might be opposition, Lord, may they stay people of truth. Father, I do pray that You give them discernment so that in the deliberations they make, they will judge a righteous judgment.

Finally, O Lord, that we would walk in humility, realizing that the decisions we make, the course of our walk, our actions in our lives will be judged by those who have elected us here, but more than that, we will be judged by You, Almighty God.

Lord, we pray, we desire, we seek Your help, and, as Your Word says, our help is in the Name of the Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth, and in that Name, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

WELCOMING DR. TOMMY MIDDLETON

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to my friend, Dr. Tommy Middleton, the executive director of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, who just opened us in prayer.

Dr. Middleton oversees 100 churches and missions, which include services in 6 languages—Chinese, Burmese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, and Spanish. I should say seven—also English. The ministries include the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Extension in Baton Rouge; student work at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Louisiana State University and Southern University; camp ministries at the

Judson Baptist Retreat Center; prison ministries in four State prisons and six local parish jails; governmental interface on the local, State, and Federal levels; ministry to the seamen through the Seafarers Ministries; church planting regionally; and international missions in 16 different countries in which he has been personally involved. I will add one more: bringing relief to victims of natural disasters across our country.

Overall, Dr. Middleton has spread the good news of the Gospel for nearly 50 years. It was my honor to invite Dr. Middleton to open the U.S. Senate in prayer this morning. We have all been blessed.

I yield back.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a number of important topics to discuss this morning, but first and foremost, I want to personally thank everyone in this building who gave so much of their own time and energy to facilitate the rituals that filled this Capitol for the last several days.

From the moment that news of President Bush's passing was made public, intricate plans were set in motion in both the House and Senate to arrange a public tribute worthy of a national treasure and a rare patriot like George Bush. Needless to say, the entire congressional family should be proud of the result.

As our 41st President lay in state earlier this week, the Bush family, world leaders, and tens of thousands of Americans were welcomed to the Capitol to pay their respects. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking the

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



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great many people who helped make such a beautiful remembrance possible: to the staff of the Architect of the Capitol, all the offices under the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate and her team, and the Press Gallery; to the volunteers from my own staff and from other congressional offices who freely gave their time; to the staff of the Capitol Visitor Center who ensured that tens of thousands of people could share this experience; to the men and women of the Capitol Police who watch over us all; to the U.S. military, the envy of the world. Special thanks to Stef Muchow, my director of operations, who played such a tireless role in conducting this orchestra, going back through the entire weekend leading up to Monday, and to so many others who worked through the weekend and around the clock to help the legislative branch coordinate a dignified sendoff befitting this remarkable man whom we honor. I thank you, and the Nation thanks you.

NOMINATIONS OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE AND KATHLEEN LAURA KRANINGER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate voted yesterday to advance the nomination of Bernard McNamee to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Today, we will vote on his confirmation. I encourage every one of my colleagues to join me in supporting this abundantly well-qualified nominee.

After Mr. McNamee, we will continue moving ahead with the personnel business. We will vote on the confirmation of Kathleen Kraninger to lead the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. Ms. Kraninger brings a wealth of experience to an Agency in need of a renewed, consumer-focused mission. I urge each of my colleagues to join me in voting to get her started in this important work.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, for 8 years, President Obama landed blow after blow in his War on Coal. As we all know, it wasn't just the coal companies that endured the pain; hard-working families—many who live in economically distressed communities that relied on mining jobs—became the casualties of this ideological agenda. In my State of Kentucky, for example, those policies inflicted serious damage that is still being felt years later.

That is why I was so grateful to hear that later today, the Trump administration will begin the process to undo and replace another Obama anti-coal regulation. Throughout the Obama administration, my Republican colleagues and I did everything we could to stop this assault on vulnerable communities. Where this particular rule is

concerned, I personally led the charge, including as the lead sponsor of a resolution to cancel it altogether.

Republicans knew these policies would stymie American competitiveness and do little to actually help the environment. Despite our best efforts, President Obama's EPA worked overtime to shutter existing coal plants and, with this rule in particular, stop new ones from being built. It was the fulfillment of one of his most troubling campaign promises, which many of us in coal country remember very well. Here is what he said:

If somebody wants to build a coal-fired power plant, they can. It's just that it will bankrupt them.

When we blocked the legislation he originally pitched, President Obama chose to go it alone and try to implement aggressive regulations, often bending the rule of law in the process. When we used the tools available to us to bring relief to American families, we were met each time with vetoes. But everything changed when the American people elected President Trump. We have worked hand in hand to end the War on Coal and to bring relief.

Earlier this year, the President unveiled his plan to dismantle the so-called Clean Power Plan, a policy designed to shut down nearly every active coal plant. Now President Trump's EPA is also targeting another regulation that would have made it nearly impossible to build any new plants in the future. This is a crucial step toward undoing the damage and putting coal back on a level playing field.

On behalf of coal families throughout Kentucky, I applaud the Trump administration. This runaway regulation needs to be rolled back and replaced with a more reasonable and achievable set of standards. Coal deserves a level playing field, and that is what this White House is trying to accomplish. I look forward to reviewing the proposal in the coming days and continuing to work with President Trump on this critical issue.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this is that time at the end of a Congress when inevitably some of our Members go on to something else and leave this body. I want to take this opportunity this morning to pay tribute to another distinguished Member of the Senate who is leaving us at the end of this year.

Senator BOB CORKER is one of the most hard-working and, frankly, relentless Members of this body. He is a builder by trade and a fixer by nature. Senator CORKER is always a man on a mission. Our distinguished colleague hails from a State with a long history of impressive Senators. Tennesseans such as Howard Baker, Al Gore, Bill Frist, and, of course, our colleague LAMAR ALEXANDER all developed national reputations as leaders. But after 12 years of working with Bob, I could

not feel more comfortable saying that he himself will now become a part of that great Tennessee legacy. He has met that high bar, and he set it high himself.

No sooner could any Senator turn his or her attention to some important but stalled initiative—some dead-end negotiation, some thorny national problem—then you would see BOB CORKER diving into the fray and attacking the problem with everything he had.

The limitless work ethic, the entrepreneurial drive—these things have defined BOB CORKER since long before he was sworn in as a Senator. He started working odd jobs at age 13. At 25, he had saved up enough money to cofound his own construction company—25 years old—and strike out for himself. That firm grew from an \$8,000 lark into a major operation that spanned more than a dozen States.

Bob was a natural. He was constantly sniffing out opportunities and tackling them with vigor. Along the way, he picked up what some close to him now joke is an addiction to the feeling of a closing handshake—that sign that needs were met, a deal was done, and both parties would walk away happy.

The term “workaholic” might be putting it mildly. I am told that after one particularly hairy negotiation ended in success, Bob exclaimed, “I'd sell it back to him—if I could turn around and buy it again!”

Unlike many of his colleagues, Bob did not necessarily always aspire to public service.

In fact, it took a direct appeal to his builder's instincts to set this political career in motion.

Bob saw a message in a church bulletin. They needed volunteers with construction experience to help a mission in Haiti. Bob went along, along with his father, and he came back with the drive to keep doing real good for real people.

That conviction eventually took him to city hall in Chattanooga, where people still talk about the transformative wave of education reform, economic development, and public improvements that was unleashed during his time as mayor.

Tennesseans liked what they saw. They decided the next chapters of BOB CORKER's serial success story should be written right here on their behalf in the U.S. Senate.

So if I even tried to relate a comprehensive catalog of everything BOB CORKER has gotten accomplished in the Senate, this speech would be our last act of business before New Year's, but a few highlights stand out especially.

It was early in Senator CORKER's first term when the financial crisis threw our economy into chaos, but this fired-up freshman immediately started working with committee chairs and new friends across the aisle. He became a pivotal player, putting his private sector acumen to great use in helping craft policies to begin restoring stability.

He has been a leading voice on housing reform, of course, and the combination of his background with his post on the Foreign Relations Committee has led to some unique BOB CORKER accomplishments. Just this year, he has been hard at work on the BUILD Act to overhaul how America makes loans to new projects in the developing world.

He was also a key champion of the electrify Africa bill that became law in 2016, laying groundwork for a more stable power grid across that continent.

There are also other subtler ways he has remained the consummate businessman. Tennesseans know that many of the good things their junior Senator has achieved for his home State didn't even involve legislation. Every bit the former mayor, BOB has continued to hustle to convince every new job and new investment in sight why his home State is the place for them—phone call by phone call, meeting by meeting.

So the Senate is preparing to say goodbye to one of our most energetic and accomplished Members. We will miss his enthusiasm and his expertise, but we will also miss his famous generosity and the great kindness everyone close to BOB jumps at the chance to describe.

He is thoughtful to those he knows well and to those he has just met. I have it on good authority that on at least one occasion, BOB met a promising young man working in a checkout line and signed him up right there on the spot for a job interview with his chief of staff.

Most recently, we know BOB CORKER as the brilliant chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. He has traveled constantly. He has engaged issues around the world with an enormous degree of skill and capacity. He is a powerful voice for American interests and those of our allies and a forceful, influential thorn in the side of those who might wish us harm.

He has also used that position to champion vulnerable people around the world. His spearheading of the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act, focusing resources and attention on a humanitarian crisis affecting literally millions, will be a core piece of that legacy.

I know BOB prides himself on bringing more regular order back to the committee and getting it back to basics—legislation, treaties. Under his leadership, the committee passed the first authorization bill for the State Department—listen to this—in 14 years.

Predictably, that BOB CORKER work ethic is on full display when he is traveling the world on our Nation's behalf. I hear that when BOB was leading a trip to Israel and Palestine a few years ago, he heard about smuggling tunnels between Egypt and Gaza and decided to go see them himself.

So the way I heard it, he arranged for ground transportation to Gaza, examined the system, and was back in Tel Aviv later that day to discuss the situation with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

I will admit, though, that I am plenty excited to see what this hugely accomplished individual will get into next, and there is plenty of talk about what mission is next in the queue.

I have heard his name is in the hat for an opportunity envied by many in this Chamber, and that is the chance to spend a lot more time with family. I am sure Elizabeth and the family will oblige with a smooth confirmation process.

I have to admit, whatever comes next, I really doubt we will be able to call it a retirement in any ordinary sense of the word. You see, I have heard what happens when BOB CORKER tries to relax.

Apparently, there was one summer when he endeavored to take up water-skiing. You know—nice, lazy days; soak in the sunshine. Well, that didn't last very long. BOB went all in. He practiced and practiced and kept at it all summer, and soon he was a masterful but somewhat exhausted and burned-out water-skier. Once the challenge was gone, on to the next thing, on to the next deal, on to the next construction project.

So, BOB, we will miss you a lot. The Senate and the great State of Tennessee will miss your service, but we just simply can't wait to see what you build next.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, let me begin where the majority leader stopped.

It is a true story about the tunnels. Senator CORKER was curious about smuggling supplies from Egypt to Gaza. Others of us might have asked somebody about that—not BOB CORKER. He hailed a Jeep, rode to the border, inspected the tunnels, took photographs, and as the majority leader said, when he met with Benjamin Netanyahu that afternoon, showed him the photographs. Netanyahu was startled. The Prime Minister of Israel might have been surprised by BOB CORKER's conduct, but none of us who knew BOB CORKER were surprised.

As Senator MCCONNELL said, BOB CORKER is always a man on a mission, with little regard for the obstacles in the way.

In 1978, age 25, he had saved about \$6,000, and he started a construction company. A friend of mine in Maryville, my hometown, worked for him as he built a shopping center in Blount County. My friend said: I always knew that that CORKER was going to amount to something.

After his experience in Haiti that Senator MCCONNELL discussed, he also

began to apply his skills of construction to help find decent homes for nearly 10,000 people in Chattanooga.

I met BOB CORKER 25 years ago. It was 1993. His friend Jimmy Haslam, who was his roommate at the University of Tennessee, called me and said he had this friend who was thinking about public service, and he wondered if I would talk to him. Jimmy Haslam is today the owner of the Cleveland Browns. When they first knew each other, I believe, according to CORKER, they spent a lot of their time sitting on the roof of the fraternity house at the University of Tennessee drinking beer.

Nevertheless, BOB CORKER and I walked up and down the beach at Hilton Head, SC, for what must have been an hour and a half. In his typical BOB CORKER way, he was weighing both sides—all sides—of the issue. Should I run for the U.S. Senate? Should I run for Governor of Tennessee—which might be better suited to somebody with his executive background.

He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1994, which would have been a very good year for a Republican to do that, with one exception. He had a primary, and he was defeated by Bill Frist, a doctor who had never before been involved in politics. Some people said it really amounted to Frist—for these two rookies who were running against each other in a primary—Frist just spent more of his money to beat CORKER than CORKER spent of his to beat Frist. In any event, Frist came here and even served as the majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

Of course, that didn't slow BOB down more than about 10 minutes. The new Governor of Tennessee, Don Sundquist, invited him to become, in effect, the chief operating officer of our State government.

There, we saw the first indications of diplomacy that we now see today in his work around the world. He began to work with the Democratic mayor of Nashville, whom Governor Sundquist had just defeated in the Governor's race, and together they brought the Titans to Nashville and to Tennessee—which, by the way, play the Jaguars tonight at 7:20.

BOB earned so much respect from the Democratic legislature that existed then that they tried to persuade him to run for Governor as a Democrat, but he said no, and he returned to Chattanooga and jumped back into business. Real estate companies were what he became involved in, and then he became the mayor of Chattanooga in 2000.

Now, he would be the first to tell you that Chattanooga was already on a roll, that a lot of people had a lot to do with Chattanooga's success, but everybody else will tell you he was the best, fastest runner to have on the last stage of the relay team because he took what was already beginning to happen in Chattanooga and put it into high gear, lay the groundwork for what eventually attracted Volkswagen to put its

North American manufacturing plant there and to have the country generally regard Chattanooga as one of the most, if not the most, desirable, midsized cities in America. He was enormously successful as a mayor.

Then, in 2006, the man who had defeated him in his Senate race 12 years earlier, decided to retire from the Senate, and Bill Frist persuaded BOB CORKER to run for his seat. Maybe Bill Frist didn't tell BOB the whole story. That was a tough year for Republican candidates, and it was a different race. It was the closest race in our State's history for the U.S. Senate, and BOB nearly lost it, but he did something that almost no one would do, whether they are a politician or an executive.

Six or eight weeks before the election, he understood he was about to lose it, and he completely changed what he was doing. He moved his campaign headquarters to Nashville; he hired a new team; and he began to tell the story of who BOB CORKER really is, instead of some Washington ad man's version of it, and so we began to learn about his interest in Haiti and about the 10,000 people whose homes he had helped find in Chattanooga and about his work to restore that city and to lead our State and recruit the Titans. People liked that. He was elected. He had the privilege of being the president, the secretary, and the treasurer of the freshman Republican Senate class that was sworn in, in 2007. He was the only one.

When BOB first came here, the truth is, at first he was bouncing off the walls. He was a lot like many executives who come to this body and find it a very unusual place to be and to work. That didn't last very long. As the majority leader said, he jumped in right away.

Without repeating all of those things, there was the financial crisis, there were the problems with the auto industry. I would think BOB probably learned as much about General Motors as the General Motors board of directors knew, and he showed that as he worked with them. He was unafraid to talk to the managers or to the union about what needed to be done.

He became really focused on the Federal debt of this country and seeing it as our biggest challenge, and I don't think there is anyone in this body, over the last 12 years, who has been more consistent in trying to point out what the real problem is—the entitlements. He even came up with a plan and introduced a bill to deal with it. The only problem is, he and I are the only two cosponsors of that bill. So as he leaves, that is a problem he highlighted, but we still have to work on.

He thought about not running for a second term. He was discouraged, to some degree, about how the place works, but he had already accomplished so much that he decided to do it, and so he continued his habits of being up early, reading everything he could get his hands on, calling every-

body he could think of, traveling to 70 countries, worrying about issues and saying what he thought—always trying to do it in a bipartisan way because he understood that is how you get results, and he wanted results.

BOB CORKER voted with the majority of Republican Senators 85 percent of the time, but he always has been a conservative who prizes results over speeches. In 2015, he became chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and began to deal with the issues Senator MCCONNELL mentioned—Iran, sex trafficking, and others. His tough-minded pragmatism and grasp of economics has restored prestige to the Foreign Relations Committee. His skills are reminiscent of the skills of the man we honor this week and the team of George H.W. Bush and what he was able to accomplish in foreign policy.

When Time magazine picked him in 2015 as one of the world's 100 most influential leaders, I wrote about that incident at the border of Gaza and I said this at the time: "If BOB CORKER is not President of the United States himself, he is an obvious choice for Secretary of State or for the Treasury," which is exactly what happened when President Trump was running and was elected in 2016. He considered Senator CORKER for Vice President, then for Secretary of State, and, more recently, for Ambassador to Australia. Of course, over this time, Senator CORKER has demonstrated with President Trump the same thing he did with President Obama—that he was not afraid to work with him and he was not afraid to challenge him.

This produced some sparks. I have told both President Trump and Senator CORKER that they shouldn't worry about those sparks very much because that is just the way developers and contractors talk to each other. I know both men well enough to know that deep down there is a lot of mutual respect between the two of them.

For me, these 12 years of working with BOB CORKER have been a joy. It is well known that Senators—especially Senators from the same State, especially Senators of the same political party—don't always get along well with each other. This is a body that operates by unanimous consent. This is a body where relationships matter. BOB CORKER and I have followed the old rule that Senator Howard Baker and Senator Robert Byrd followed: I won't surprise you if you won't surprise me. We not only didn't surprise each other, but we looked out for each other. We respected each other's work, even though we didn't always agree. Our staffers saw that. So they worked the same way, and I am convinced the people of Tennessee were the beneficiaries of that, because when they approached the Corker staff and the Alexander staff or either one of us, I think they found that one plus one equals three, not two, and that the people for whom we work are the beneficiaries.

Peyton Manning once said that he hoped BOB CORKER would serve in the United States until he was 100 years old. I think that was really to get people to quit asking Peyton Manning to run for the U.S. Senate, because he knew better than to get involved. While I am looking forward to working with MARSHA BLACKBURN, who is BOB CORKER's successor, I have to admit that I agree with Peyton Manning.

BOB CORKER has done as a U.S. Senator what every Tennessean and every American should hope a U.S. Senator should do. He has gotten up early, determined to find some way to make the country a little better, read everything he could find, talked to everybody he could find on the telephone—anybody he thought knew anything about an issue he cared about—and jumped into it with both feet, saying exactly what he thought was the right thing to do for the country and usually coming out with a result that did just that.

It has been a privilege to serve with him and to know better Elizabeth and their wonderful family. I look forward to watching what has to be one of the best upcoming shows in town, which will be whatever BOB CORKER decides to do next.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I am honored to have the opportunity to join my colleagues and rise today to speak in tribute to my friend Senator BOB CORKER and in recognition of his remarkable service to our Nation here in the Senate of the United States. Senator CORKER and his staff have left an astonishing legacy of tireless energy, engagement, and productivity, and I am thrilled to have a few minutes to follow on the comments of the majority leader and the senior Senator from his home State of Tennessee.

When I first came here as a freshman in 2010, I partnered with Senator JOE MANCHIN, who was elected at the same time as I was in a special election. We decided that the first thing we had to do was to go to Afghanistan and see our troops in harm's way. Having never been a Senator before, I had no idea how one went about getting to Afghanistan, but Senator MANCHIN assured me he had it under control and it was all going to be just fine.

Just a few weeks later, I ended up on an airplane with two Senators I had never heard of—BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont and BOB CORKER of Tennessee. Maybe I had heard of them, but I certainly had never met them and knew little about them.

As we all got engaged in this trip—we went to Pakistan and Afghanistan—I learned more and more about BOB CORKER. You just heard it, but I will

repeat it. Possessing a fierce work ethic, incredible intellect, and a determination to get things done, Mr. CORKER is a builder who reaches across the aisle, extends his hand, and doesn't relent until there is a deal done. I can't think of a more frustrating place to try and bring that attitude than Afghanistan. We were there at a time when our own law enforcement had just informed us that then-President Hamid Karzai's half-brother had stolen nearly a half billion dollars from the American taxpayers. Chairman CORKER unleashed on the President of Afghanistan with a focused communication that I will not soon forget, and that left me looking around to make sure there were folks from our side in the room.

He was respectful and supportive of our men and women of the Armed Forces. He was engaged and purposeful with the leaders of Afghanistan. In every single meeting we had in Pakistan and Afghanistan and then in the follow-on in Jordan and Israel, BOB was a blizzard of activity with purpose. What an introduction that was.

What I realized on our trip is that my background as a county executive who did a lot in land use and development and BOB's background as an entrepreneur and a builder and then a mayor and someone passionate about providing housing to those in need meant that we had a lot in common. He has an attitude of wanting to get a lot of things done and refusing to be satisfied with a body where folks talk too much and accomplish too little. So from that first trip, I concluded Senator CORKER was someone with whom I could really get things done.

He is the sort of person who has been willing at times to put Nation above party and to be always committed to his home State of Tennessee.

I do want to make sure I also say thank you to his wife Elizabeth and to his daughters, Emily and Julia, and his family, including his grandchildren, who have supported him in this service.

His dozen years in the Senate has left a lasting legacy, and that is only because he has a family who has loved and supported him even as he has traveled relentlessly around the world and worked tirelessly to tackle our budget issues. As a builder, an entrepreneur, and successful businessman, BOB can read a balance sheet, and he knows that ours is badly out of whack. As a member of the Budget Committee in my first few years here, he was relentless at delivering a message to anyone who was here that we were headed toward a reckoning. That is a piece of unfinished business that I feel some obligation to try and carry forward in Mr. CORKER's honor.

As you heard his colleagues say, though, it was at moments of BOB's tireless, relentless energy and his determination to build things and get things done that he encountered the tragic realities of the world that most moved him. A trip to Haiti opened his eyes to the profound need for housing

in this region of the world. Much later, a trip to the Philippines to see the tragedy of young women ensnared by sex traffickers profoundly touched him and moved him. It is this combination of a relentless will, great intellect, and a huge heart that has made Senator CORKER—Chairman CORKER—such a successful leader here.

Whether meeting with world leaders, fighting to solve budget issues, or chairing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, there is universal agreement about his passion, his character, and his integrity. That is because he genuinely listens to people, asks them thoughtful, sometimes tough, very focused questions, and then gets moving toward solving a problem.

I asked for a review of the bills that we have worked on, and it is longer than the time I have allotted. So let me just give a few highlights. One of the issues that bears mentioning is that in a deeply divided, often too partisan Congress, where too few Members are willing to work across the aisle to achieve results, my work on legislation with Chairman CORKER has led to most of the things that I can say with confidence have made a difference in my short 8 years here.

We recently worked together to reauthorize PEPFAR, President George W. Bush's emergency program for AIDS relief, in just September of this year. We worked together—this is really Senator CORKER's issue and his leadership—to pass the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act, a critical step in fighting the scourge of slavery around the world today. We worked to pass the Global Food Security Act, which authorized USAID's Emergency Food Security Program, and we worked tirelessly—work I intend to continue—to make our food aid more efficient and focused.

There is the Water for the World Act, which promotes safe, clean drinking water for a billion people around the world and was signed into law in 2014.

Most recently, there was a bill we spent a great deal of time on and where his staff was particularly effective, the BUILD Act, which will deploy \$60 billion of American private capital around the world, at no cost to American taxpayers, in a way that meets the challenges we face from China, investing everywhere in the world. It allows us to step up the skills and strength of our private sector to help build and meet the needs of a growing world. Working to implement the BUILD Act and to execute on BOB's vision will be one of the things I will tend to this coming year, as well as making sure that the Electrify Africa Act, which we worked on together, is implemented this coming year, and this will be something I look forward to doing.

Working on making sure that the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act is carried forward this coming Congress is something I look forward to.

What I will deeply miss is time with Senator CORKER. It was at Easter time

last year that he asked me on short notice if I thought we should go to the fastest growing refugee camp in the world, Bidi Bidi, in Uganda, where more than a quarter-million people were living after fleeing war-torn South Sudan. I went to my wife and said: I sort of planned a quiet weekend at home this year, what do you think? She said: There is no better place on Earth you can be than with BOB CORKER. She and I both have been impressed with his tireless commitment to making a difference in the world, and the impact of that trip on both of us—of spending that weekend not in the comfort or quiet of our own homes in our home States but with people who had just fled violence, torture, rape, and abuse, and to provide some measure of comfort and confidence to them and to gain insight into how we are helping around the world—touched my heart and will affect the whole rest of my service and my life.

Let me just say this in closing. We have had a remarkable time serving together in Foreign Relations. Chairman CORKER has shown us how Members of this body should act. We have real differences. He is a conservative Republican. He is of the opposite party. He comes to things with different principles. But he has been relentless in finding solutions, and the problems that face us will not be solved without leaders like Chairman CORKER.

It has been my honor to have the opportunity to work with him on a few issues. Frankly, I wish more Members were here to talk about all the other issues—from financial services to the auto industry to things around the world—that I know are pressing business in this short lameduck session.

Let me say this. I am eager to see what Chairman CORKER does next, because his relentless energy, huge heart, and great intellect have made such a lasting difference here. I am eager to find out what he is determined to build next. There is nothing to which he has bent his will toward that hasn't been shaped by his character, his integrity, and his kindness.

It has been a true blessing, Mr. CORKER, to serve alongside you and, in some small way, to try to earn the opportunity to make a difference in this country and in this world with you. Thank you and thank you for your service to our Nation.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later today, the House is poised to send us a 2-week continuing resolution, which will give us time to hash out the remainder of the appropriations process this year. I expect it will pass this Chamber later this afternoon. President Trump and my Republican colleagues now have to decide what they want to do after those 2 weeks are up and, hopefully, even sooner.

As everybody knows, Democrats have offered to pass the bipartisan DHS appropriations bill agreed to 6 months ago, which includes \$1.6 billion for border security. There has been some confusion about that figure.

Let me be clear. The \$1.6 billion cannot be used to construct any part of President Trump's 30-foot-tall, concrete border wall. It can be used only for fencing, using technology currently deployed at the border, only where the experts say fencing is appropriate and makes sense as a security feature.

This is something Democrats have always been for: smart, effective, appropriate border security. This is so good that every Republican appropriator signed off on that bill a few months ago, including Senator MCCONNELL, Senator SHELBY, Senator RUBIO, and Senator GRAHAM. They were all for it.

This is a bipartisan compromise proposal. If they can't go for the proposal that they signed off on and negotiated because President Trump is pounding the table in an irrational way, there is a second option. Democrats have also offered to pass the six bipartisan appropriations bills and a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security. This continuing resolution doesn't resolve this issue but continues to fund the Homeland Security Department. We think that continuing resolution should be for a year.

Both options would receive 60 votes in the Senate, would pass in the House, and would get us home in time for the Christmas holiday, which I know many people want to do. I have heard that from many of my Republican friends.

As I said, either option would keep the government funded over Christmas. We don't want to see the government shut down over Christmas, even though President Trump seems to brag that he wants one. The one and only way we approach a shutdown is if President Trump refuses both of our proposals and demands \$5 billion or more for a border wall.

The wall request is a nonstarter for many reasons. Here are three:

First, when President Trump proposed this as a candidate, he said: "I will have Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words." The idea that the American taxpayer now has to foot the bill doesn't make sense.

Second, there is no plan for the wall. They haven't said where they want to build it or how high it is. Let me make clear that I don't like any wall, but how can you spend \$5 billion when there is no plan? It shows that this is

sort of political fodder for President Trump. It appeals to his base, but he doesn't even care that much that his whole government, his whole administration has not submitted any specific plans.

Third, last year we put \$1.345 billion into Homeland Security for border security. Not a nickel of that has been spent on a wall. It couldn't be. The language didn't allow it. But virtually none of it has been spent at all. They still have that \$1.34 billion they haven't even spent the vast majority of, and already they are demanding \$5 billion more.

Some would say demanding \$1.6 billion more is too much, but the idea that they haven't spent last year's money and they are demanding such a huge amount this year makes no sense at all. To ask the American taxpayer to foot the bill for an unplanned, unnecessary, ineffective border wall is just preposterous.

We know why President Trump is doing this, as he does so many things. It is a throwaway idea to fire up his base. I am ashamed that my Republican colleagues, who know better, are going along.

If President Trump wants to throw a temper tantrum and shut down the government over Christmas over the wall, that is his decision, but there are two sensible options on the table to avoid one. We do not want to let a Trump temper tantrum govern our policies or cause the shutdown of the government, which everyone on both sides of the aisle knows is the wrong idea.

One final point: By letting the President's demands get in the way, my Republican colleagues are, in effect, ceding Congress's authority over the appropriations process to the President. Leader MCCONNELL has repeatedly said that he wants regular order on appropriations in the Senate. In fact, that has been one of the few bipartisan high moments that this Senate has had.

Last year, we passed a good appropriations process and came together on an omnibus. This year, we have funded close to three-quarters of the government already—bipartisan, passed by a large majority. That is how it should work. It should work the same way for the Department of Homeland Security. Regular order would dictate that the Senate consider the bipartisan DHS appropriations bill that has been passed out of committee and been agreed to by both parties here on the floor. In the meantime, the six other bipartisan appropriations bills that have also been agreed to by both parties are being held hostage over this unnecessarily, to any objective observer.

If my friend Leader MCCONNELL is so concerned about regular order, he would bring up the remaining appropriations bills, as agreed to, for a vote. He would tell President Trump that the bipartisan conference bill, the bipartisan compromise—or a CR—is the way to go to avoid a shutdown.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Madam President, on another matter, yesterday, all 49 Democrats voted against considering the nomination of Bernard McNamee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and that was for good reason. McNamee has spent the bulk of his career boosting fossil fuels and slandering renewable energy. His views are so anachronistic, regressive, and counterfactual that I am sure most of my Republican colleagues would not agree with him. He has lied about how renewable energies impact the electric grid. He has called support for clean energy "organized propaganda" and has pitched the debate between fossil fuels and renewables, in his words, as a "clash between liberty and tyranny." My Republican friends, these words sound absurd. You would think I was making them up because it would so vilify Mr. McNamee, but my Republican friends can see on video every one of these statements that he made.

At a time when our country is plagued by wildfires and flooding, at a time when more powerful storms and hurricanes buffet our coasts, at a time when average Americans are feeling the devastating effects of climate change right now, we should not elevate someone so biased in favor of the fossil fuels that caused these problems in the first place.

We have a final vote today. Every Democrat has voted no. We need one Republican to switch to defeat this awful nomination. I hope my colleagues will think about it.

Please, look up the record. Don't just listen to my speech. Just look at what this man has said, and I think a good number of you might want to vote no.

On the front page of the New York Times this morning, there was a report about how the emission of greenhouse gases has actually accelerated in the past few years. Climate change is going to be a defining issue of our generation and a defining issue in future elections.

The vote on McNamee clearly shows the difference between the two parties on the issue of climate change right now. The Democrats believe we need to address climate change with bold and substantial action. We cannot wait until a later day. We cannot keep approving folks like McNamee to influence energy policy. We need to act. Meanwhile, too many of our Republican colleagues pretend the issue doesn't even exist, and that is sad.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2020.

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

The Senator from Minnesota.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I rise to discuss the urgency of addressing climate change. I will also address the nomination of Mr. Bernard McNamee to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which we are debating on the Senate floor today.

Recently, the Trump administration released the latest installment of the National Climate Assessment. This report is the work of over 300 expert scientists and 13 different government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, NASA, and others. The report makes an urgent case for action by detailing the extreme threat that is posed to our Nation and to our world by climate change.

The need for forward-looking environmental and energy policies is obvious to anyone who reads this report, and it is telling that this report was mandated by a law signed by the late George H. W. Bush in 1990—a President whose life we came together to celebrate yesterday.

The Trump administration doesn't want to talk about the report's findings, but the problems of a changing climate are already well known to us in Minnesota. Our winters are milder than they used to be. Rain patterns are changing. We are now prone to long, hot dry spells in the summer, but when the rains do come, they are more intense. Big storms used to be rare in Minnesota, but now we suffer more than almost anywhere else in the country from these climate-driven increases in so-called mega-rain events. When it rains 6 or 8 or even 10 inches all at once, houses flood and fields flood. The water can't run off or soak into the soil fast enough. As Minnesota's Lieutenant Governor and now as a Senator, I have seen the consequences of these storms.

Without action on climate change, these problems are only going to get worse. Even to those who have long accepted the scientific consensus on climate change, the new report makes for a sobering read. The assessment tells us that if greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated, "the Midwest is projected to have the largest increase

in extreme temperature-related premature deaths." By 2090, the Midwest can expect 2,000 additional deaths a year alone due to heat. That will be more than in any other region in the country.

We know that there are health consequences to a warming climate and also important impacts on our food supply. Minnesota is a vital contributor to our world's food supply. We rank fourth in the country in corn production, and corn is our No. 1 agricultural commodity. In 2017, Minnesota farmers produced \$4.5 billion of corn on 8 million acres. This agricultural productivity is threatened by climate change. The problem going forward is that corn doesn't tolerate extreme warm temperatures. Corn plants grow best at approximately 80 degrees, and above 95 degrees, reproductive failure is a risk. U.S. corn yields per acre grew 60 percent from the 1980s to today. Because of warming temperatures, the climate assessment warns that we risk losing all of these productivity gains by 2050.

A world with nearly 10 billion people at midcentury is going to need American farmers to produce even more than ever. Climate change threatens our farmers' ability to rise to that challenge. This is why I agree with the National Farmers Union, which says:

We can't wait for technology to solve climate change. We must take action now.

We grow more than just corn in Minnesota. For example, the Anishinaabe people in my State harvest the world's finest wild rice. The climate assessment states: "Declines in production are expected, related to increases in climate extremes and climate-related disease and pest outbreaks as well as northward shifts of favorable growing regions." The loss of wild rice in Minnesota would be a cultural, ecological, and economic tragedy.

The climate assessment also highlights the economic stakes. Climate change threatens to reduce the size of the U.S. economy by up to 10 percent by the end of this century—a loss of hundreds of billions of dollars per year.

In response to the extreme challenges that we face from climate change, I see two potential ways to respond.

First, the path offered by Mr. McNamee would be that we do nothing to acknowledge this problem.

As the Department of Energy's deputy general counsel, Mr. McNamee pushed a dirty coal plant bailout that would have cost American consumers billions of dollars a year with there being no discernible benefit to our energy system and a huge loss in our fight against climate change. That is why the proposal was rejected unanimously by the five FERC Commissioners. Now Mr. McNamee is nominated to be one of those Commissioners.

To avoid dealing with the climate change problem, Mr. McNamee has—like many in the Trump administration—decided that the first, best tactic

is to deny there is even a problem. In February of this year, Mr. McNamee spoke at a policy orientation for legislators in Texas. When he was asked about how his son and other students should react to being taught climate science in schools, Mr. McNamee said:

Just deny it. I don't care if you get an F. I don't care.

I reject Mr. McNamee's head-in-the-sand approach, which is a fundamentally pessimistic approach to America's ability to lead the fight against climate change by leading the clean energy revolution. I, by contrast, am an optimist.

The thing about the clean energy transition is that it is going to happen with or without American leadership. Between now and 2050, the world will invest \$11.5 trillion in building new electric generators. Almost 9 in 10 of those dollars will be spent on renewables and other technologies with zero carbon emissions.

The United States should lead the way in developing, making, and deploying clean energy technology; however, right now, China is leading the way. China leads the way in renewable energy investments, and it spent \$127 billion in 2017, which outspent the United States by more than 3 to 1.

We know that Americans want to step up. California and Hawaii have put themselves on a path to 100-percent clean energy by 2050. Just this week, Xcel Energy, which is the largest utility in my State, pledged to deliver 80 percent in carbon dioxide emission reductions by 2030, with a goal of having 100-percent emissions-free electricity by 2050.

States, companies, and individuals can help lead the way, but that doesn't take the Federal Government off the hook. We must pull together as a country. The scale of the challenge requires national and international coordination and cooperation. The United States can lead, or we can be left behind. We led the way during the fossil fuel revolution, and we were rewarded with world-leading prosperity. There is a new revolution happening.

Mr. McNamee and President Trump both believe that we can prosper by doubling down on outdated thinking regarding energy and climate, but they are wrong.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this nominee. It is the duty of those of us in Congress to push for a clear-eyed but optimistic path forward and not to let misguided ideology leave us stuck in the past.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE H. W. BUSH

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last few days, since the death of

President George Herbert Walker Bush, we have heard about his life and his legacy. It has been, really, a celebration of a life well lived. It is hard to imagine someone packing more into 94 years than George H. W. Bush packed into his life. We heard about his time in the Navy, when he volunteered after Pearl Harbor, became a naval aviator, was shot down, and was saved by a submarine that popped up and rescued him. We, of course, know about his devotion to public service, but we also learned a lot more about his sense of humanity, his humility, his loyalty, and his optimism.

Sometimes in Washington it seems like the message is all negative, and I think this has been a delightful contrast, reflecting on his life and his contribution.

I have said previously, talking about President Bush, that there is nothing as powerful as a good example. I think his example is one we all ought to contemplate and perhaps strive to emulate in our own way and in the way we conduct our business here.

When people disagree with us, it doesn't mean they are bad people; they are just people with different ideas. We ought to respect one another enough to actually debate those ideas, rather than engage in name-calling and denigrating the level of discourse among us because people watch us too. They watch how we conduct ourselves here, and they take some cues from that in how they conduct themselves online, in PTA meetings, in our communities, and in our States.

This has been a delightful week. It has been kind of an emotional and exhausting week as we have grieved with the Bush family but at the same time, as I said, celebrating an incredible life.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Madam President, perhaps we have about 2 more weeks of work before the end of the year. I am told the House will pass a 2-week continuing resolution, taking us up to December 21. We will have a chance to pass that here. The window of opportunity for us to finish our work in the Senate is closing rapidly, and there is a lot we need to get done. We have an opportunity to build off of accomplishments we have made in these last 2 years and to get our remaining to-do list checked off.

The leader called the Senate fertile ground for productive, bipartisan work. That is because the way we are built, the way our rules are constructed, it basically requires us to do things in a bipartisan way in the main.

Several of our biggest achievements for the Senate in this Congress couldn't have happened without bipartisan support, like the landmark opioids legislation to help those struggling with drug addiction or the historic bill to improve veterans' care, shepherded by Senator ISAKSON, the Senator from Georgia.

Our work for the rest of the year will also require cooperation in a bipartisan spirit, particularly when it comes to

funding what is left of our government. We have already joined together to fund roughly 75 percent of the Federal Government on time and through regular order for the first time in two decades. That is pretty remarkable and welcomed.

While we complete our work on the remaining appropriations bills, I expect a lot of the focus to be on border security. It is no secret, coming from a border State, that this is very serious business to me. I know it is to many of our colleagues. We have been reminded by the caravans of migrants from Central America—sweeping across Mexico and ending up in Tijuana, right across from San Diego—that collectively we have a lot of work to do to address these mass migrations.

I went to Mexico City on Saturday with Vice President PENCE; the Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry; the Secretary of Homeland Security, Kirstjen Nielsen; and other officials who were there. We had Members of the House, and Senator LEE from Utah and I were the Members of the Senate representing the U.S. Government at the inauguration of President Lopez Obrador.

What we have read, including today, that the incoming Lopez Obrador administration has already been hard at work, working with our Homeland Security officials to come up with an agreement to deal with these mass migrations—these caravans of people coming from Central America, across Mexico, and seeking asylum in the United States.

I have spoken many times about how these so-called caravans have been preceded by minicaravans; that is, smaller numbers of people coming to our border and seeking entry and, in many instances, seeking to exploit loopholes in our law that only Congress can fix. I am frustrated, like many of us, that we have been unwilling to get our Democratic colleagues to work with us to fix those loopholes.

What I am encouraged by is, the incoming administration of the Mexican President as well as the Trump administration have worked to arrange for these asylum seekers to spend their time in Mexico waiting for their asylum claims to be adjudicated. I think that is a big change in the way Mexico has regarded this issue.

Previously, they have regarded the issue as our problem, not their problem. They have actually issued transit visas for people to transit Mexico. Basically, the message is: As long as you don't stop here, we are not going to do anything about your coming across Mexico. Now they realize this is their problem and our problem, and the only way we are going to be able to solve this problem is working together, along with the governments of Central America, where people are fleeing gang violence.

It is hard to blame people for fleeing when they realize their circumstances are so dire in their home country, but

I think there is a lot we can and we should do, working with them, to help them improve circumstances in their home countries so they don't feel they have to come to the United States to seek asylum and turn themselves over to the tender mercies of the drug cartels and the people who view them as just another commodity by which they make money, just like heroin they sell in the United States, just like children and women whom they traffic for sex slavery. These drug cartels are the same organizations, the transnational criminal organizations. I don't think that reality has quite sunk in here in Washington.

These are not nice people. These are dangerous people. All you need to do is look at the trial of El Chapo occurring in Manhattan—the head of one of the largest cartels—and read about some of the evidence that has been introduced. The U.S. Government has extradited him to the United States and is now prosecuting him. The evidence will chill your blood. He is a vicious, dangerous person whose only interest is in making money and enriching himself and his fellow cartel members.

I am encouraged by some of these nascent discussions that will perhaps lead to an agreement between the Government of Mexico and the United States.

In addition to completing our most basic task of funding the government, we have to work hard to get more of the President's team in place. I have never seen an administration more sandbagged with more foot-dragging by the Senate and the Democrats when it comes to confirming noncontroversial nominees to serve in the President's administration. This is just another way to undermine their ability to get their work done there.

This is one of our greatest responsibilities under the Constitution, to provide advice and consent to the President's nominees, whether they are judges, whether they are Ambassadors, or wherever in a Senate-confirmed position in the administration.

We have seen a record number of cloture votes during the last 2 years because, again, our colleagues on the other side have simply wanted to burn the clock, waste time, and then vote overwhelming to confirm noncontroversial nominees. All that does is prevent us from getting our work done on a timely basis and makes it harder to fill these vacancies.

In the first 2 years of the Trump administration, the majority leader, the Senator from Kentucky, has made nominations a top priority, particularly judicial nominations, but we still have a number of nominees with exemplary records waiting for confirmation.

I talked to Mike Pompeo, the Secretary of State. He said they have a number of ambassadorships, a number of important positions in our diplomatic corps vacant for no other reason than the foot-dragging and the obstruction we have seen by the other side. It

is just shameful. These are well-qualified and accomplished men and women who have put their lives on hold, and they are languishing on our calendar. We need to get them confirmed.

We will advance two of those nominees today: Bernard McNamee, to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Kathleen Kraninger, to be Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. I also hope to add to our historic number of judicial confirmations by ensuring that more well-qualified judges are confirmed in our Federal and district courts.

As you know, Madam President, so far we have confirmed 84 judges nominated by President Trump, and I hope we are able to continue this work and ensure that more highly regarded judges are able to join their ranks in the Federal judiciary, both this year and in the next 2 years—the final 2 years of the first term of President Trump.

Before we adjourn the 115th Congress, we need to pass the farm bill, the conference report. Its importance can't be overstated. I know the Presiding Officer comes from a State where agriculture is important. I know of her personal experience leading the ag sector in Mississippi.

The farm bill safeguards the future of our agriculture community. When we think about that phrase “our agriculture community,” our minds often conjure up farmers and ranchers, but the circle of that community is far wider, encompassing rural communities and indeed our entire country. Most of our country is rural, and agriculture is absolutely critical.

We have all heard the saying, “Thank a farmer three times a day.” That is true, but, in reality, we should be thanking them a lot more because the ag community does more than just provide the food we eat, and that is important, but they do a lot more.

In small towns and rural communities, like those in Texas, agriculture is the heartbeat of the economy. Farmers and ranchers, of course, send their children to local schools; they shop on Main Street; they buy groceries at the supermarket; they bank at their local bank or credit union; they receive loans for new equipment so they can grow their businesses and fund their operations. They are interwoven with our communities all across the country, and they deserve our support and some predictability and stability.

The farm bill is renewed once every 5 years, supporting the ag community in several ways. It addresses food production by helping ensure Americans continue to enjoy access to the safest, cheapest, and most reliable food supply in the world.

Our farmers and ranchers do this so well that many of us kind of take it for granted and always assume that the food will be there when we want it and need it. Most of the rest of the world doesn't enjoy that sort of abundance or the certainty that it will always be there.

The farm bill also impacts many other areas, like forestry, research, nutrition programs, and humanitarian aid to foreign countries, just to name a few.

In Texas, one out of every seven working Texans work in the agriculture industry. Farmers and ranchers, unfortunately, know all too well that Mother Nature can and has disrupted harvest and devastated crops, which we saw in abundance with Hurricane Harvey just a little over a year ago. That is perhaps why the most important thing the farm bill does is give the ag community the support and predictability it needs and it deserves, so we need to get to work and get that done before we go home for Christmas.

Our to-do list may seem daunting to some, but the reason we are able to keep our heads in the game and continue to build off our momentum is because of the incredible record of achievement we have seen in the 115th Congress; that would be for the first 2 years of the Trump administration, where we have had Republican majorities in the House and in the Senate. It is a historic record of achievement and accomplishment.

That record fundamentally includes the economic gains we have seen, renewed confidence, optimism about the future, more jobs, and low unemployment.

The Hispanic and African-American unemployment rates are at the lowest in recorded history. That is quite an accomplishment. Unemployment is so low around the country that there is a genuine demand and need for more trained workers. That is another challenge for us—to provide people the opportunity to learn the skills they need in order to fill these good, well-paying jobs that are demanding and needing more employees.

The accomplishments we have made I would like to think are the result of, first, listening to what our constituents are telling us and then translating that into legislation that will actually improve their lives. For example, in an effort to ease the regulatory burden on jobseekers, the President signed three bills that I introduced into law. They may not seem like monumental, landmark pieces of legislation, but covering the subject matter they do, I think they help my constituents in real and important ways.

The first bill is an occupational licensing reform bill called the New HOPE Act, which gives States the tools they need to reduce barriers in certain professions. Some licensing requirements in some of the States are so onerous, so expensive and time-consuming, they basically freeze out people who have those skills or talents and want to use those to make a living. But the New HOPE Act helps give States additional tools to reduce some of those barriers.

Two other bills help veterans who are making the transition back to civilian life. The Jobs for Our Heroes Act

makes it easier for veterans to get a commercial driver's license. One thing I have heard from my constituents back home is we need more truck drivers, and we need better roads for them to drive those trucks on. We have a lot of veterans who have learned how to drive big, heavy trucks in the course of their military service, and we have now helped expedite their transition to a commercial driver's license and good, well-paying jobs, with huge demand.

We also passed the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act to help local law enforcement agencies hire veterans so that they can continue to protect the American people here at home. If you read the newspaper, you see that law enforcement agencies are really desperate to get well-qualified, well-trained people to join their police forces and law enforcement. This is a way, again, for veterans to make that transition and to take the skills they have learned in the military and make those available for public safety and civilian life.

Veterans' rights issues have been a passion of mine since I was honored to serve as the attorney general of Texas. I have continued to work here in the Senate and, this Congress, introduced three bills focusing on protecting victims, which were signed into law. One called the SAFER Act is aimed at reducing the big backlog of untested rape kits. At one point it was estimated to be 400,000 backlogged rape kits; that is, forensic evidence, DNA collected after a sexual assault, which is absolutely key to solving that crime and identifying the perpetrator. By the way, it also has the ability to exonerate people who may be arrested for it; basically, the DNA test and the rape kit can essentially rule them out as a potential suspect.

We also passed the Justice Served Act, which assists law enforcement in prosecuting cold cases solved by DNA evidence. The sorts of things we can now do as a result of the scientific achievements of being able to test DNA have opened up whole new vistas for law enforcement to use that science in powerful and important ways, such as to reduce the rape kit backlog and to solve violent crimes.

The third bill I will mention is called the PROTECT Our Children Act, which reauthorizes task forces combating child exploitation online. We all know that the internet is an integral part of our lives. Unfortunately, there are people who use the internet to gain access to vulnerable children and recruit them or otherwise exploit them online. So the PROTECT Our Children Act reauthorizes task forces—law enforcement agencies, primarily—to combat child exploitation online. Not every local police department or sheriff's department has the tax base to be able to generate the revenue they need to hire the expertise or to get the technology they need in order to combat this heinous crime. So that is where I think it is appropriate for the Federal Government to step up and say: Let's get the

best practices. Let's figure out what the standard should be, and then help fill those gaps to combat child exploitation.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment Congress made in terms of my State over the last 2 years was working together to deliver disaster relief to those suffering from Hurricane Harvey. That catastrophic flooding and damage caused by Harvey is something we hope to never see again during our lifetime, but that is a hope I am afraid is in vain. We know there will always be more hurricanes and more floods.

I was proud to join forces with the junior Senator from Texas, Mr. CRUZ, to secure nearly \$147 billion that was available for disaster relief, including Hurricane Harvey, but not limited to Hurricane Harvey. It is also for the wildfires out West and the hurricanes that hit Florida, Puerto Rico, and other parts of the country.

In addition to the disaster relief, we passed two pieces of legislation that specifically addressed the needs of my constituents in Texas. The first makes houses of worship eligible for certain grants to help them rebuild after disasters. Many houses of worship have essentially public facilities that they make available to the community that are unrelated to proselytizing, and we made sure that these FEMA grants were available to help them rebuild after disasters.

The second was a tax relief provision that allows Texans to deduct property damage costs and access retirement savings without penalties. That is something we did for Hurricane Katrina in the wake of Katrina. We did so after Hurricane Harvey as well. It is just another way we have made people's lives a little bit better after suffering from this natural disaster.

While aid after a disaster helps those affected to be able to rebuild, it does little good if we are not also working to help prevent or mitigate the threat of flooding and future hurricanes. So we passed provisions that will expedite, for example, a coastal study and that authorizes flood mitigation projects along the gulf coast.

Most of the refined product needed for jet fuel and gasoline is refined along the gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana. So it is important from a national perspective—not just from a local perspective—that we do everything we can to anticipate and mitigate against future threats and threats to our Nation's refined energy products supply.

I feel fortunate to be in the U.S. Senate. I am proud of the work we have done in the 115th Congress. But we need to finish our job and get our work completed before Christmas.

As we close out the 115th Congress, the types of accomplishments I have mentioned, frankly, don't necessarily get a lot of attention because most of these are bipartisan bills that we pass without a lot of controversy or a lot of noise. But I hope we can continue to

build on these accomplishments for the benefit of my constituents in Texas and Americans across the country.

We have just a short time left, 2 weeks, perhaps, assuming we can pass—and I do expect we will pass—a 2-week continuing resolution, taking us up to the 21st. Honestly, I don't think we need to wait that long. We know what we have to do; we just need to come together and get it done. Then we can all go home and be with our families and loved ones during Christmas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS POST OFFICE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5238 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5238) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5238) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE LARRY DOBY CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1861, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1861) to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achieve-

ments and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. 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 the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1861) was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1417 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1417) to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to allow the Museum to acquire, receive, possess, collect, ship, transport, import, and display firearms, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 1417) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REAL ID ACT MODIFICATION FOR FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3398 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3398) to amend the Real ID Act of 2005 to permit Freely Associated States to meet identification requirements under such Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 3398) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SMALL BUSINESS RUNWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2018

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6330.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6330) to amend the Small Business Act to modify the method for prescribing size standards for business concerns.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. 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 the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 6330) was passed.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 635, S. 3561.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3561) to support entrepreneurs serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes.

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

S. 3561

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Guard and Reserve Entrepreneurship Support Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LOAN ASSISTANCE AND DEFERRAL ELIGIBILITY TO RESERVISTS BEYOND PERIODS OF MILITARY CONFLICT.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)(3)—
- (A) in subparagraph (A)—
- (i) by striking clause (ii);
- (ii) by redesignating clause (i) as clause (ii);
- (iii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) the term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code;” and

- (iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “being ordered to active military duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “being ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II), by striking “active duty” and inserting “active service”; and

- (2) in subsection (n)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTIVE DUTY” and inserting “ACTIVE SERVICE”;

- (B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (C);

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

(iii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) ACTIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking “ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply to an economic injury suffered or likely to be suffered as the result of an essential employee being ordered to perform active service (as defined in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code) for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who is discharged or released from such active service on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the number of loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the dollar volume of those loans. The report shall contain the subsidy rate of the disaster loan program as authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) with the loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and without those loans included.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(1)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “The Administration” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration”;

- (2) by striking “(as defined in section 7(n)(1))”;

- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEFINITION OF PERIOD OF MILITARY CONFLICT.—In this subsection, the term ‘period of military conflict’ means—

“(A) a period of war declared by the Congress;

“(B) a period of national emergency declared by the Congress or by the President; or

“(C) a period of a contingency operation, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.”.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS.—Section 8(b)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(17)) is amended by striking “and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces” and inserting “members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants carried out under section 8(b)(17), the Associate Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘National Guard and Reserve Deployment Support and Business Training Program’, to provide training, counseling and other assistance to support members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses.

“(2) AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Associate Administrator may—

“(A) modify programs and resources made available through section 8(b)(17) to provide pre-deployment and other information specific to members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses;

“(B) collaborate with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee, State Adjutant Generals or their designees, and other public and private partners; and

“(C) provide training, information, and other resources to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee and State Adjutant Generals or their designees for the purpose of supporting members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.”.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on the passage of the bill.

The bill (S. 3561), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 3561

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Guard and Reserve Entrepreneurship Support Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LOAN ASSISTANCE AND DEFERRAL ELIGIBILITY TO RESERVISTS BEYOND PERIODS OF MILITARY CONFLICT.

(a) **SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)(3)—
- (A) in subparagraph (A)—
- (i) by striking clause (ii);
- (ii) by redesignating clause (i) as clause (ii);
- (iii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) the term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code;” and

- (iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “being ordered to active military duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “being ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II), by striking “active duty” and inserting “active service”; and

- (2) in subsection (n)—
- (A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTIVE DUTY” and inserting “ACTIVE SERVICE”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—
- (i) by striking subparagraph (C);
- (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively;
- (iii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) **ACTIVE SERVICE.**—The term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking “ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply to an economic injury suffered or likely to be suffered as the result of an essential employee being ordered to perform active service (as defined in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code) for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who is discharged or released from such active service on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **SEMIANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the number of loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the dollar volume of those loans. The report shall contain the subsidy rate of the disaster loan program as authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) with the loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Dis-

aster Loan program and without those loans included.

(d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(1)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “The Administration” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration”;

(2) by striking “(as defined in section 7(n)(1))”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **DEFINITION OF PERIOD OF MILITARY CONFLICT.**—In this subsection, the term ‘period of military conflict’ means—

“(A) a period of war declared by the Congress;

“(B) a period of national emergency declared by the Congress or by the President; or

“(C) a period of a contingency operation, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.”.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) **EXPANSION OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS.**—Section 8(b)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(17)) is amended by striking “and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces” and inserting “members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In making grants carried out under section 8(b)(17), the Associate Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘National Guard and Reserve Deployment Support and Business Training Program’, to provide training, counseling and other assistance to support members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses.

“(2) **AUTHORITIES.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Associate Administrator may—

“(A) modify programs and resources made available through section 8(b)(17) to provide pre-deployment and other information specific to members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses;

“(B) collaborate with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee, State Adjutant Generals or their designees, and other public and private partners; and

“(C) provide training, information, and other resources to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee and State Adjutant Generals or their designees for the purpose of supporting members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.”.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 633, S. 2679.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2679) to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

S. 2679

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **ACCESS TO SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘foreign excess property’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of title 40, United States Code; and

“(B) the term ‘state agency’ has the meaning given the term, including the roles and responsibilities assigned, in section 549 of title 40, United States Code.

“(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Administrator, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, shall provide access to and manage the distribution of surplus property, and foreign excess property returned to a State for handling as surplus property, owned by the United States under chapter 7 of title 40, United States Code, to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans (as verified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 8127 of title 38, United States Code) pursuant to a memorandum of agreement between the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the head of the applicable state agency for surplus properties and in accordance with section 549 of title 40, United States Code.”.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2679), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

SPURRING BUSINESS IN COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2017

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 402, H.R. 4111.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4111) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the number of small business investment companies in underlicensed States, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 4111) was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session to consider the McNamee nomination as under the previous order.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, as our Nation paused just for a little while this week to remember the 41st President of the United States and to honor his legacy and his life, I think it is important that we also pause here in the Senate Chamber, and, quite frankly, I bring that same sense of respect from my State of Oklahoma.

President Bush was widely known as our President. Quite frankly, one of the legacies I think he will leave the longest tale on is his commitment to faith and family. His compassion for people ran throughout his lifetime.

The conversation during the funeral yesterday in Washington, DC—and it is happening right now in Houston—centered significantly around his relationship with his beautiful wife Barbara. Seventy-three years of marriage is quite a legacy, and it is rare in America. It was a gift to America to see that kind of example set in front of us; it is that kind of commitment to their family and to each other.

They met each other at a dance in Greenwich, CT, in 1941, when he was a 17-year-old high school senior and she was 16, and they went out to dance together with Glenn Miller songs playing. Tell me that is not a throwback to a different time and a different age.

They were engaged in 1943 at the height of the war. During that same

time period, he was engaged in working with the United States to protect our country during World War II. He served as one of the youngest fighter pilots—the youngest during that time period.

Some of his letters have survived, and much has been said about what a prolific, personal writer President Bush was in his own life. The letters he wrote to Barbara during that 1943 time period have survived, including a letter he wrote to her on December 12, 1943, when they were still engaged. He said:

My darling . . . Bar, you have made my life full of everything I could ever dream of—my complete happiness should be a token of my love for you.

Who writes like that, other than a man who is a great personal example to the Nation?

They were married on January 6, 1945, and had six children. They were the longest married Presidential couple, married 73 years. In 1994, Barbara Bush described herself and her husband in her memoirs as “the two luckiest people in the world, and when all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family and friends. We have been inordinately blessed, and we know that.”

In 1994, that same year—he is still writing her decades later—he wrote her on their anniversary with this note:

Will you marry me? Oops, I forgot you did that 49 years ago today. I was very happy on that day in 1945. I'm even happier today. You've given me joy that few men know. I've climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband.

Their love story didn't come without some challenges, though. Barbara was open about her struggle with depression in the 1970s. She described those times, saying this:

Night after night, George held me weeping in his arms while I tried to explain my feelings. I almost wonder why he didn't leave me.

But he didn't.

In 1953, their daughter Robin died of leukemia before her fourth birthday. The family struggled significantly with that. In fact, even President Bush 43 referenced it yesterday at the funeral here in Washington, DC, but George Bush wrote about it during that time period as well. He wrote about the loss of their daughter Robin, who died at 3 years old. He wrote to Barbara:

There is about our house a need. . . . We need some soft blond hair to offset those crew cuts. We need a doll house to stand firm against our forts and racquets and thousand baseball cards.

We need someone who's afraid of frogs. . . . We need a little one who can kiss without leaving an egg or jam or gum.

We need a girl.

We had one once—she'd fight and cry and play and make her way, just like the rest. But there was about her a certain softness.

She was patient—her hugs were just a little less wiggly.

But she is still with us. We need her and yet we have her. We can't touch her, and yet we can feel her.

We hope she'll stay in our house for a long, long time.

In 1953, even in times of personal struggle, their love for each other and their tenacious compassion and passion for their family carried them through.

George Bush was at his wife's side when she died earlier this year, on April 12, at age 92.

On George Bush's 18th birthday, he enlisted in the Armed Forces. As I mentioned before, he was the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings. He flew 58 combat missions during World War II.

He served two terms as a Representative to Congress from Texas and ran unsuccessfully for the Senate—though his dad's desk, when he was in the Senate, was right there when he was a U.S. Senator.

President Bush served as the Chief Diplomatic Envoy in China, even before the United States had formally opened the official Beijing Embassy.

He became the 11th Director of the Central Intelligence Agency—which was, at that time, called the DCI—from 1976 to 1977. He is the only President who previously held that position. Interesting enough, many people don't know that the CIA headquarters in Langley are actually named for President Bush and have been that way for a long time.

It was an interesting season when he was the leader of the CIA in the 1970s. There was a lot of mistrust between U.S. citizens and Central Intelligence. At that time, President Bush did something exceptional as the Director of Central Intelligence. He actually provided transparency—a radical idea—where he would come to the Hill and invite Members of the House and the Senate to his house, and they would have informal dinners to talk about what they were doing. He came to the Hill 51 times to testify before the House and the Senate, a record that is still unsurpassed by any Director of National Intelligence. It is a remarkable record of transparency and of leadership.

In 1980, he campaigned for the Presidency but lost. Then he was tapped by the President he lost to in the primary, a gentleman named Ronald Reagan, to be his Vice President. Interestingly enough, at 50 years old, which I am today, the first President I really remember watching was President Reagan—and Vice President Bush—to see how they handled things. It was remarkable leadership during that time period.

In 1988, he won the Republican nomination for President and then became President—the first President I ever had the opportunity to vote for. At that time, I was 20 years old. So for my first time ever to vote for President, I had the privilege to vote for President Bush and the honor to sit in the Cathedral yesterday to recognize his life.

He was a remarkable President for being a one-term President—pushing back the Sandinistas who were ravaging Nicaragua; transitioning Europe out of the Cold War; finishing the Cold

War without a shot being fired; unifying Germany when most of Europe, as the Soviet Union fell and the Berlin Wall fell after Reagan's famous "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"—the wall didn't actually come down at that moment; it came down during the Bush administration, as they led Germany out of that and then into unification, even though most of Europe did not want a unified Germany, remembering still what a unified Germany did during World War II. He led through that.

He led, as President, Americans to start thinking about other Americans in a new way, to stop saying so much that the government should provide for every issue, though the government has a role. But he pushed back on something he called the "thousand points of light" and challenged Americans to take care of their neighbors in their neighborhoods and for us not to look toward Washington, DC, to solve each problem but for nonprofits and communities and churches and the engagement of neighbor to neighbor to be able to turn around a nation. It was a remarkable calling for us to be called to each other.

In 1992, he lost his bid for reelection. But it is interesting that in his speech, just after he lost the election, he made this statement:

I hope history will record that the Bush administration has served America well. I am proud of my Cabinet and my staff. America has led the world through an age of global transition; we've made the world safer for our kids. And I believe the real fruits of our global victory are yet to be tasted.

If he were seated here today, I would tell him: We are still tasting the fruits of that freedom.

He made this statement, as well, at the same time:

Ours is a nation that has shed the blood of war and cried the tears of depression. We have stretched the limits of human imagination and seen the technologically miraculous become almost mundane. Always, always, our advantage has been our spirit, a constant confidence, a sense that in America the only things not yet accomplished are the things that have not yet been tried.

Then he said this:

President-elect Clinton needs all Americans to unite behind him so he can move our nation forward. But, more than that, he will need to draw upon this unique American spirit.

Multiple individuals have recently referenced the letter that President Bush left for President Clinton on the desk in the Oval Office so that when the transition occurred, President Clinton would walk into his new office in 1993 and see this letter that ends with this statement, dated January 20, 1993. It is a long note, but it ends with this handwritten statement:

You will be our President when you read this note.

And he underlined the word "our."

I wish you well. I wish your family well.

Your success is now our country's success. I am rooting hard for you.

That is a pretty remarkable statement for someone who had just been

beaten in the campaign to then turn as an American leader and say: America still continues, and we are rooting for your success.

He left office and continued to serve, continued to press the "thousand points of light," continued to encourage people to serve their neighbors and to serve each other, and he continued to love his beautiful Barbara.

He celebrated watching his kids get elected to office, including President of the United States, but he continued to be who he was—a gentle, compassionate, faith-filled person, who wanted the best for our Nation.

He showed us how to lose gracefully and not make enemies of our adversaries, and he turned political foes into lasting friends. Interestingly enough, on June 12 of this year, on his 94th birthday, he wrote a note again to some friends. In that note he wrote earlier this year, he said:

I am truly touched and overwhelmed by all the messages I have received today. And although I have seen them all, I can no longer answer them all. My 94-year-old hands would rebel. Just know I appreciated hearing from you. As many of you know, for years I have said the three most important things in life are faith, family, and friends. My faith has never been stronger. I am blessed with the world's most loving family. And thanks to you, I feel the love of the best friends a man ever had. My heart is full on this first day of my 95th year.

As I walked out of the funeral yesterday, I turned to the person next to me and said: I think that is the first political funeral or event I have ever been to where I have been able to honor a life where Jesus got equal time.

At a lot of funerals, it is all about them. President Bush shaped a funeral where it was as much about his relationship with God as it was about his history and legacy. It is a remarkable reminder of a man who prioritized, as he said, his faith, his family, and his friends, and it sets an example for the Nation.

He was around Oklahoma a lot, as well. He popped in and out. He spoke at Oklahoma State University at graduation while he was President. In fact, he made a famous comment about stopping in at Eskimo Joe's, a local restaurant there, and he endorsed the cheese fries in front of thousands of people and across the Nation.

He stopped in at a different time at Cattlemen's restaurant in Oklahoma City. He popped in and ate a great steak. He said: If you are ever in Oklahoma, stop in at Cattlemen's. Folks at Cattlemen's still talk about the time President Bush showed up and had a steak. He met everybody in the restaurant, and he even went into the kitchen and met all the cooks. The folks still remember it well.

He stopped in at Enid with Don Nickles. In fact, Don Nickles, my predecessor Senator, tells the story that he went to Maine at one point, when he was the whip in the Senate, to have a briefing with President Bush and a small group at his place in Maine.

While he was there, the President offered to take him on a quick boat ride to be able to get over, and President Bush was notorious for his speedboat, in which he put people and just rammed the throttle full speed in take-off, because his boat could go faster than the Secret Service boat that was following them, and he loved to be able to outrun them and take off.

Even after his retirement as President, there is the story from one of our staff members who writes about a friend who was a student at Texas A&M University, where the President had his library. He tells the story of this 20-year-old student named Michael, who is serving as a personal aide to the Bush Foundation and how one day in the morning President Bush walked up to this 20-year-old who was working there and said: Are you hungry?

To which he replied: I am always hungry.

President Bush took him to lunch that day. This was in 2004. The two of them sat, and the President peppered him with questions about his family, about his background, and about his siblings. Michael got to call his family later that day and say: Hey, I just had lunch with the President.

What was interesting is Michael's statement, which was this: President Bush made me feel like I was the President.

May it be said of all of us: No matter what our title is, no matter what our position is, no matter what our place is, at the end of our life, we would still be talking about our faith, our family, and our friends—that for every person around us, we expect compassion and gratitude for them and to set a good example for them. May it be in our political discourse, and may it be in our homes and our communities.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, President Trump has nominated Bernard McNamee to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC.

FERC is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas, LNG, terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines, as well as licensing hydropower projects.

Historically, FERC has been independent and nonpartisan. I am concerned that, if confirmed, Mr. McNamee would threaten the nonpartisan independence of FERC.

Mr. McNamee has a long-standing history of being an opponent of clean energy and led Texas's efforts to challenge the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan.

In remarks before the Texas Public Policy Foundation, TPPF, and sponsored by Koch Industries in February 2018, Mr. McNamee said fossil fuels are

“key to our way of life,” but renewable energy “screws up the whole physics of the grid.” He also portrayed industry lawsuits with environmental groups as a “constant battle between liberty and tyranny.”

While at the Department of Energy, Mr. McNamee was a key player in the agency’s failed attempt to bail out the coal industry and upend wholesale energy markets.

Furthermore, I am very concerned that Mr. McNamee will take us backwards in the fight to combat climate change. Just recently, the Trump administration tried to bury the release of the Fourth National Climate Assessment report and its alarming statistics on the realities of climate change. The report found that annual average temperatures in the United States are projected to continue to increase in the coming decades and that human health and safety, our quality of life, and the rate of economic growth in communities across the U.S. are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In my home State of Maryland, the report found that one of Maryland’s crown jewels, the Chesapeake Bay, will experience stronger and more frequent storms, an increase in heavy precipitation events, increasing bay water temperatures, and a rise in sea level.

FERC’s independence is critical to its mission, and Mr. McNamee, if confirmed, would be a significant departure from that.

His history as being a supporter of the fossil fuel industry, an opponent of clean energy, and an opponent of progress to combat climate change are alarming. I oppose his nomination to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC.

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

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

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2020?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Kyl	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Toomey
Enzi	Lee	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Harris	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 143.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 143) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be considered read a third time.

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

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 143) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathleen Laura Kraninger, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on November 23 of this year, we had release of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which is required to be released under the Global Change Research Act that was passed by Congress in 1990.

This climate assessment is put together by 300 experts, guided by a 60-member Federal advisory committee, including 13 Federal Agencies. They rely heavily on the panel from the National Academy of Sciences. My point is, this is the best scientific information we have as to the risks of climate change. The Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume 2, was issued on November 23, 2018.

Its conclusions should be sobering to all of us; that humans are responsible for the current climate crisis and that we must take responsibility to minimize future destruction.

Four years earlier, the first volume of the Fourth National Climate Assessment was issued, and its prediction was that we would see increased instances of flooding, wildfires, and higher temperatures. Unfortunately, that has come to pass, as we have experienced this year and in the last several years an unusually large number of flooding episodes, wildfires that we have just experienced, and higher temperatures.

The findings make two critical assertions in regard to how it will affect our lifestyle. First, it said climate change is a growing risk to the danger of human health. By human health danger, you can look at the direct impact of climate change—those whose lives have been forever changed as a result of storms or as a result of flooding or as a result of wildfires or as a result of sea level rising. We know many people have lost their lives, and their lives have been compromised as a result of the reality of the new current weather conditions.

It also affects the safe supply of water—clean drinking water is very much impacted by what is happening with climate change—and sea level rises and the spread of diseases, from people who are suffering from asthma to the spread of West Nile disease, and

many other examples of how climate change is accelerating those types of conditions which have a major impact on human health.

The report then indicated that, yes, it directly affects the health of the people of our country and the globe, but it also has a direct economic impact. The damage affects, in a negative way, the rate of our economic growth.

I will give you many examples why. Take a look at infrastructure damage. We recognize that the bridges and the highways in this country—our infrastructure—were not designed and constructed with the realities of the weather conditions we are now experiencing. As a result of much heavier damage that we have to deal with, adaptations and changes, that affects the resources we have to devote to the new realities of our infrastructure.

Coastal communities have been put at direct risk. First of all, I have seen coastal communities shrink because of the loss of shoreline. We know the risk factor for coastal communities affects their economic growth. They have to deal with the cost of adaptation. That devotes revenues that could be used for other purposes.

In addition, we have seen the economic challenges to agriculture and the sustainability of agriculture. In many parts of the world, the realities of climate change have taken away their traditional livelihoods and sustainability of agricultural products.

We are also seeing a direct impact the climate is having on tourism, which, for many communities, is a large part of their economic activity.

The report estimates that the gross domestic product of this country could be adversely affected by as much as 10 percent. That is a major hit on our economic progress.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report in October 2018. That report indicated that by 2030, the economic damage as a result of climate change could reach \$54 trillion—that is trillion with a “t.” This is an economic crisis we must address. We cannot ignore it. We must deal with it.

The good news is, mitigation and adaptation policies work. They work. We can mitigate the causes of climate change by our activities here on Earth. We can adapt to some of the realities of the new weather conditions, but we are not doing it at a scale necessary today to avoid substantial damage to human health and our economy. We have to step up our game dramatically.

It disproportionately impacts the poor. The poor don’t have the resources in order to adapt or move or to deal as other people have. They are trapped in more vulnerable communities, and they suffer more as a result of it.

We could talk about every one of our States that are impacted by this. In my State of Maryland, I have taken the floor to explain that Ellicott City—a wonderful community in Howard County, MD, that has what I call Main

Street, which reminds you of Main Street America—has had two 1,000-year floods in 20 months. These floods are unprecedented because normally the flooding conditions are as a result of the rising of the river next to Ellicott City, but these were floods caused by the increased amount of rainfall in a short period of time that could not be handled in its runoff, causing extreme damage. They have had two 1,000-year floods in 20 months.

We have flooding in Annapolis, which should be a concern to not only the people of Maryland but to our Nation because of the importance that Annapolis plays to our national security because of the Naval Academy. The same could be said in Virginia, where there is a significant challenge to our future military facilities as a result of their coastal locations. In Baltimore City, we have had 25 heat-related deaths in 2018. That is three times more than we saw in 2017.

There is no question that this affects Maryland, that it affects every State in this Nation. This is an American issue and a global issue.

There is a path forward. There is a path forward that is not terribly difficult for us to embrace because it will not only help us deal with climate change and the environment, but it will mean a better economic future for us, and it is using energy sources that are plentiful, meaning that there is a security advantage by doing the right thing for our environment and our economy.

Green energy, conservation efficiencies, all are activities that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emissions. It can mitigate the damage. It will create more jobs.

With green energy, there are more jobs than there are in the fossil fuel industry. It is less dependent. Fossil fuel is good for our national security, since there is an abundance of the green energy sources here in America and with our allies around the world.

In my own State, we have taken actions to reduce carbon emissions. We have been effective in doing that, and it has been a plus for our economy.

What we need is U.S. leadership. We saw that in 2015. I was proud to be part of a 10-Member Senate delegation that went to Paris as we entered into a global agreement to deal with our responsibilities to change the trajectory for climate change.

The U.S. role in Paris was critical to get all the nations of the world together with realistic strategies to reduce our carbon emissions. I say that knowing full well that COP24 is meeting, as we are meeting here, in Poland. This is a convention whose attention is going to be to finalize the Paris Agreement Work Program—a rule book of guidelines, procedures, and rules needed to turn the Paris Agreement into a working system. Every country made commitments in Paris. We now need to make sure that those commitments are carried out.

Shortly before the convening of COP24 in Poland, the G20 met in our hemisphere, as I think everyone is familiar with—these are the economic powers of the world, all the major economies of the world—and they reaffirmed their commitment to Paris. The world economic powers did that.

Now, what is happening in Poland and what happened in G20—every country participated, except one. The G20 was actually G19 and their commitment to implement the powers agreement—the United States, through the Trump administration, did not join. Of course, in Poland right now, the United States is not an active participant, since President Trump announced that we would withdraw from the convention on climate change known as COP. That is not leadership. The world will always be better off with America in leadership, and we are missing that leadership.

So my plea is that we need to step up. This should not be a partisan issue. Climate change should not be a partisan issue. It is a human rights issue; it is a human issue; it is a health issue; it is an economic issue. We need to restore the U.S. leadership on this matter. We can do that through our Tax Code. We can do that through renewable energy legislation, by increasing the CAFE standards, by dealing with clean air standards. If U.S. leadership is not going to come from the White House, let the U.S. Senate exercise that leadership and show the international community that we understand our responsibility and the risk factors to our health and to the economy.

The National Climate Assessment and the activities of G20 and COP24 should motivate us to action on behalf of the health and welfare of the American community and our global neighbors. I urge our colleagues to get engaged in leadership on this issue.

I yield the floor.

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

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH NIESKENS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the honor of recognizing Hannah Nieskens of Jefferson County for her tremendous service to Montana veterans and her great impact on Montana’s educational system.

Hannah grew up spending time in Montana with her family and then was awarded the Presidential Scholarship to attend Montana State University in Bozeman. After graduating with honors from MSU, Hannah began her career of education in the Billings School District.

During her 4 years in Billings, she met her now-husband Kelly, who served in the Army, and they fell in love. Hannah and Kelly now have three children—two daughters, Charity and Hope, and their adopted son Joshua. Joshua is currently serving overseas in the Air Force.

Hannah has a distinguished career in education. She has served her community as a teacher in Billings, the dean

of Wolf Point High School, and the principal at Northside Elementary School. Now she is the 6-12 principal in Whitehall.

Last year, Hannah was named Montana Principal of the Year, and now Hannah is one of three finalists for the 2019 National Principal of the Year.

In addition to Hannah's career devoted to education, Hannah has a passion for serving Montana veterans. After Kelly was severely wounded while serving in Iraq, Hannah began volunteering to help other veterans in the community navigate the VA. Hannah even earned a law degree to be better prepared to assist Kelly and other veterans struggling with the VA.

Hannah currently serves as the Montana Dole Fellow, where she advocates on behalf of Montana's military families. She has great pride in calling Montana home, and we are lucky to have her.

She has made a lasting impact on her community and the entire State, both through her service to our veterans and by shaping our future generations in the school system.

I congratulate Hannah on all of her success and look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish for Montana in the future.

TANF

Mr. President, once widely viewed as successful, our Nation's primary welfare-to-work program is now broken. It will soon expire. I rise to highlight my efforts to get it working again.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program—it is also called TANF—was created with bipartisan support back in 1996. In fact, at its core, it recognized that finding and maintaining a job is the most effective way for healthy, working-age parents to go from government dependency to self-sufficiency.

After TANF became law, welfare caseloads plummeted, child poverty declined, and employment among low-income, never-married parents went up.

As we debate modernizing the TANF Program, we should not forget the doom and the gloom predicted by some liberals when the original 1996 reforms were debated. Perhaps most famously, our former colleague, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, predicted that TANF would result "in children sleeping on grates, picked up in the morning frozen."

Let me tell you something: Those critics were wrong—very wrong.

Yet more than 20 years after the historic 1996 reforms, we should be clear-eyed that the TANF Program suffers from neglect and loopholes, both of which are undercutting its fundamental work requirements.

Today, very few States are meeting the work participation rate that is required by law. My State of Montana is one of the many that is falling short. The law calls for 50 percent of welfare enrollees to be engaged in work. In Montana, they are reaching only one-third.

In addition, many States are using TANF dollars for purposes unrelated to work, and the program lacks the transparency and the accountability metrics that are critical to its success. Because of these shortfalls, too many low-income parents are not finding sustainable jobs, and too many children are at high risk of suffering the hardships of poverty.

Part of the problem is that TANF has been significantly reformed only once since President Clinton signed it into law. In 2006, Congress reauthorized and strengthened the program, thanks to the hard work of then-Finance Committee Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY and his Republican counterparts in the House. Since its expiration in 2010, however, TANF has received a whopping—this is so DC—24 short-term re-authorizations. Talk about kicking the can down the road. Efforts to address the persisting concerns about the program have not crossed the finish line. This must change.

For starters, revitalizing TANF is important to sustaining our most robust economy. Right now, there are 7 million job openings that remain unfilled—7 million job openings that are unfilled. The good news is that employers across our country are clearly looking to hire, jobs are being created, and the economy is strong. But as my good friend, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman KEVIN BRADY, has said: "We have gone from a country asking, 'Where are the jobs?' to one asking, 'Where are the workers?'"

A big part of the answer is that millions of able-bodied, working-age Americans are completely on the sidelines. A strong, revitalized TANF Program is urgently needed to close this jobs gap and empower more Americans to find work. This is exactly what my bill, the JOBS Act, would do.

Building on legislation that passed the Ways and Means Committee earlier this year in the House, the JOBS Act demands positive work outcomes rather than simply meeting ineffective participation rules. It requires States to engage with every work-eligible individual and establish a plan that will result in a sustainable job. It holds States accountable for their work outcomes, not activities—we are talking about outcomes, about results—and it bolsters the transparency of every State's performance.

It doesn't just demand work; it enables work. It substantially increases funding for childcare services that would be essential to holding a job. It provides struggling beneficiaries with additional time to get the mental health or substance abuse treatment they need before holding a job and making that a realistic goal. It adds apprenticeship as a permissible work activity, alongside job training, getting more education, and building job readiness skills.

My bill targets funds to truly needy families by capping participation to families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.

The JOBS Act is built on the recognition that there is dignity in work. A job can start low-income parents down the path toward achieving lifelong dreams. A job can create opportunities that are simply out of reach without one. A job can be the springboard to higher wages and upward mobility. A job can rescue young children from the challenges of poverty and despair. In short, finding sustainable work can create better lives for low-income parents and children alike.

Last, my bill extends marriage promotion and fatherhood initiatives because healthy, intact families are also part of the solution.

There are approximately 4,000 families in Montana who are currently on TANF. Over 90 percent of them are from single-parent or zero-parent homes.

I cannot speak more highly of the single families and the extended family members who are tirelessly taking care of their children on TANF. But we should continue to encourage voluntary participation in local marriage support programs; we should continue to encourage fathers to step forward and be the men that their children strongly need. The reason is simple: Healthy families remain the bedrock to strong communities and a flourishing society.

The JOBS Act equips and empowers low-income families toward a better future.

I urge my colleagues to reclaim the bipartisanship that created historic reforms a generation ago and support this important legislation to make our largest welfare-to-work program actually work again.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RIGHT REBATE ACT OF 2018

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I raise an important issue for my colleagues that impacts many families in Iowa but also throughout the country. You hear it everywhere. It is about high prescription drug costs. I am not going to address that issue across the board, but I am going to do it in a narrow way for one part of it.

One contributing factor that has played a part in how much money the government and taxpayers pay for some drugs is a government program called the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

On Tuesday I introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator WYDEN of Oregon. The bill, called the Right Rebate Act of 2018, would close a loophole in that program that causes the problem I am addressing.

As a condition for participation in the Medicaid Program, drug companies must pay a rebate—or some people might call it a discount—to the Federal Government and to the various States for the drugs they offer. Generally speaking, the rebate dollar amount is less for a generic drug than for a brand-name drug.

The rebate program hasn't worked as designed. Some drug companies have been able to game the system to boost their bottom line, and they do so at taxpayers' expense. Some drug companies have paid smaller rebates to the government. When that happens, that means taxpayers are footing a bigger burden.

One example, in particular, highlights the main issues we aim to solve with this legislation.

During the Obama administration—it could have been a Republican administration as well—because of the problems in this program, Iowans regularly contacted me by phone, email, and at my annual 99 county meetings about the difficulties they faced paying the rapidly rising prices of EpiPen. EpiPen is an emergency medicine used to treat severe, life-threatening allergic reactions. EpiPen is distributed by a company called Mylan. In 2007 a pack of two EpiPens cost \$100. By 2016, the cost of that two-pack of EpiPens exploded to more than \$600. That is a very substantial price increase. Nobody is going to argue with that. Many would argue that it is an unjustified price increase, especially considering the gut punch to taxpayers who foot the lions' share of the Medicaid bill for families. They happen to be families in need. I listened to the concerns of my constituents and began an investigation about how the drug rebate program was working.

In a nutshell, Mylan had classified the EpiPen as a generic drug in the Medicaid Program, when it should have been classified as a brand drug. That means Mylan misclassified EpiPen, and CMS let it happen.

Because of this incorrect classification, Mylan paid a much smaller rebate than it should have. I asked the Health and Human Services inspector general to look into these classification practices. The inspector general found that taxpayers may have overpaid for the EpiPen by as much as \$1.3 billion over 10 years because of the incorrect classification. Eventually, Mylan settled a False Claims Act case with the Justice Department for \$465 million.

Now, don't ask me why the Justice Department didn't go after the other probably \$700 million. I don't know, and I haven't found out why, but upon learning of that settlement, I expressed my disappointment that it didn't seem that taxpayers had been made whole. That is quite obvious, right?

We shouldn't have had to depend on lawyers and lawsuits to get the taxpayers' money back. This deception should never have happened in the first place. That is common sense. Government Agencies should have, as an initial matter, been responsibly overseeing the programs they are in charge of.

Because of insufficient attention to the problem by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services—or CMS, as I have been using—Mylan escaped accountability for a long period of time,

costing taxpayers hundreds of millions—eventually billions—of dollars.

But it is not just Mylan, and it is not just EpiPen. In a December 2017 report, the inspector general found that 885 drugs may have been potentially misclassified. Specifically, the inspector general found that, from 2012 to 2016, Medicaid may have lost \$1.30 billion in rebates for 10 potentially misclassified drugs with the highest total reimbursement.

So where do we go from here? It is clear that the law must change to provide clarity. So let's establish clear lines of authority to hold the government bureaucracy and also the private sector accountable. Taxpayers demand and deserve accountability. Simply said, accountability will bring cost savings.

The Right Rebate Act, which Senator WYDEN and I introduced, will shut down this loophole used by drug companies. This legislation will prevent the misclassification of drugs in the first place and protect taxpayer dollars. It does this by requiring CMS to enforce penalties on drug companies that knowingly misclassify drugs in the Medicaid Program.

The legislation also provides remedies for States that are shortchanged by drug companies. It requires an annual report to Congress by CMS to make sure the Agency is doing all it can to protect taxpayer dollars and to keep drug expenditures down.

This is commonsense legislation. It would close a loophole used by drug companies to keep prices artificially high—much higher than they should be—and it grants the Secretary of HHS the authority to properly enforce the law.

The Right Rebate Act is only one step in the fight against high prescription drug costs, but it is the right step, and there are a lot of other steps that must be taken. I look forward to working with Senator WYDEN in the 116th Congress on many issues important to Americans, including the high cost of prescription drugs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

ROBERT MUELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about not the Mueller investigation as much as I want to talk about Robert Mueller himself because of the substantial responsibility that he has, and I think it is important for us to remind ourselves, as well as to remind our country, about his service at a time when he has often been attacked by folks in Washington.

When I think of an individual like Robert Mueller, I think of two words: "public service"—or maybe just one word: "service." He was inspired, as many people know, to become a marine

by one of his friends from the college lacrosse team he was on. This man's name was David Hackett, and he later died on the battlefield of Vietnam.

Mr. Mueller said in a speech:

One would have thought that the life of a Marine, and David's death in Vietnam, would argue strongly against following in his footsteps. But many of us saw in him the person we wanted to be. And a number of his friends, teammates, and associates joined the Marine Corps because of him, as did I.

So said Robert Mueller about his friend David Hackett.

To paraphrase the words of President Kennedy, Robert Mueller didn't join the Marine Corps because it was easy; he joined because it was hard. While many of his peers were seeking to avoid the horrors of the Vietnam conflict and the combat in Vietnam, Robert Mueller volunteered to face those horrors. That sense of duty is the essence of public service.

Robert Mueller enlisted in the Marines just a few weeks after graduating from Princeton in 1966 and went through the demanding programs of the Army's Ranger School and Airborne School. He then spent a year in combat on the ground in the jungles of Vietnam, leading an infantry platoon. The Washington Post described the conditions the regiment faced as a "hellscape" of "bloody jungle warfare." It was under these difficult circumstances that Mr. Mueller received the Bronze Star for "heroic achievement" after leading his fellow marines through an 8-hour battle where, under enemy fire, "Second Lieutenant Mueller fearlessly moved from one position to another, directing the accurate counterfire of his men and shouting words of encouragement to them. . . . [H]e then skillfully supervised the evacuation of casualties from the hazardous fire area."

Just 4 months later, he was shot in the leg when he responded to an ambush by enemy forces. He received the Navy Commendation Medal with a citation praising him for rushing to save his fellow marines while "completely disregarding his own safety."

That sense of serving a cause larger than himself is what led Robert Mueller to enlist in the Marines and what led him later to apply to law school so he could continue serving the country through our system of justice. He served in the U.S. States Attorney's Offices and the Justice Department for years, working his way up the chain of command and earning a reputation as a dogged and fair prosecutor committed to enforcing the rule of law.

In 2001, he was confirmed unanimously by this body to serve as FBI Director and subsequently led the FBI's response to the September 11 attacks. In 2011, as his 10-year term was set to end, we in the Senate at that time voted 100 to 0 to extend his term until 2013.

Mr. Mueller has not only earned the respect of public officials he has worked with, he has maintained that

respect throughout decades of public service. There is no one better qualified to lead this Russia investigation in terms of intellect, experience, or character than Robert Mueller. A lot of Americans are glad he is leading this effort to find out what happened, how the Russians were able to interfere in our election. Robert Mueller and his team have already produced results, and their work has sent a powerful message to Russia—and to any other foreign or domestic entity that would interfere with our elections—that the United States will not tolerate any attack on our democracy.

Mr. Mueller's investigation is critical to our national security, and it must be protected from interference by the President or anyone else. It is now more important than ever that the Senate pass legislation to protect the investigation and Mr. Mueller's job from interference of any kind. I call on the Senate once again to take a vote on the Special Council Independence and Integrity Act.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 1:45 occur now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Kyl	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Toomey
Enzi	Lee	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—49

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Bennet	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Feinstein
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Brown	Cortez Masto	Harris
Cantwell	Donnelly	Hassan

Heinrich	Menendez	Smith
Heitkamp	Merkley	Stabenow
Hirono	Murphy	Tester
Jones	Murray	Udall
Kaine	Nelson	Van Hollen
King	Peters	Warner
Klobuchar	Reed	Warren
Leahy	Sanders	Whitehouse
Manchin	Schatz	Wyden
Markey	Schumer	
McCaskill	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1046.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Justin George Muzinich, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Justin George Muzinich, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Jerry Moran, Lisa Murkowski, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Ron Johnson, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Michael B. Enzi, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lamar Alexander, John Kennedy, Deb Fischer.

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

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

U.S.-CHINA FENTANYL AGREEMENT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, there is uncertainty reported in the news about the trade agreements and discussions that the President of the United States and the President of China had last weekend, but one thing is certain: The agreement that President Trump and the President of China made last Saturday concerning fentanyl—a deadly synthetic opioid which is mostly produced in China and which is the largest growing contributor to opioid deaths in the United States—will save thousands of American lives.

Last Saturday evening, President Trump and President Xi announced that China will designate all fentanyl-like substances as controlled substances, which will make the selling of fentanyl subject to the maximum penalty under Chinese law.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid. It can be 100 times stronger than opioid prescription pills. It is the source of the greatest increase in opioid overdoses in our country.

According to our Drug Enforcement Administration, one way or another, almost all of the fentanyl that is used in the United States comes from China. Here is how: Traffickers in China modify the chemical makeup of fentanyl to bypass the authorities. Scheduling all fentanyl-like substances as a class, which is what President Xi agreed to do, is the single most important step that could be taken to stop the flow of deadly fentanyl from China into the United States.

Let me tell you a story about one action that helped us get to that point. About 4 weeks ago, I led a senior delegation of five Senators and two Members of the House of Representatives to Beijing to meet with Chinese leaders. They, of course, expected us to talk about agriculture, energy, and trade issues, which are sources of major disagreement between China and the United States, and we did, but at the urging of the U.S. Ambassador to China, former Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, we made fentanyl and the opioid crisis the primary point of our visit.

President Trump had already mentioned fentanyl to President Xi a few months earlier, and China had already taken steps to help the United States by stemming the flow of fentanyl into our country. China announced that it was controlling 25 different substances of fentanyl. The Drug Enforcement Administration told us while we were in China 4 weeks ago that after China took those steps, there was a dramatic decrease in the amount of fentanyl available in the United States.

In other words, while we were there, we asked China to do more of what it was already doing—instead of controlling just 25 types of fentanyl, to control it all, make it all illegal. Controlling all of it allows China's narcotics agents to go after anyone in China who

uses or produces fentanyl illegally or improperly. The Chinese officials listened closely to us. They committed to working with us. They made no promises at the time about what they would do, but with each meeting we had, we found they must have talked to whom-ever we had talked to at the previous meeting, and they were responsive.

The truth is, I believe they were surprised. They were surprised first that we would make that the first point of our discussion when they had assumed that we would likely be there to talk about tariffs on soybeans and other issues. I think they were surprised to be reminded of or to find out for the first time what a massive problem it is in the United States. More people are being killed by opioid overdoses than are killed by automobile accidents, and the fastest growing source of those opioid overdoses is the synthetic stuff coming from China.

Some of them were surprised and a little defensive because they did not believe it when we said to them—and I said to them directly that one way or the other, almost all of the fentanyl we see in the United States comes from China. It comes in the form of chemicals that are made there in small processing plants. It is shipped to Mexico or to Canada or through the mail, and then it is smuggled into this country illegally. It is often in small plastic bags. It is a white powder.

One of the drug enforcement agents from Tennessee told me that once when he had seized just one package of fentanyl in Dixon County, he opened it, and he had to leave the room to keep from being overcome because enough of it escaped into the air that it had an effect on him. Just a few grams of this will kill an individual.

When we returned from China after our trip 4 weeks ago, I spoke about that trip on the Senate floor. I said that China had the opportunity to become the global leader in stopping synthetic opioids. I talked with Ivanka Trump about our trip. She was helping the President prepare for his trip to Argentina, where he saw leaders from many countries. He had his dinner with the President of China last Saturday night. She helped to make sure that it was a priority in his briefings and in his preparation.

I talked to the President directly to report to him the good work Ambassador Branstad had been doing in China; how 6 months ago, the Ambassador had said to me: When you come to China, make this the focus of your visit because the Chinese officials don't appreciate the importance of this to the United States.

China doesn't have a fentanyl problem. They don't have people using and overdosing from opioids. At one time, China had a terrible problem with opium, but they don't today. So I think it was a surprise to them to see how important it was to us.

I urged President Trump to thank President Xi when they met at the G20

summit in Argentina for what China had already done and to ask the Chinese to continue working with us to stem the flow of fentanyl into the United States.

Last Saturday, at the end of the G20 summit, President Trump and President Xi announced that China would do exactly what we asked them to do. China will control all forms of fentanyl as a way of stopping the flow of this dangerous synthetic opioid into the United States both by mail and by smuggling through Mexico and Canada. President Trump called this "a game changer," and he deserves great credit for persuading China to make the selling of fentanyl subject to the maximum penalty under Chinese law.

In 2016, roughly 45 percent of opioid overdose deaths were due to synthetic opioids like fentanyl—nearly half of the deaths. Remember, there are as many deaths from overdoses as there are from automobile accidents.

To be clear, this is not a problem the Chinese Government has caused, but it is a problem the Chinese Government is helping us solve. Working with our Drug Enforcement Administration and classifying 25 fentanyl compounds caused an immediate and dramatic decrease in those chemicals coming into the United States months ago. Now President Xi has agreed to control all forms of fentanyl, which will make it easier for China to go after anyone in their country who uses or produces fentanyl illegally and improperly.

Opioid abuse is understood by the Senate and House of Representatives to be our No. 1 health epidemic in the country. While most of the country was watching the Kavanaugh hearings in October of this year, if you had a split-screen television, you could have seen on the other side of the television screen 72 Senators of both parties—5 committees here and 8 committees in the House of Representatives—working together to produce landmark opioid legislation to try to deal with our opioid crisis.

Fentanyl, the white powder synthetic opioid, can be 100 times more powerful than an opioid pain pill. A few grams can kill you, which is why we have seen such a spike in overdose deaths. Among drug overdoses, it is the fastest killer. Tennessee saw the number of deaths from fentanyl overdose increase 70 percent in 1 year, between 2016 and 2017.

As I mentioned, in the legislation the President signed in October, Congress has taken action. He called that new law "the single largest bill to combat a drug crisis in the history of our country." Those were his words.

In addition to empowering the Food and Drug Administration to require manufacturers to sell certain opioid pills in so-called blister packs and expanding treatment and recovery opportunities, the new law contains Senator PORTMAN's STOP Act, which will help stop illegal drugs, including fentanyl, at the border. It also includes the

SALTS Act, which closes a loophole that allowed manufacturers and sellers of synthetic opioids like fentanyl to avoid prosecution by labeling the opioids as "not intended for human consumption." Congress has also put the taxpayers' money where our mouth has been. Congress has approved \$8.5 billion since last March to combat the opioid crisis.

What President Trump and President Xi announced this weekend is the single most important step that could be taken to stop the flow of deadly fentanyl from China into the United States.

I thank Ambassador Branstad, the former Governor of Iowa and now our Ambassador to China, for putting a focus on this, for leading our delegation on this specific request, and for setting up the meetings we had with Chinese officials. I also thank the staff members of the U.S. Embassy there for all of their hard work. They were very helpful—Steve Churchill, Rob Fordan, and Richard Jao.

I thank, again, the Chinese officials with whom we met. They gave us a lot of time. If it were to be an hour's discussion, it was an hour and a half. If we started out with fentanyl and it was news to them, they took the time to understand it and talk about it. I thank Premier Li Keqiang, Minister Zhao Kezhi, and Director Yang Jiechi. We saw all of them, which included seeing the head of narcotics control and the head of the police system in China.

I am grateful to the Chinese leaders for listening to our congressional delegation and for President Trump and President Xi's leadership in taking this action.

Some have asked since last Saturday: Well, will China do it? Will this make a difference?

We know it made a difference before. President Trump asked China to help with fentanyl, and China identified 25 forms of it. Our own Drug Enforcement Agency says that it saw a dramatic decrease in fentanyl in the United States immediately after that.

Now we are asking China to make all forms of fentanyl illegal. That means that the crooks in China can't say: Well, they have made illegal these 25 forms, but we will modify the chemicals enough so that we can create chemicals to send to Mexico, Canada, and then to the United States that are not illegal. That will not be possible once China implements this. Once it implements these rules, I expect the rules to be effective. China does a lot of things well. One thing it knows how to do is to be a good policeman when something is against the law. I would not want to be the person in China who is misusing, abusing, or selling fentanyl illegally after these new rules go into effect.

We are asking China only to do what the United States is already doing. We have learned that in order to be effective in controlling fentanyl, we have to control all of it. We have to make all of

it illegal so that our narcotics agencies, our drug agencies, and our policemen can deal with it.

What about the possibility that even if China does this, fentanyl might be made in other countries? Well, maybe it would, but we could take the same steps there that we are taking in China.

This is important in the larger sense. The President of China has listened to the President of the United States, who has said twice to him: Mr. President, fentanyl is a terrible problem in the United States. One way or the other, China is the source of most of the fentanyl that comes here. We believe the single most important thing you could do to help us control that is to make it all illegal. The President of China has said he will do that.

That kind of response, as President Trump said, is a humanitarian gesture that, while it doesn't have to do with trade—it doesn't mean more soybeans are going to be sold—it helps to develop a better relationship between two countries that are not enemies but that are competitors, and we have some big issues we need to work on.

There may be uncertainty in the air about some of the agreements that came out of the dinner that the President of China and the President of the United States had in Argentina last weekend, but there is no uncertainty about this—that the agreement by China, at President Trump's request, to make illegal all forms of fentanyl in China, all classes of it, will save thousands of lives in the United States. China will go from being the source of the biggest opioid problem that the United States has to the country that is doing the most about it. For that, all Americans should be grateful.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO HERB HOLZAPFEL

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am here this afternoon to congratulate Herb Holzapfel on his retirement as chairman of the Farmers' Rice Cooperative.

The Farmers' Rice Cooperative has a long and distinguished history and an equally long history of influential leaders. Herb stands out as one of those leaders—as one of the very best.

It may seem a little bit odd for a Kansan to be congratulating a Californian, but in this job as a U.S. Senator and in my earlier days as a Congressman, as a Member of the House of Representatives, you have the opportunity to meet lots of wonderful, interesting people. As a person who is so interested in agriculture, I had the opportunity of meeting Herb back in my days in the House of Representatives. He is one of those special people who is a joy to know, and he is someone who has such a strong passion for agriculture, and so we easily connected.

His love of agriculture, his engagement in the industry, and his work in the industry have improved the lives of

farmers and consumers for more than 40 years, including 33 specifically with the Farmers' Rice Cooperative.

Herb is a passionate public servant. His love for public service dates back to his early moments as a boy when he remembers meeting Ronald Reagan. That was an inspiration to Herb. As he was attending the National Scout Jamboree here in the Nation's Capital, which marked the beginning of a life of serving others, he had the opportunity to become acquainted with Ronald Reagan.

Herb grew up with a sense of duty. He was drafted and served in the Vietnam conflict just 1 year after he married Ginger, his wife. Herb joined the National Guard in the same year and began farming rice. He was offered a spot in the 1975 warrant officer helicopter training school, but he had to turn it down in order to get his rice harvested.

Herb has always been on the lookout for opportunities to serve other people and has never shied away from hard work. His father would always tell him that in order to make something better, a person has to be involved. Herb took that message to heart and committed himself to doing things in the right way—to being fully involved.

Herb joined the Farmers' Rice Cooperative in 1985 and became a board member that same year. In 1998 he was elected chairman of the board and has served in that position since then. For 20 years, Herb has fought for the rice producers and has led and represented them in such a fine fashion. Herb has always focused on finding solutions that will make sure that the next generation of farmers and ranchers is better off than the last.

To accomplish that, he has worked with many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. As chairman of the co-op, Herb has spent a significant amount of time in Washington, DC, doing just that—representing agricultural producers in the Halls of Congress. He is one of the most genuine people I have ever met. If you meet Herb, you will remember Herb. He goes out of his way to build genuine relationships with Members of Congress, and he knows the importance of our staffs. He has become a trusted adviser and a source of wisdom and good advice to many people in Washington, DC. In so many ways, that includes me. There has been no better ambassador for agriculture, especially for rice, than Herb. It is not uncommon for Herb to take an incoming call from DC while he is on his tractor back at the ranch.

Herb's legacy at the Farmers' Rice Cooperative is one of his great achievements. He has assisted in the reforming of the cooperative over the past 30 years and has impacted every facet of the company, from dealing with the leadership of the co-op down to the nuts and bolts of the rice mill. He is one who has shown me how rice is grown, which is necessary, because no Kansas farmer knows how to grow rice.

His goal has been to leave the company and the industry better than he found it.

I will tell you, Herb, you have achieved that goal in spades.

As I said earlier, Herb never shies away from hard work. This means he will not be slowing down but only changing directions. He will continue to work on the Farm Credit Council's board of directors, which he has been a part of since 2012. Herb's impact on the world of agriculture will continue to be felt for years to come through his work at the Farmers' Rice Cooperative and at the Farm Credit Council.

I thank Herb for his years of advocacy on behalf of agriculture, rice, and all of the things that agriculture is comprised of, including wheat and cattle and corn in Kansas. He made the case for all of us—for our farmers and our ranchers. I appreciate that very much. I appreciate his standing side by side and our being a team in order to see that good things happen in rural America. I wish him the very best in his new phase of life, and I thank him for his service and his friendship.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SNYDER

Mr. President, last Sunday, Kansas State University Head Football Coach Bill Snyder announced his retirement, marking the end of his 56-year career coaching football and 27-year tenure in Manhattan, KS.

Coach Snyder made his debut with the K-State football program in 1989. He took the helm of a program that was known as Futility U and America's most hapless team.

When he arrived, the Wildcats hadn't won a single game in the previous two seasons and had the most losses of any Division One football team.

During the now-famous press conference at the early stages of his tenure at K-State, Coach Snyder remarked that, "I think the opportunity for the greatest turnaround in college football exists here today, and it's not one to be taken lightly."

Kansans know well today that Coach Snyder lived up to those words.

Coach Snyder boasts a great deal of accolades in his storied career: 215 career wins, 19 bowl game appearances, and two Big 12 championships—which seems especially remarkable, given the state of the program when he took over as head coach.

Deeply engrained in Coach Snyder's legacy is the work he has done off the field developing young men, contributing to the community, giving back, and inspiring so many.

Coach Snyder's "16 Goals for Success" have served as guidelines for his players on and off the field.

Snyder said that if his players followed these goals—goals such as "Never Give Up," "Don't Accept Losing," and "Eliminate Mistakes"—then success would come. His "16 goals" represent his own legendary paradigm—that our work is never over and the journey to success is never really finished.

His impact at the university and in Manhattan have reached far beyond the field, where he has helped to increase student enrollment, boost the local economy, and fund major renovation projects across K-State's campus that have allowed for groundbreaking work at the university.

Coach Snyder's involvement, support, and close work with the Johnson Cancer Center at K-State has helped to advance the groundbreaking, scientific research being done there that will one day save lives.

His work in the community to mentor young men and women, develop community leaders, and inspire philanthropy has changed lives across our State. His focus on "family" has created and contributed to a remarkable culture in Manhattan.

Coach Snyder has had to overcome numerous challenges during his tenure as a coach, but he has faced those with the same grit and mental toughness that he has instilled in his players.

Even while battling cancer, coach still hit the road to travel Kansas on Catbacker tours; he didn't let anyone or anything get in the way of him meeting with the program's most loyal fans, a large number of them rural Kansans.

Coach's love for traveling the State and meeting with rural Kansans is something we both share, but I think often times Kansans might be more excited to talk about football than politics.

Coach Snyder repeatedly says he came to Kansas State University because of the people, stayed because of the people, and returned because of the people.

To get to Manhattan, KS, you take Bill Snyder Family Highway. To go to a K-State football game, you go to Bill Snyder Family Stadium. On your way into the stadium, you walk by a larger-than-life statue of Coach Bill Snyder. His legacy is permanently sealed in the K-State and Manhattan community.

History will remember Coach Snyder as an incredibly successful football coach and developer of young men, someone with an extraordinary work ethic and a high level of integrity.

I appreciate the impact Coach Bill Snyder has had at Kansas State University. His legacy will be forever enshrined there. Robba and I wish all the best for Coach, Sharon, and the entire Snyder family in this new chapter of their lives.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Friday, George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, went to his eternal reward.

His death marks the passing of an era. George H.W. Bush was the last President to have served in World War II. He enlisted on his 18th birthday, postponing college to serve his country, and went on to become the young-

est pilot in the Navy. During his 3 years of service, he flew 58 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals.

Throughout his life, he exemplified the characteristics of the "greatest generation"—service, love of country, humility, and honor.

His achievements in public office were significant. As Vice President, he helped Ronald Reagan turn the economy around and combat the "evil empire." As President, he presided over the dissolution of the Soviet Union and helped bring order and stability to the world stage in its aftermath. Through it all, he stayed humble and down-to-earth.

This week, I saw an article with anecdotes from Secret Service agents who had protected President Bush. What stood out to me the most was the fact that he used to stay in Washington over Christmas so his Secret Service agents could spend the day with their families. That was the kind of man he was.

We throw around the words "public service" in government, but for George Bush, that term meant something. Public service was a real thing to him.

Being a Congressman, being CIA Director, being an ambassador, being President—these weren't chances to aggrandize himself or to burnish his resume. These were chances to serve, to give something back to the country he loved and had fought to protect.

President Bush was a statesman, a man of principle who understood that you could speak the truth without demonizing your opponents. He and President Clinton may have been political adversaries, but that didn't stop him from teaming up with President Clinton to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina in the 2004 tsunami.

He was also, as every American knows, a devoted family man, a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He and his wife Barbara, who died earlier this year, were married for 73 years—the longest marriage of any Presidential couple in our Nation's history. The love and affection and friendship between them were palpable.

By now, I think most Americans have seen the moving image from cartoonist Marshall Ramsey paying tribute to President Bush. In a cartoon, President Bush is depicted as having flown his World War II plane, a TBM Avenger, to Heaven. There, he joins hands with his beloved daughter Robin and his beloved wife, who says: "We waited for you." I am sure their reunion was a joyful one.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am both pleased and honored that my distinguished friend Senator FEINSTEIN is joining me today to discuss how climate change is affecting our country,

from the East to the West, from one of the biggest States to the smallest one. Of course, we are small in size, but we are long on coastline.

As the Presiding Officer will understand, as coastal States, Rhode Island, California, and the coastal States along the South Atlantic coasts are on the frontlines of climate change. Sea levels are already rising, and as they do, Rhode Island's coastal communities are having to spend more and more money on resiliency projects to protect their roads, their bridges, their beaches, their water treatment plants, their harbors, and other infrastructure.

A 2000 study by our DEM found that 7 of 19 water treatment facilities in Rhode Island are expected to be overwashed by floodwaters driven by climate change. Frankly, just figuring out what this risk looks like is hard for coastal municipalities, so our State's Coastal Resources Management Council developed a project called STORMTOOLS, which allows Rhode Islanders to see how sea level rise is expected to affect their homes, their businesses, their beaches, and their parks.

This is a STORMTOOLS-generated map of Upper Narragansett Bay. The blue color you see here is all land. People have homes and businesses and facilities there. All of this blue is now land, but it is land that gets covered by 10 feet of sea level rise. Ten feet of sea level rise is within STORMTOOLS' business-as-usual scenario in which we continue to burn fossil fuels unabated.

As you can see, some of Rhode Island's peninsulas get cut off to become islands, some of our islands disappear or fracture. Rhode Island becomes an archipelago. I hope my colleagues on the other side can appreciate that changes like this to my State are things I have to respond to.

A recent New York Times article suggested we may have to retreat from the coasts in order to protect ourselves from rising waters and more powerful storms. Why should Rhode Islanders have to retreat from our coasts just to protect polluters? It makes no sense. It is fundamentally unjust.

Many of us not only live near the sea but work and sail and fish on it, so climate change threatens Rhode Islanders' lifestyles, our livelihoods, and our lives.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has estimated for the United States that by 2100, nearly 2.5 million residential and commercial properties, collectively valued at \$1.07 trillion today, will be at risk of chronic flooding, and that is just from sea level rise alone. Storm surge and rain-driven flooding amplify that risk.

Drill down to Rhode Island, and Zillow, the real estate firm, has estimated that over 5,300 homes worth almost \$3 billion will be lost if the sea level rises just 6 feet. And that is just homes that are already there. People are still building in Rhode Island's coastal areas, so there are more new homes every day.

Why should Rhode Islanders have to face this risk? Why should 5,300 people have to risk losing their homes just to protect polluters? It is not right.

Rising water isn't the only way in which climate change is affecting the oceans off our coasts. Warming oceans are disrupting our traditional fishing grounds and driving valuable species like lobster out of Rhode Island waters altogether.

The just-released National Climate Assessment warns of falling catches. Last week I met with charter boat captains and recreational fishing enthusiasts from Rhode Island and nearby New England. They, like their peers in Louisiana, are facing changes in the size, geographic range, and number of fish that they catch.

Our commercial fishermen tell the same story. They are worried that their kids and grandkids will not be able to experience the traditions and lifestyles they cherish or pursue the same career on the water.

Why should Rhode Island have to lose this heritage just to protect polluters?

Senator FEINSTEIN has seen similar changes in California, and I welcome her remarks.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINSTEIN and I be allowed to engage in a colloquy.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator from Rhode Island.

Yes, we are already feeling dramatic changes in California.

Let me give you an example. Off our coast, the ocean has become 25 to 45 percent more acidic. It has 20 percent less oxygen, and it is nearly a full degree warmer than previous decades. All of that is according to the National Climate Assessment.

These conditions have led to harmful algal blooms, a marine heat wave from 2014 to 2016, invasive Humboldt squid, the disruption of the crab, shellfish, and fishing industry. So it is being felt.

In fact, the impact has been so great, a number of Pacific coast fishermen are now suing 30 fossil fuel companies for damages.

At the same time, the seas are rising. The longest running tidal gauge in the Western Hemisphere is at the Golden Gate Bridge, and it has been recording sea levels since 1854.

Now, as this chart shows—and this is sea level rise at the Golden Gate Bridge—the sea has risen 9 inches in that time, which the National Climate Assessment attributes mostly to thermal expansion of ocean water and the melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets. This is already threatening San Francisco's historic waterfront. The seawall is seriously deteriorating and must be upgraded to handle the stronger storms and higher tides we are already seeing and will continue to see in the future.

I just met a week or so ago with the head of the Bay Area Rapid Transit

System, and that is BART II, and they are talking about increasing the number of trains in the II by some three times. One wonders what is going to happen if the seawall continues to deteriorate. The city will move. It is going to be very costly, but it will be repaired. But it is a signal of what is coming.

Last month, our city's residents approved a \$425 million bond to help pay for the project of restoring the Embarcadero Seawall. As you can see, we are looking at another 2.5 to 3.5 feet of sea rise by the end of this century. If you just look at this chart, you see the amount of sea rise.

Worse, if ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica collapse into the oceans, the "Climate Science Special Report" last year warned that sea levels could rise as high as 8 feet by the end of this century. That is an 8-foot rise by the end of this century. That would truly be catastrophic.

Scientists are carefully studying the Greenland and Antarctica ice sheets, as the Senator from Rhode Island well knows, to understand whether we can slow or avoid their collapse into the ocean. Last year alone, we saw an iceberg larger than the size of the State of Rhode Island break off of Antarctica's Larsen C ice shelf. Events like this could give us clues into what large-scale melting may look like.

Antarctica holds 90 percent of the world's ice, and the rate of ice melting and calving increased six-fold from 1994 to 2012—a six-time increase in 10 years. It is amazing.

According to an eye-opening report from National Geographic last year, if the West Antarctic ice sheet collapses, as some researchers think may already be happening, it will eventually raise sea levels worldwide by 10 feet. This is a picture right out of National Geographic. A whole issue is devoted to this and the rifting of this huge glacier and what happens when it breaks out. That is where there are different views, of course, but some say the seas could rise as much as 10 feet.

I really suspect, between you and me and the outside world, that it is going to be some calamitous effect that shakes us up enough to do what we need to do about it. We have been very slow to respond.

National Geographic reports, as well, that 90 percent of the 674 glaciers in this area of the continent are now in retreat—90 percent of them—and calving more icebergs into the sea; that means they are splitting and breaking off, including the one that is photographed right here. A full collapse of the ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica would eventually raise sea levels about 35 feet, it is estimated.

I drove through the San Francisco Marina District, and I thought, Oh, my gosh, what can happen in 15, 20, 50 years—our grandchildren—and it is really startling.

But rising sea levels are far from the only problem. Wildfire and drought are

already reshaping my State. The California drought from 2011 to 2016 was made worse because of climate change: higher temperatures, depleted groundwater, and reduced snowpack. Large parts of California, including the Central Valley, which produces the majority of our Nation's fruits and vegetables, had to depend on groundwater pumping that will not always be available, and the National Climate Assessment warns that global warming will reduce the rate that groundwater replenishes aquifers by 10 to 20 percent. So we have a real problem.

I want to add to that. I have been to big fires; as a matter of fact, I traveled with President Bush to a San Diego fire in a subdivision, and then, years later, I went to the Sonoma fire. It was a fire that burned so hot that the subdivision I visited, which was the Coffey subdivision—the block that had houses on all four sides was entirely burned down, and the ground had turned to sand. There wasn't a metal structure; there wasn't a brick chimney; there was nothing that was above ground.

I called one of the chiefs, the head of State fire, and I said: Tell me what is happening.

He said: The Santa Anas have reversed. The winds are blowing 40 to 60 knots. The fire outruns us, and we can't lay line.

So what happened—and the meaning, of course, is that you depend more and more on air, which means C-130s, and having to get them. Fortunately we got seven, and I went and saw that two are being repaired and adjusted to carry water. But that is what is happening, and we really have to come to terms with it.

This new, big fire, which is the largest fire California has ever had, burned down 15,000 homes, if you can believe it. This is a picture of what the area looks like. Wildfire alone has burned nearly 2 million acres now—15,000 homes. It has killed 94 people. And wildfire is the deadliest and most destructive season we have on record this year.

This picture was taken by a member of my staff in the city of Paradise, which was absolutely devastated, as you can tell—hulls of cars. I have even been to a fire that has burned so hot that you don't see any of the surrounding door metal, and you don't see any tires left.

So the terror of fire—and just as an anecdote, I read one story about an elderly couple who left their home and jumped in the pool, and he held his wife in the pool all night, and she passed away in his arms. This is the kind of thing we face in California.

Let me ask the Senator from Rhode Island this: Wildfires are a problem for more than just Western States. Haven't fires affected even Rhode Island on the other coast?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Senator FEINSTEIN, the fires have affected us—nothing like what you describe. Our State has not burned. Our State is not like

California today, still smoldering from such a massive fire. We don't have the devastation of the photograph that you just showed us, but it has sure affected our air quality.

All the way across the continent, the fires we have had in California, Oregon, and Canada have affected the Atlantic States as far south as North Carolina. As you know, these fires lost tremendous amounts of what they call fine particulates into the atmosphere, and those fine particulates exacerbate asthma and other respiratory conditions, increase the risk of diseases like lung cancer. In a nutshell, bad air equals bad health, and we are getting bad air from these fires.

Of course, forest fires aren't the only way that climate change degrades Rhode Island's air quality. You just make the air warmer, which global warming is doing, and hotter temperatures help to form more ozone. Ozone, as we know, is dangerous for children and the elderly and anybody with a respiratory condition.

One in ten Rhode Islanders has asthma. Our air quality receives a grade of C from the American Lung Association, largely from forces out of our control—out-of-State sources and ozone coming in from upwind States.

This is not just an inconvenience. Across the country, air pollution, much of it made worse by climate change, causes a staggering 200,000 premature deaths each year. Why should Rhode Islanders have to put up with that just to protect polluters?

Of course, those aren't the only ways that climate change affects human health. Temperature extremes worsen health. There have been studies both in Rhode Island and in Senator FEINSTEIN's State that show that as temperatures rise, there are more deaths, often not associated in the coroner's report with heat but clearly statistically following the heat.

ER visits in Rhode Island skyrocket when daily temperatures pass 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and the National Climate Assessment, based on a study of Rhode Island hospitals, predicts that the number of ER visits will increase from these conditions by 400 per year by 2050 and up to an additional 1,500 a year by 2095.

Of course, the list of health consequences goes on: disease-carrying insects, such as ticks and mosquitoes; noxious algal blooms, as the Senator from California mentioned, that produce water-borne toxins and pathogens; longer pollen seasons ramping up people's allergies.

Why should Rhode Islanders or Californians have to put up with these conditions just to protect polluters?

Of course, it is not just the doctors who are worried; economists are starting to paint some very grim pictures. Freddie Mac, our great housing corporation, warns of a coastal property values crash that will rival the 2008 mortgage meltdown. I quote them:

The economic losses and social disruption [. . .] are likely to be greater in total than

those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.

The Bank of England and numerous academic economists warn of a "carbon bubble"—a separate economic risk that poses what they call a systemic risk to the global economy.

Of course, the National Climate Assessment details grim economic consequences that climate change will have for our U.S. economy. Of course, it doesn't have to be bad economic news. Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz testified that "retrofitting the global economy for climate change would help to restore aggregate demand and growth. . . . [C]limate policies, if well designed and implemented, are consistent with growth, development, and poverty reduction. The transition to a low-carbon economy is potentially a powerful, attractive, and sustainable growth story, marked by higher resilience, more innovation, more liveable cities, robust agriculture, and stronger ecosystems."

Why would we not want that? That is the advice of a Nobel Prize-winning economist.

A 2018 report from the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate estimates that this green energy transition may increase global economic growth by \$26 trillion through 2030 and create 65 million low-carbon jobs. Growth will come not just from those new jobs but also from lower energy costs. As Stiglitz points out, transitioning to renewables can reduce costs. To quote him, "Many energy efficiency technologies actually have a negative cost to implement."

Renewable energy, electric cars, battery storage, carbon capture, energy efficiency, low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels—these are technologies of the future, promising millions of great jobs. The question is whether these will be American technologies and American jobs or whether China, Germany, Japan, or other countries will win the transition to a low-carbon economy. Why should America lose that competition just to protect polluters?

Senator FEINSTEIN can eloquently tell us how innovation is California's bread and butter, so let me inquire of the distinguished chairman/ranking member. What kind of exciting developments are you seeing in California?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I am sorry; what kind of?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Exciting developments in innovation are you seeing in California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. There are all kinds of exciting developments and innovation. Let me talk a little bit more about it.

My understanding is that for 2018, researchers expect that emissions will grow by 2.4 percent, and the United States is part of this trend, showing a 2.5-percent increase in emissions due to our oil and gas use.

So the first thing is that we need to move away from carbon, and we need to do it quickly. California is pro-

ducing—you can use noncarbon electricity, and it works.

One of the things I have been really concerned about as a grandmother is, as time goes by, what is the impact? If I understand the history well, the Earth has warmed, since the Industrial Revolution, about 1 to 2 degrees. They say that if it warms another 1 to 2 degrees, it is handleable, but it will be difficult. If it warms 4 to 9 degrees, we will have the potential to destroy the planet. I think those figures, as they become more refined as time goes on, really send us the challenge.

It is hard here because—it was hard in California. Until I went home on this last break, I had never seen people on the streets with masks on. Yet there it was in San Francisco, by the Golden Gate, with the wind blowing, and the smoke was so thick in the morning that when you looked out a window, you were lucky if you could see two blocks. Those are the kinds of fires that warming encourages.

So I want to salute you for your work. You have been our leader. I think you have been terrific. I think what we really need to do is to set some standards for our government to follow as they set regulations for the future. It is going to be difficult, people won't like it, and there will be differences between us, but we should have that discussion, and we should recognize the fact that we can't keep going as we are now.

Now, California is responding. As I drove and campaigned there through many different counties and saw some of the alternatives to carbon in terms of the towers and wind and those kinds of things—you see where it is happening, but it is not happening enough, and it is not taken as seriously as it should be.

So what I want to say is that I really want to work with you. I believe the people of my State—all 40-plus million of us—want a solution that will work. I thank you, and I am delighted to be part of this small dialogue.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Senator. Of course, California's massive economy is a vitally important part of the innovation that is going to help solve this problem if we can get the political will and the economic alignments to do this.

Rhode Island, of course, has its own small innovation story. We are the first State to get offshore wind, steel in the water, and electrons on the grid. We are very proud of the company that did it. Indeed, the market has responded quite favorably. They have been bought for half a billion dollars by a larger company. That is great progress for Rhode Island.

We are a leader in the composites industry. One of our composites companies, TPI Composites, is manufacturing wind blades for wind towers that spin turbines and generate electricity. We also got our first electric buses in Providence, and the electric bus bodies were built by the same group in Warren, RI, to be light, clean, and efficient.

In 10 years, TPI has manufactured more than 10,000 wind blades and is gearing up to provide more than 3,350 bus bodies. So things are moving.

Our university is following on. It received \$19 million in funding from the National Science Foundation for “developing a new research infrastructure to assess, predict and respond to the effects of climate variability on coastal ecosystems.” We have to bring innovation to bear on the changes that are coming, and we have to bring innovation to bear to protect against the changes that will be devastating if we don’t act responsibly.

I hope that we as a body in the Senate take the message from what is happening around us—your fires, Louisiana’s floods, Rhode Island’s sea level rise, and predictions for turning ourselves into an archipelago—and begin to take this seriously, or we could just keep protecting the polluters.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may respond just briefly, the State has mandated that 50 percent of its electricity must come from renewable sources by 2030. We are actually ahead of schedule and on track to reach that deadline by 2020. If we do, we will both be here. I hope that will be a real signal to people that standards can be set and they can be met and that we can save this planet.

I thank the Senator very much.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Senator.

Senator FEINSTEIN may remember, I came here in 2007. I was sworn in in January of 2007. In 2007 and in 2008 and in 2009, just what we would expect to be happening on an issue like this was actually happening in the Senate. By my recollection, we had four bipartisan climate bills, we had bipartisan climate hearings, and we had constant bipartisan climate conversations. This was an issue which was being taken seriously by this body through 2009, then in 2010 something happened, and all of that bipartisan work came to a screeching, dead halt. What happened was that the Supreme Court—five Republican Justices on the Supreme Court—issued a decision called *Citizens United*, which told big industries, big special interests like the fossil fuel industry: You can now spend as much money as you want in politics. There are no limits on what you can spend. That industry took off like a gunshot, like a runner from the start with that decision—I suspect they anticipated it—and instantly shut down all bipartisanship on climate change by virtue of the political spending and threats that *Citizens United* allowed them to do.

If we could do it before *Citizens United*, we ought to be able to do it still now that we have a better understanding of what the threats are. This is a very real proposition to get something done, and I thank the Senator for her leadership over many years on this and many causes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Senator, and I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ERIC EMOND

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the Global War on Terror that started 17 years ago continues. Today we formally call the missions undertaken in the War on Terror Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve. Brave American troops continue selflessly serving these missions in defense of our country. It is often an overlooked or neglected news story. It doesn’t make the headlines frequently, but families throughout the country who have loved ones in the Middle East are closely monitoring the latest developments there. Their loves ones are still in harm’s way in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

This war is being prosecuted at considerable costs. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice, including Army SFC Eric Emond, a member of 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, who called Springdale, AK, home when he enlisted in the Marine Corps 21 years ago. He dedicated his career to the military, serving in the Marines and later joining the Army.

In 2009, while serving in Afghanistan, he was severely wounded. During his recovery, he cofounded the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes—an organization launched to honor the fallen and to support Gold Star Families. He was on his seventh tour of duty when he was killed in action last month.

I pray that the Emond family can find comfort in the support of others who have experienced the pain of losing a loved one and who have been aided by the organization Sergeant Emond passionately advocated for.

Many brave Americans are still fighting and selflessly serving, putting their lives on the line every day to defend this country against terrorists and nations that wish to assert malign influence in the world.

We have a duty to honor their commitment to our country and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. In the coming days, Congress will have an opportunity to name the Department of Veterans Affairs facility in North Ogden, UT, the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation in honor of the city’s mayor, a member of the Utah Army National Guard who, during his fourth military deployment, gave his life in support of the mission in Afghanistan last month. Let us never forget the sacrifices of our troops and let their legacies be an inspiration for all Americans.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I humbly offer my sincerest gratitude for the

patriotism and selfless service of the men and women who serve in our Nation’s uniform, the families who support their noble endeavor, and to those who gave their all.

We must remember the many brave Americans, past and present, who stand in defense of our country. Certainly, we need to remember those on a daily basis. These men and women deserve our attention and admiration for answering the call to serve and risking comfort, life, and limb to protect our freedom.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FLORIDA EVERGLADES

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to speak about one of the world’s great natural treasures, the Florida Everglades. Eighteen years ago, there was an anniversary; as a matter of fact, it was in December of 2000. One of the major water bills that Congress passes, usually about every 5 to 7 years, was enacted, and they typically contain Army Corps of Engineers’ projects for water handling, water channeling the great rivers and lakes of America. All of these water projects are so vital to the economic functioning of this country. This water bill was passed back in December of 2000 to provide funding for projects on ports, dams, and beach renourishment projects all across the country. It also authorized for the first time the comprehensive restoration plan for America’s Florida Everglades. It was a 30-year, multibillion dollar effort to restore the Everglades.

What had happened, ever since the beginning of the previous century—in the early 1900s—as Florida started to be discovered and as people increasingly had come, the way it was paved in the late 1800s, with Henry Flagler building his railroad, the railroad went down the east coast of Florida. He would build it as far as he could get, first to St. Augustine, where there was built a big hotel. That hotel today is the administrative building of Flagler College in downtown St. Augustine.

Then Flagler extended it further to the Daytona-Ormond Beach location, where another big hotel was built. Taking it further south, all the way to West Palm Beach, the famed Breakers hotel in Palm Beach was built, as well as a Biltmore hotel.

Finally, Henry Flagler took it on to Miami and then did a feat thought impossible and went through a string of islands called the Florida Keys. He took the railroad all the way to Key West.

This was a means of travel that opened up to Americans in the Northeast this beautiful land called La Florida in Spanish, the name given by the

Spanish conquistadors who came to Florida. Indeed, they came and they loved this land.

As more and more people came and started settling, they found that sometimes Mother Nature was harsh. When Mother Nature came in its full display of fury, hurricanes would come; quick rainstorms would come; quick changes of temperature occurred, from warm to suddenly freezing, even with—albeit, not a lot of snow, but I have seen parts of Florida with the ground covered in snow and other parts that were pelted with freezing rain.

As people tried to adapt to this land of contrasting environments, all of a sudden, they started to see nature, and along in the late 1920s came a hurricane of such magnitude that when it hit the coast around West Palm Beach and then went inland to Lake Okeechobee, 3,000 people drowned.

As a result of that experience, the governmental structure said: We have to do something about flood control. Thus, the diking and draining for three-quarters of a century commenced under the rubric of flood control that would get the water off the land when too much water came at one time. But what happened was, suddenly they had a plan to reverse what Mother Nature had intended. Mother Nature intended for water as far north as southwest of today's Orlando to slowly flow south all the way into the big lake, Lake Okeechobee, and continue on into the Florida Everglades.

What happened with all this diking and draining was it was taking away that natural flow of water. In order to get the water off the land in times of flooding, they created big dikes and canals that would send the water out into the tidewater of the Atlantic in the east and the Gulf of Mexico in the west.

Take, for example, coming south of Orlando in the Kissimmee chain of lakes into what was a meandering stream called the Kissimmee River, where it slowly wandered southward through the oxbows with all the marsh grasses, cleansing the water as it went south and then entering into that big lake called Okeechobee, which did not have defined boundaries but, instead, marshy grasses all around the lake. The water, by gravity, continued to flow south into a natural extension of the marshy grasses, into the miles and miles of river grass that Marjory Stoneman Douglas had declared so beautifully as the “river of grass,” the Florida Everglades. So Lake Okeechobee had a way of taking care of its water and keeping it clean.

After losing 3,000 people in that hurricane, the idea was to control the water—dike and drain it; dike the lake and drain it to the east and to the west, eventually into the St. Lucie River to go into the Atlantic and into the Caloosahatchee, to go into the Gulf of Mexico. So meandering streams like the Kissimmee River were suddenly diked and dug into a straight ditch. It

was catastrophic for the sensitive estuaries that were cleansing the water as it moved south. It was catastrophic for the estuaries, where so many of the critters had the nursery grounds for their young, as well as the many fish species.

Lo and behold, across the entire southern peninsula of Florida, a dike was built called Tamiami Trail, a paved road from Miami over to the west coast, just south of Fort Myers and Naples. That, in effect, became a dike across the southern peninsula of Florida that did not allow the water to flow further south into what, ultimately, as a result of President Harry Truman's signing it into law, became the Everglades National Park. Consequently, the Everglades National Park was then starved of freshwater.

The consequences of all of those actions over almost a century are painfully visible in years like this one. Because of the pollution of that water, instead of the grasses cleansing it, toxic blue-green algae chokes the rivers and spreads all the way out to the Atlantic Ocean to the east and to the Gulf of Mexico to the west.

People have seen in this past year the dramatic images of dead fish covering the water's surface, covering the beach on the west coast and, lo and behold, ultimately that phenomenon of red tide being supercharged with green algae. Ultimately, it went around the peninsula and up the east coast, and we saw dead fish on the beaches of the Atlantic coast as well.

We need to return the waterflow to the flow that Mother Nature intended. That is what the restoration of the Everglades is all about, and that is how that started 18 years ago this month, with a comprehensive plan to turn around that flood control—that diking and draining of all of the southern half of the peninsula of Florida, which has now caused so many of the unintended effects.

If you think about it, when the ecosystem is healthy, the Everglades are healthy. When the ecosystem is sick, all of the rest of that beautiful ecosystem is going to be sickly as well. What we have seen with the little bit of cleaning up we have done is that the Everglades are amazingly resilient. The environment and the Everglades are the heart and soul of Florida. These precious natural resources deserve our protection and stewardship because now they provide drinking water for millions and millions of people in South Florida who have moved there and for a major agricultural industry.

The Everglades also provide storm protection. That is why the ongoing Everglades restoration effort is so important. We need to ensure that the Everglades are there to provide a buffer the next time a hurricane rolls through.

We understand there is a link between warming ocean temperatures and hurricane intensity. If the climate trends continue—and I will reference

my speech on climate change and global warming and the rising of the seas that I gave last week. As that climate trend continues, if we don't reverse it, then it is all the more important to fortify Mother Nature's best defenses.

Not only are beaches and the preservation of them as one of those defenses important, but so are the Florida Everglades. Beaches, wetlands, coral reefs, mangroves all protect us against storm damage. We saw that during Hurricane Sandy in the Northeast and Hurricane Matthew in Florida. We are learning that proved true again during Hurricane Irma. That is why it is so critical that we preserve our natural infrastructure and conserve the undeveloped lands. As that famous Floridian, Marjory Stoneman Douglas said:

There are no other Everglades in the world. . . . The miracle of the light pours over the green and brown expanse of saw grass and of water, shining and slow-moving below, the grass and water that is the meaning and the central fact of the Everglades of Florida. It is a river of grass.

Since I have been privileged to be a Member of the Senate, the Federal Government has spent almost \$5 billion on Everglades restoration. We have some great things to show for it, but we have a long way to go.

Wading birds is an example. They are returning to the Kissimmee River floodplain. Water is finally flowing under that dike that was built in the 1920s—the Tamiami Trail. Now there is a breach of a mile-long bridge, and there is another 2½-mile bridge that is under construction to allow that water to flow south into the Everglades National Park.

We are seeing the return of native wildlife in areas where projects are still underway.

I referenced the Central Everglades Restoration Project that was passed in the water bill 18 years ago. It was originally envisioned as a 30-year plan because we knew we couldn't reverse all of the drainage and the engineering overnight. Out of 30 years, we are into the 18th year, with 12 more to go. It is a long-term effort, and it requires two things: diligent oversight over the ongoing work and an unwavering dedication to achieving Florida's goal of a restored Everglades.

This Senator, whose family came to Florida in 1829, is a fifth-generation Floridian. I understand this is an important project to protect our beautiful natural treasures, but what happens if we don't?

We have all seen the environmental and economic wreckage, for example, from an oilspill. We have seen NASA images from space of mangroves flattened after a hurricane. As the hurricanes get stronger, more ferocious, and more intense, that will be a result, as well as the wiping out of beaches.

All too often in recent years, this Senator has seen the devastating impact of toxic algae blooms on communities all over the Peninsula of Florida and even into North Florida. When you

take a body of water and throw a sack of fertilizer in it, the combination of heat and the nutrients are going to grow algae in most any light but especially in the warm climate of Florida. As a result, by that same example, if you take our freshwater in Florida and allow pollution to go into that because the pollution is not properly regulated, it puts the nutrients into the freshwater that will grow the algae. The algae will suck the oxygen from the water, and that becomes a dead river or a dead lake. All those extra nutrients then, when they hit the saltwater on the Atlantic coast or the Gulf of Mexico, supercharge other phenomenon that lives in saltwater, such as the red tide. We have seen that devastating impact.

There was a Floridian whom we recently lost, Nat Reed. He was particularly attuned to the needs of Florida's environment. We are going to honor his legacy in a memorial service this coming weekend. We are doing that because Nat Reed was one of the great defenders of Florida's natural bounty, especially the Everglades. In the 1970s, he served both Presidents Nixon and Ford. He returned to Florida, and he worked under seven different Governors in many different environmental capacities, including as chairman of the Commission on Florida's Environmental Future. Back in the 1980s, that commission was instrumental in the land acquisition projects we now know as Everglades Restoration.

For Nat Reed, his children and his grandchildren, for all of the current and future generations of Floridians, let's honor the legacy of Nat Reed, and let's stay the course over the next 12 years of this Central Everglades Restoration Project. Let's complete it and restore America's Everglades.

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

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

EARTHQUAKE IN ALASKA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and it is the time of the week when I usually come down to talk about one of my constituents or some Alaskan who is doing a great thing for their community or the State or the country. I call that our Alaskan of the Week. I am going to suspend that this week because, to be perfectly honest, I think every one of my fellow Alaskans deserves a shout-out. Maybe they are all Alaskans of the Week this week for what happened and, then, their reaction to what happened in Alaska last Friday. The country read about it, but it is the earthquake—the very significant earthquake—that my State and my hometown of Anchorage just went through.

Mr. President, as you know, last Friday morning, at 8:29 a.m., the citizens of Southcentral Alaska, which includes Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley, were doing what they always do on a Friday morning. People were in their offices, driving to work, drinking coffee at home, or maybe taking a run on many of the paved trails throughout our wonderful city. Students were either in school or almost getting to school, sitting at their desks with pencils and pens in hand, and then the shaking began. It felt like it went on forever.

I was here in DC. My wife was at our home in Anchorage. She sent me a text and said: We are having a big, massive earthquake. And we did. It was 7.0 on the Richter scale, which is a big earthquake—a big earthquake even for Alaska. Moments later, another earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale hit. The epicenter was very close to downtown Anchorage, about 7 miles north.

People all across the area ran out of their houses, their offices, and dove under their desks. Roads collapsed, pipes broke, and ceiling tiles came crashing down. Household goods cracked. Kitchens all across the State looked like they had been invaded by violent giants. Thousands of people lost power, including my home in Anchorage.

Senator MURKOWSKI and I and Congressman YOUNG were here in DC. I am going to talk about that a minute. We went home soon after to see what happened, to see the damage.

You saw the previous slide there. Senator MURKOWSKI and I were out reviewing and assessing some of the damage. This is a photo of an on-ramp to Minnesota Avenue, actually leading to the airport. That collapsed completely. That is how people get to the airport.

Vine Road in the Mat-Su Valley, a major thoroughfare there, completely, essentially, imploded. Houses and businesses were shook dramatically. There is another picture of Vine Road there. That is the road that you just saw. It was rush hour in Alaska.

Unfortunately, we are having a lot of problems with homes and businesses. This is a photo of just one of the hundreds of businesses, ceilings collapsing, entire offices ruined, and schools. The schools throughout the State suffered a lot of damage. In libraries, there were not just shelves collapsing. Books fly off the shelves when you have a 7.0 earthquake. There is another photo of some of the schools with ceilings collapsing and rebar coming out. This is a classroom.

In my view, just having been out there for a couple of days back home, there is at least hundreds of millions of dollars of damage that we saw, and it is still happening. When you have an earthquake of this magnitude, you have aftershocks, which are also very stressful and can be big and can do more damage.

We have had over 2,700 aftershocks in the Anchorage Ball. This is the An-

chorage Ball right here. Twenty of them have been over 4.0, and five have been over 5.0. That is a big earthquake—a 5.0 earthquake. So we have had five more of those. That is stressful, as you can imagine.

People are tired. The first night after the earthquake, nobody was sleeping because of the number of aftershocks.

When I was home, I felt a number of these, but Alaskans are resilient. They have grit. They have spirit. They are tough. The phrase going around to describe the State right now is "shaken"—certainly, still shaken, still going on today—"not broken." There is frustration, and the country is going to need their help to rebuild. I have no doubt that is going to happen here.

Here is the amazing thing. I think it is a Christmas miracle. You saw that destruction. You saw that at rush hour—kids in all of these classrooms, and there were no fatalities, not one death. You can rebuild a road, and you can rebuild a school, but if we were burying our kids right now, this would be a very, very different tragedy.

Remember, just going to work, it was dark. It is dark in Alaska in the morning. It is dark during a lot of the day now in Alaska. It was cold, and yet there were no fatalities and very few injuries.

So what happened? How did that happen? Somebody asked: Where is the positive story here?

Well, we get a lot of earthquakes in Alaska. This is just a chart that shows, from a couple of years ago, what kind of earthquakes we get. The Presiding Officer knows I come and talk about my State a lot, but here are just a few stats on earthquakes.

Alaska is home to the second largest earthquake ever recorded in history—the 1964 Great Alaskan Good Friday earthquake, registering a magnitude of 9.2 on the Richter scale. It lasted almost 5 minutes, if you can imagine that. Then we had a huge tsunami that killed dozens and dozens of people.

Eleven percent of all of the world's recorded earthquakes are in Alaska. Three of the eight largest earthquakes the world has ever seen have been in Alaska, and 7 of the 10 largest earthquakes in the United States were in Alaska. One earthquake registering a magnitude of 7 to 8 on the Richter scale happens every year in Alaska, but they don't normally happen in big, populated areas. There have been six earthquakes registering a magnitude from 6 to 7 on the Richter scale, but, again, not near the major cities. Our State is so big that we have a lot of these, and nobody gets hurt.

Speaking of getting hurt, earthquakes of this size—a 7.0, even a 6.0, even a 5.0—when they are near population centers, normally, in other parts of the world, they do a lot of damage—and they certainly did a lot of damage in Alaska—but, unfortunately, they also take lives.

For example, last year in Indonesia, there was an earthquake registering 6.9

on the Richter scale that killed almost 500 people. It is not just in developing countries. In New Zealand in 2011, there was an earthquake registering 6.3 on the Richter scale that killed over 150 people.

As I said, we were fortunate that there were no deaths. So what is part of the reason for that? Given how many earthquakes we have had over the years, we have learned a lot. The first thing we learned is about building codes. Fortunately—again, thank God—we had no buildings collapse. We have a lot of structures—homes, businesses, schools—that have severe structural damage, but a collapsing building is where you get a lot of deaths. With strong, strict building codes, particularly after the 1964 earthquake, that helps to prevent that.

It is also people who are resilient, tough, and trained. I want to talk a little bit about this because I have no doubt this is why we had no fatalities.

The group I really want to do a shout-out to—and I am just so proud of them—are the students and the teachers who were there in the beginning of the morning. I went through some of the schools just in the last few days, such as Houston Middle School and the elementary school in Eagle River. These schools just look like someone had completely exploded them inside. Yet these kids—young men and women—acted calm, heroic, and, most importantly, they did what they have been trained to do.

In Alaska, because we have so many earthquakes, the kids go through earthquake training all the time. They duck and cover under their desks.

There is a video that has kind of gone viral because I know other kids in the country are looking at it. It is actually from Mr. Benice's class, right when it happened. He is a teacher at the Mears Middle School in Anchorage. The video was on because he was supposed to capture his lesson Friday morning. He is a grad student, and he had to film the class and what he was teaching for his studies.

What the video captured, instead, were the students who are trained to react in ways that it is remarkable how automatic it was. After they saw this in Alaska, one reporter called these kids in this classroom "a well-oiled machine."

What am I talking about? If you watch it, the kids are sitting in their class. The teacher is talking, and you see a little bit of shaking. Boom. Then, every kid, without being told, knew exactly what to do. They were under their desks. Then, you see a lot of shaking, and, then, you see debris starting to come down. If you are not under a desk, you could be seriously injured or even killed by some of what is coming from the ceiling or worse.

In Houston Middle School, when Senator MURKOWSKI and I were touring, there were cinder blocks that were broken and shot out from the ceiling and the wall in these classrooms. Students

are in there, but they were trained, and they were ducking and covering.

In the video from Mr. Benice's classroom, after the shaking was over—it was about a minute, which seems like an eternity when you are in it—a student can be heard asking: "Will they cancel school today?"

Mr. Benice replied: "Well, that is probably not the first thing we need to be worrying about right now."

Yesterday, a niece of one of my staff members here in DC said that the video of Mr. Benice's class was being shown in schools in Iowa, including her school, Prairie View Middle School, in Waukee, IA, because the teachers are telling their students: Hey, this why we train, and this is what you do when there is some kind of natural disaster.

Literally, I have no doubt that the training that happened in Alaska saved lives. I want to thank those kids, those students. I am so proud, and I really, really, want to thank the teachers of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley for doing this training for the kids, month after month and year after year. It obviously paid off.

In terms of the reaction that you see, this why, again, I think all of my constituents are the Alaskans of the Week.

The first responders, as they do in so many emergencies, our local heroes, reacted immediately. Civil engineers and city and State workers immediately checked on all of these highways and bridges and off-ramps, some of which collapsed, and essential infrastructure, such as hospitals. The Port of Anchorage has had all kinds of structural damage, which is very dangerous in terms of the supply chain for my entire State. The U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—gave us real-time information about the earthquakes and, importantly, the potential tsunamis. There were tsunami warnings all over Alaska because of how worried we were, being next to the ocean, that that may have triggered a tsunami. Thankfully, that did not happen.

The State and local officials and the Anchorage Fire Department received hundreds of calls about damaged gas lines. We did have some house fires because of it. We did lose some houses because of it. Our utilities jumped into action. ENSTAR, which is a natural gas company, went to over 700 houses that had reported gas leaks. For the thousands who lost power, they got power back on in a relatively short time. This is very important because when it is 20 degrees in Alaska and we lose power in the winter, it is not as though we can borrow power from Illinois or Kentucky. We are there, alone and unafraid. We have to produce our own power. Yet our utility companies got power back on in my house in a few hours.

Ken Bearman worked for ENSTAR for 46 years before retirement on November 9. Guess what he did as a utility guy. He suited up and came back to

work on the job, to just go out and help people.

That is the other thing. Alaskans went door-to-door checking on their neighbors. Shelters were immediately opened. Hospitals prepared for what they thought were going to be massive injuries and potentially deaths. Churches and nonprofits were available. That is what Alaskans do. When you live out and alone in part of a State that is pretty remote and communities are remote, that is what you have to do.

The other group that kicked into gear—and I do want to thank my colleagues here—was the Federal Government. FEMA launched people almost immediately from the west coast, and we heard from senior Federal officials almost immediately. I want to commend the Trump administration and the rest of the Federal Government for their quick reaction. So many of them are in Alaska now.

Almost within an hour, the President of the United States, who was down in Argentina at the G20, tweeted:

To the great people of Alaska, you have been hit hard by the big one. Please follow the directions of the highly trained professionals who are there to help you. Your Federal Government will spare no expense. God bless you all.

That was from the President.

The Vice President, who was also traveling, called me and Senator MURKOWSKI within a few hours. The Chief of Staff of the White House, General Kelly, called. Every one of them wanted to know: What can we do? How can we help? Who do we need to send?

The Secretary of Transportation—I want to give a special shout-out to Elaine Chao. She has already checked in with me three different times, and they have people on their way up to help with major infrastructure damages. The same with our FEMA Administrator, who has been a busy man, let's face it. Brock Long did a conference call with me, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Congressman YOUNG.

I also want to thank my Senate colleagues. A lot of the press likes to report that we are always battling, that we are always fighting. I don't think that is true, by the way. It is absolutely not true. We have certain things on which we have principled differences, but a lot of action here is bipartisan, and the relationships matter. Within just a few hours, I had several of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, calling, texting, emailing: Hey, Dan, we heard about Alaska. We are seeing these images on TV. We got your back. We are praying for you. And that means a lot.

I was talking to Senator PAT LEAHY, the Senator from Vermont—a Democrat from Vermont—this morning about this very issue. He has seen a lot here in the Senate. He has been in the Senate for a long time—over four decades. Do you know what he said to me? It is important to remember that when these kinds of things happen, it reminds everybody in this body that we

are the United States of America—the United States of America. We take care of each other when we know bad things are happening in different parts of the country.

Kind of related again to this reaction, Senator MURKOWSKI and I had the opportunity to go out to the Incident Command Center. Yes, there are times when you don't feel like the different levels of government are working or coordinating. By the way, our first responders include our military, our National Guard, which does such a great job. This Incident Command Center would give any American pride because they were all there, almost like a battle, like a war, like an op center, for the military people watching. It was FEMA, it was Federal, it was the military, it was the State, and it was local, all working like this, literally working together, hand in glove.

So to my constituents, we are going to have a long road to recovery, there is no doubt about that, but people are already getting on it. There are going to be frustrations, and we have to work through those. I know people are still scared and nervous and wondering how they are going to pay for all the damage, but we are going to work through that together.

For my colleagues here in the Senate, you know, we have had a lot of natural disasters over the last few years—at least since I have been here in the Senate—throughout the country. There were hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana, and Houston, TX. California just went through horrendous wildfires that killed so many of our fellow Americans. This body acts. This body has acted with disaster relief funding.

I remember saying to a number of Senators here and to my constituents that when those big—some of those packages have been big in terms of the funding, in terms of the dollars. Colleagues said: Hey, Dan, we need your vote on this.

None of that money was going to Alaska, but I remember saying each time: You know, I am voting for these packages. Why? I think it is the right thing to do.

Also, let's face it, but for the grace of God go I and my State and my constituents. I live in a State where there are all kinds of natural disasters, such as wildfires, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis. But I think that is the attitude here in general. When bad things happen—particularly natural disasters—to other parts of the country, the vast majority of this body says: Hey, I am going to help. I am going to help.

So I am already getting the sense that my colleagues here will make sure that help comes to Alaska as we continue to assess the damage.

I also want to just mention to the American people who are watching, including Alaskans or folks from the lower 48, Senator MURKOWSKI and Congressman YOUNG and I held a press conference on Friday afternoon after talking to the Federal Government, work-

ing closely with our State leaders, to give people information. It was a national press conference—actually national media coverage—so I took the opportunity—a lot of this was still going on, including aftershocks, and we didn't know. We didn't know if there were 200 people killed. So I asked people watching to pray for their fellow Americans up in Alaska.

As I mentioned, yes, we were prepared. Yes, the building codes in Alaska are probably some of the strongest on the planet. I am so proud of our students, who were trained by great teachers. Our first responders were out there in the cold within minutes, let alone others working, and are still doing it, by the way.

I have no doubt that part of the reason we had zero fatalities, zero deaths with a 7.0 earthquake in a city of almost 300,000 people—in most parts of the world, there would not be zero deaths; there would probably be thousands. I have no doubt that part of the reason is because of those prayers. So I want to thank anyone and everyone who was praying for Alaska that day because I guarantee you, it mattered.

To my fellow Alaskans, I again want to thank you. I think that on Friday and even continuing up to today, you represent the best of America, the best of what we as Americans love to see in our fellow Americans: resilience, toughness, preparedness, and helping each other. That was on display and has been on display, and I couldn't be prouder to represent the great State of Alaska, particularly now.

We have a lot of work to do. There are going to be frustrations. It is going to take time. But be assured that we will be working here and at home—Senator MURKOWSKI and I but also with our colleagues—to make our recovery from this massive earthquake as speedy as possible.

God bless.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1200.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination as follows:

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601 to be Vice Admiral: Vice Admiral James J. Malloy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

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

There being no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Malloy nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

REMEMBERING JACK MACKENZIE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on November 28, Quincy, IL, lost a legend in Coach John "Jack" Butler Mackenzie at the age of 77. Jack was the architect of an amazing soccer program at Quincy University. He led the Franciscan school's soccer program to nine National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, National Championships and 516 victories, making him the tenth all-time in NCAA history for wins, regardless of division. He did all of this while setting examples as a coach, a father, grandfather, and leader.

Jack was born on February 26, 1941, to John "Scottie" and Mary Jane Mackenzie. He attended McBride High School in 1959 and earned a scholarship to play football at the University of Missouri. After a year, Jack left to attend Washington University in St. Louis, earning both a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's in education.

Jack married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Bechtold, in June of 1962. He enjoyed telling people that he fell in love with her in sixth grade. Jack worked at Augustinian Academy in St. Louis and was on the cusp of making a big decision.

In 1969, at the urging of his best friend, Frank Longo, who introduced soccer to Quincy, Jack moved from St. Louis to run the Quincy University soccer program. QU had already won

two NAIA national championships in the program's first 5 years of existence when Jack arrived, but the QU Hawks reached new levels of success under Jack.

Jack's Hawks finished in the top three in the national tournament 12 times, including nine championships. They won five consecutive titles from 1977 to 1981. During his four-decade career, Jack won the NAIA National Coach of the Year four times. Thirty one All-American athletes came out of his program.

Jack loved the game of soccer, and soccer's popularity in Quincy exploded. The Quinsippi Soccer League formed in the late 1960s, helping young kids learn about soccer in elementary school. Jack helped teach adults who volunteered to coach the league, offered practice drills and strategies for helping boys and girls learn the game.

With QU's success, the school moved to NCAA Division I in 1984 and then to Division II in 1995, joining the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Quincy University didn't dominate as they did in the early days of Jack's tenure, but they regularly made the playoffs and had winning records.

In 2011, Jack's Hawks won the Great Lakes Valley Conference for the first time since joining the conference. It was Jack's last season coaching the team full time. It wasn't the biggest victory he had ever had, but it was one he loved like the others.

In retirement, Jack remained active in the community. He helped out with Special Olympics teams. He rarely missed a home game of QU's soccer team. Jack was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, NCAA Hall of Fame, United Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, St. Louis Players, and QU Hall of Fame. Legends Stadium, where QU plays soccer, has its playing surface named after Jack.

Jack Mackenzie had a gift for storytelling and the ability to make someone's day more enjoyable. He loved his "beautiful game," the kids who learned from him, and his family. His best story was really his own. When kids play on Jack Mackenzie field, it will be remembered as a game based on love.

Jack is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sharon, and six children—Scott; Christopher, wife Leigh, and their children, Julian and Isabella; Kevin, wife Susan, and their sons, Andrew, Tyler, and Luke; Brian, wife Bonnie, and their children, Kate and Jack; Beth Hilbing, husband Chad, and their children Jake, Grace, and Sam; and Megan Henke, husband Adam, and their daughter, Genevieve.

TORNADOES IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Saturday, at least 29 tornadoes reportedly touched down in Illinois in Cass, Christian, DeWitt, Fulton, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Montgomery, Pike, Schuyler, and Tazewell Counties in central Illi-

nois. The National Weather Service is still surveying nearby areas but reports this is the biggest December tornado outbreak in the history of Illinois.

One of the touchdowns in Taylorville caused major damage. I spoke with Taylorville mayor Bruce Berry. Thankfully, no fatalities have been reported, but 20 to 30 people were injured and early reports indicate more than 400 homes and buildings were damaged. Several homes have had roofs damaged and torn off, and others were tragically destroyed.

Two days after the storm, 310 households still did not have power, and the schools in Taylorville were closed as a result of the damages. The community is busy cleaning up and utility companies are working to get electricity back on.

I am grateful for the dedication of the local first responders, who rescued residents that were trapped inside their homes due to the tornado damage. These responders still have task forces searching for anyone that might need assistance. Local officials and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency are also working to make sure communities have the resources to protect critical infrastructure and begin to repair damage, a feat that could take months. American Red Cross volunteers are also providing food, shelter, and water to those in need. Across the region, friends and family have stepped up to help those whose homes and businesses were damaged.

The Illinois delegation and I stand ready to assist in any way we can. I want to thank everyone who has been engaged in the response efforts so far, and all those who will take part in rebuilding damaged homes, businesses, and schools. Illinoisans always rebuild and endure, as we have done many times before—and we are stronger for it.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this past weekend the news that George H.W. Bush, our 41st President had died, quickly made its way across the country and around the world.

Today, I would like to honor the late President George Herbert Walker Bush. I appreciate having this opportunity to celebrate the life and accomplishments of President Bush and to mourn him. His loss will be deeply felt by all of us here in Congress, throughout the Nation, and around the world. He is survived by his five children, including former President George W. Bush, former Governor Jeb Bush, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy Bush, his 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Great thinkers, writers, and other speakers will take up their pens and try to determine President Bush's place in history, and they will debate his significance to the United States of America and his effect on the world.

For those of us who lived through his Presidency, who experienced his time as our leader, those questions and debates are unnecessary. His place in history has been determined not by what we say now, but by his actions as President, his dignity as a person, and his compassion for others. His dedication to service and humility remained at the forefront, even as he filled the role as leader of the free world.

I was serving in the Wyoming Legislature and did not work alongside President Bush in Washington, but while I did not have the pleasure of working with him personally, his career and his life speak to what a remarkable man he was. He was a dedicated husband, father, and public servant. He lived his life with honor and distinction, from enlisting in the Navy at the age of 18 during World War II to serving in Congress. He continued his tradition of public service in the executive branch as an ambassador, Vice President, and finally as President. His dedication to serving his country was exemplary.

As an ambassador and negotiator, he was a talented diplomat and powerful champion for America's interests. As President, he worked toward education reform and signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, helping to ensure disabled Americans have opportunities others take for granted.

He was a practical man who preferred prudence and what is real to the abstract and ephemeral. It was this belief in practicality and prudence that allowed him to handle some of the most challenging events in our history with calm tenacity. His pragmatic nature allowed President Bush to collaborate and befriend President Bill Clinton, once his political adversary, to help lead the relief efforts to raise funds for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

During his Presidency, the Cold War finally ended, the Iron Curtain came down, and the people of Eastern Europe chose freedom. These events left a singular super power amid a world free of major conflict, and he aimed to lead the world into an era where the world would recognize its "shared responsibility for freedom and justice, a world where the strong respect the rights of the weak."

President Bush once listed the qualities he most cherished and among them were: "family, . . . love, decency, honor, pride, tolerance, hope, kindness, loyalty, freedom, . . . faith, service to country, [and] fair play . . ." He and Barbara passed those values on to their children and lived them in front of the country. In many different ways, they nurtured the next generation of leaders whose contributions have continued to enrich this Nation.

President Bush's faith helped him through many of the more trying times in his life, through his daughter's death, through his time in war, he was a man who had not one moment but many that helped him turn to God on

his spiritual journey. He once said, "I am guided by certain traditions, one is that there's a God, and He is good and His love, while free has a self-imposed cost: We must be good to one another." This sentiment is emblematic of his life. He served as many things: father, husband, President, humanitarian, and fighter. His life is a study of strong choices and bold strokes across the history of the United States, all of them guided by the strongest fundamentals of right and wrong. I am sure that he is joyous to be reunited with his closest companion, Barbara, and their daughter Robin, in heaven.

While America is remembering a combat veteran, a President, and an ambassador, his family will be remembering a husband and a father. My wife Diana and I send our thoughts and deepest condolences to the entire Bush family as we mourn the passing of a President. The passing of a loved one, especially someone who has meant so much to so many, has never and will never be an easy burden to bear.

How can I adequately speak about the life of a man who has had such a long and distinguished career? By praising the accomplishments of a man who never stopped working to make the world a better place, the man who reached across the political aisle to foster friendships, and by saying thank you.

Thank you for your service. Thank you for your leadership.

God bless you, and may you and your family find peace.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a member of the Senate who will be retiring at this end of this Congress, my colleague and friend, Senator BOB CORKER. I have had the pleasure of serving in the Senate alongside BOB for close to 11 years, and it has been a privilege to work and join with him on a number of legislative efforts. Particularly, I am grateful for his diligent fiscal conservatism on the Budget Committee. I will miss working with him to address our Nation's fiscal issues.

BOB's path to the U.S. Senate began at the young age of 25, when he founded his own construction company, which would eventually expand operations in over 18 States. He continued to polish his business acumen thereafter, acquiring two of the largest real estate companies in Chattanooga in 1999. As a testament to his success in business, he would later be inducted into the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. BOB carried his business-oriented results-driven attitude with him when he ran for mayor in the scenic city of Chattanooga, TN, at the turn of the millennium. As mayor, BOB excelled, delivering to Chattanooga denizens a lean and balanced city budget while also lowering the tax rate, among other

noteworthy accomplishments. BOB's path to Washington is one that we shared. I, too, was a businessowner and a mayor before serving in the U.S. Senate.

BOB's commitment to public service didn't end in Chattanooga—far from it. His career was just beginning to take off. In 2006, he won one of the most competitive U.S. Senate races of the year. Incidentally, that was the year I met BOB. My initial impressions of him still hold true today: industrious and principled. Later, I would realize our shared experiences as businessowners and as mayors uniquely shaped our understanding of the proper role and scope of the Federal Government. BOB quickly ascended in Washington, becoming chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and making a name for himself on the Banking Committee. His reputation soon preceded him on a host of issue areas, including housing finance reform and strategic diplomacy abroad. He made his disagreements respectfully clear and stood up for what he believed was right. Evidently, the people of Tennessee liked what they saw and handily elected him to a second term.

BOB should be incredibly proud of his work and tenure as chairman of Foreign Relations Committee. His breadth of experience on the committee and visits to over 70 countries have provided his colleagues with invaluable institutional insight on the impact American leadership and diplomacy abroad continues to have on our economy and national security. The Electrify Africa Act is a significant achievement of the committee I would like to pay special homage to. The bill states it is the policy of the United States to promote first-time power services for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020. Having traveled to Africa myself and witnessed firsthand the severe shortage of electricity-generating infrastructure, I know that BOB's bill was a noble one. He worked tirelessly on it before it was signed into law in 2015.

It is with these memories of his service that I watch him depart the Senate. His bold presence and tested leadership will be profoundly missed. The mark he has left on the institution will not be forgotten. My wife Diana joins me in sending our very best wishes and gratitude to BOB for his public service. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and we are happy he will be able to spend more time with his wife Elizabeth and his three children.

BOB, from one Sigma Chi alum to another, "In Hoc Signo Vinces". May you continue to pursue a life of high ideals, noble purposes, and strong character.

Happy trails.

THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I wish to speak on S. 1862, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Would the Senator from Tennessee, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, yield for a question? As the sponsor of this legislation, would you explain how our bill relates to international exchange programs run by the Department of State that collect program fees to fund program operations?

Mr. CORKER. I appreciate the Senator's question and his partnership with me on this legislation to advance the fight against modern-day slavery.

Our bill and the underlying Trafficking Victims Protection Act are designed to eliminate forced labor around the world and do not affect the Exchange Visitor Programs, under the J-1 visa, which is authorized by Congress and administered by the State Department. The J-1 exchange programs are important tools that Congress authorized to enhance mutual exchange and cultural understanding between people in the United States and other countries, and they are subject to regulatory safeguards and oversight by the Department of State. Recruitment and placement fees referenced in S. 1862 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act are fundamentally different from the program fees in our international exchange programs, which are fees required to be charged to program participants who receive J-1 visas in order to fund the program. Our legislation does not affect the exchange programs, which are an important diplomatic tool which I strongly support.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the Senator from Tennessee. I appreciate your explanation, which also reflects my understanding, about the difference between international exchange program fees and placement and recruitment fees covered by the bill. Let me conclude by saying that I agree with you about the importance of our International Exchange Programs administered by the Department of State, and I know that Congress has long supported these programs.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator from New Jersey and our distinguished ranking member for his question and for working with me to pass this important legislation.

HONORING DURELL WADE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, 77 years after being killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, AD2 Durell Wade of Calhoun County, MS, will be laid to rest in the North Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

On December 7, 1941, 429 men lost their lives aboard the U.S.S. *Oklahoma*, including Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Wade.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1936 and was in line to be promoted to chief aviation machinist mate shortly before his death. His service in the U.S. Navy helped in the ultimate fight to protect our liberty.

The U.S. Department of Defense and its Defense POW/MIA Accounting

Agency deserve commendation for its work to identify casualties, like Durell Wade, and offer some measure of closure to families of fallen servicemembers.

In this instance, I am pleased that Wade's family, including his 99-year-old sister Nancy, have an opportunity to be part of a burial ceremony with full military honors in Kilmichael, MS.

So many families in Mississippi lost loved ones during World War II, but Durell's long absence made this family's sacrifice all the more heart-breaking.

I hope the families of those who perished on the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* will find comfort and peace in knowing their loved one's service in defense of our Nation helped in the ultimate fight to protect our liberty.

I ask unanimous consent that an August 18, 2018, article from *The Baton Rouge Advocate* titled, "Pearl Harbor casualty's remains getting a proper funeral ends lifetime of wondering for Baton Rouge family members," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[August 18, 2018]

PEARL HARBOR CASUALTY'S REMAINS GETTING A PROPER FUNERAL ENDS LIFETIME OF WONDERING FOR BATON ROUGE FAMILY MEMBERS
(By George Morris)

Seventy-seven years after he was killed, sailor Durell Wade will finally get a proper burial. For his Baton Rouge nephew, it ends a lifetime of wondering.

"I knew that I had his name, and I knew that he died at Pearl Harbor," said Dr. Larry Wade, 75, whose middle name is Durell. "I'd think about him a lot but never explored and tried to know more about him. He was just Uncle Durell who had been killed at Pearl."

This spring, Wade's family learned that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified their relative's remains, as well as others of his shipmates who died in the attack that launched the United States into World War II. Naturally, the family is grateful.

"Because his body wasn't recovered when his immediate family was still alive, they didn't have that resolution," said Lauren McAdams, Larry Wade's daughter. "Obviously, we know now it was a time of a lot of distress because there was the confusion of had he survived or had he not."

Durell Wade, who was born in rural Calhoun County, Mississippi, in 1917, was an aviation machinist mate aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He had enlisted in the Navy in 1936 and re-enlisted four years later.

Larry Wade's research on his uncle revealed him to be a cheerful person who loved to joke and laugh. Late in her life, Durell Wade's oldest sister, Orena, said he "loved his life aboard the USS *Oklahoma* (and) bragged that it could not be sunk."

Wade, who was not married, had written home on Sept. 27, 1941, pleased to report that he had passed tests to be promoted to chief aviation machinist mate.

"In one of his letters, he mentioned his fiancé had broken up with him," Larry Wade said. "He last saw her when he was an aviation machinist's mate third class, and he wanted to propose to her but he knew he could not support her on the kind of income he had then. Right after that, she sent him a 'Dear John' letter and she married another guy. He mentions that in one of his letters."

On Dec. 7, 1941, five torpedoes from enemy aircraft struck the battleship, which capsized in less than 12 minutes, trapping hundreds of sailors in their battle stations below deck. The attack killed 429 men on the *Oklahoma*.

Those who perished inside the overturned ship remained there for more than a year before the ship could be righted. Remains that were recovered were hastily buried, said Chuck Pritchard, public affairs director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

After the war ended in 1945, remains were disinterred to identify them using forensic methods available at the time. Thirty-five were identified, and the rest buried again.

In 2015, remains from the *Oklahoma* were disinterred for DNA testing. Family members, including Larry Wade, were contacted to provide DNA samples.

So far, 146 remains from the *Oklahoma* have been identified. It's a tiny fraction of the roughly 72,000 unaccounted-for military losses from World War II, but it's meaningful to each family, Pritchard said.

Larry Wade, Lauren McAdams and her husband, Brendan McAdams, met with Navy representatives on Aug. 2 at the American Legion Nicholson Post 38 hall, where they received an inch-thick notebook that included details of how the DPAA identified his remains. The notebook also had copies of letters between the Navy and family members that revealed something living family members never knew—that the family erroneously had been told that Durell Wade had survived before authorities confirmed his death.

"That stirred the family up quite a lot," Larry Wade said.

The Navy will pay to have Durell Wade's remains returned and buried, and the funeral is set for Dec. 7—the 77th anniversary of his death—at North Mississippi Veterans' Memorial Park in Kilmichael, Mississippi.

"I have his name and my grandson has his name, but still, Uncle Durell was just an idea from Pearl Harbor," Larry Wade said. "I've learned a lot about him (by) reading and talking to family members. He's come much more alive as a person."

TRIBUTE TO SARAH HARTLEY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Sarah Hartley, a member of my staff who has served the people of Arkansas over the last 20 years and who will retire later this month.

Sarah first began her congressional career in 1998 working for then-Congressman Asa Hutchinson. When I was elected to fill Representative Hutchinson's seat representing Arkansas's Third Congressional District in 2001, I was fortunate to have Sarah join my staff lending her expertise in constituent services.

As a caseworker based in north-central Arkansas, she has been the primary point of contact for my office when constituents were facing difficulties related to their Social Security. She personally assisted thousands of Arkansans who were often facing the most difficult moments of their lives. Her kindness and patience have been a source of comfort and hope, and her persistence has solved countless problems that changed lives.

Excellent constituent service has been a commitment of mine since I en-

tered public office, and I am indebted and very grateful to Sarah for her many years helping to deliver just that for so many throughout the course of her career.

While I regret that her time as a member of my staff is coming to an end, I truly respect and appreciate her commitment to helping her fellow Arkansans these last two decades. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her to help get answers for constituents who had nowhere else to turn. Sarah's knowledge and relationships were the reason that many casework requests were brought to a positive conclusion.

My staff and I will miss her many contributions to the important work of assisting Arkansans and being their advocate on matters involving the Federal Government. Even so, I wish her all the best in this next chapter. She will now have more time to do the things she loves, including spending time outdoors exploring everything the Natural State has to offer.

Again, I want to congratulate Sarah on her 20 years of service and extend my sincere, heartfelt thanks for the dedication and skill she brought to the job each day as a member of my staff. The difference she has made in the lives of so many Arkansans is a testament to how blessed my staff and I were to serve with her.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIP MORGAN

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am proud to honor Chip Morgan of Leland, MS, for his contributions to the State of Mississippi and the Nation, while serving as Delta Council executive vice president.

Delta Council was founded in 1935 by farmers, entrepreneurs and educators committed to improving agriculture production, transportation, and flood control in the Mississippi Delta. Over the years, Delta Council has become a highly respected economic development organization representing a wide range of issues for northwest Mississippi. I commend Delta Council for its continuous role in improving the quality of life in this unique part of our country, and I applaud Chip Morgan for his many years of good leadership.

Chip began his work with Delta Council in 1975, and was promoted to executive vice president in 1982. Under his leadership, Delta Council expanded its influence beyond agriculture and related industry, which are themselves vital to the economic well-being of the Delta and my State overall. The Delta Council today is involved in a number of important areas, including access to healthcare, funding for higher education, improving adult literacy, among many others. Throughout his tenure as executive vice president, Chip has helped transform innovative concepts and strategies, into meaningful results.

The positive impact Chip has had cannot be quantified, and his awards and achievements are best illustrated by the changes he has made for the Mississippi Delta, rather than on plaques or certificates. Whether through his input on eight farm bills, the successful completion of flood control projects which have brought 100-year flood protection to Delta communities, or his work on major four-lane highway legislation for the State of Mississippi, Chip Morgan has made a difference.

Although a native of Oxford, MS, and a graduate of the University of Mississippi, Chip has dedicated his entire professional career to making the Mississippi Delta a better place to live. After leading Delta Council for over four decades, he will soon turn over his role as executive vice president to the more than capable hands of Frank Howell. I wish Frank the best.

I am pleased to offer well-deserved congratulations to Chip Morgan on his impressive tenure as council executive vice president. I also share this appreciation with his wife, Connie, their two children, Trey and Lindsey, and the many individuals Chip has guided and worked with toward positive outcomes for the Delta and all Mississippi.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 143. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2377. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 3414. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Ferry Road in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, as the "Captain Matthew J. August Post Office".

S. 3442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 Duff Street in Macon, Missouri, as the "Arta W. Harrell Post Office".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 2:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 754. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

H.J. Res. 143. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill and joint resolution were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 6, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2377. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 3414. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Ferry Road in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, as the "Captain Matthew J. August Post Office".

S. 3442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 Duff Street in Macon, Missouri, as the "Arta W. Harrell Post Office".

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-7374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the ongoing U.S. Government recovery effort of Hurricane Maria; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7375. A communication from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7376. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2018-19 and 2019-20 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations" (RIN1018-BB38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7377. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures on Making a Method Change to Comply with Section 451(b)" (Rev. Proc. 2018-60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7378. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration—Applicable Dollar Amounts" (Notice 2018-93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7379. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of bolt-action rifles, components, and sound suppressors to New Zealand in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-060); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7380. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to support the design, development, production, manufacture, assembly, operation, repair, testing, inspection, maintenance, modification, and upgrades of the Evolved SeaSparrow Missile (ESSM) Block 1 in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-135); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7381. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom to support the delivery, manufacture, and testing of conventional edge control surfaces for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7382. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the Philippines to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, testing, maintenance, and repair of 22 TCM and 22 TCM 9R ammunition cartridges in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-096); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7383. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of semi-automatic rifles and pistols, and bolt-action rifles to Peru for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-041); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7384. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Saudi Arabia to support the integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, and repair of the Patriot Air Defense System (Configuration 3), including upgrade to the Patriot Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical (GEMT) in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-014); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act,

the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of rifles, flash hiders, and rifle major component parts to Canada for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-071); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7386. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the United Kingdom to support the design, manufacture, integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, repair, marketing, and sale of the Brimstone Weapon System in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-087); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7387. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 9mm semi-automatic pistols to Denmark in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-076); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7388. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Department of the Treasury's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7389. A communication from the Officer, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2017 annual report for the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the Judiciary; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-7390. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7391. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7392. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the establishment of time limitations for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title 1 of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-311. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to asylum; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany S. 1403, a bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-420).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 32. A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-421).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 1857, a bill to establish a compliance deadline of May 15, 2023, for Step 2 emissions standards for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces (Rept. No. 115-422).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-423).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1548. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. James J. Malloy, to be Vice Admiral.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3714. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 3715. A bill to establish a National Wildlife Corridors Program to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3716. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to repeal the forfeiture rule for peanuts under the nonrecourse marketing

assistance loan program, prohibit the use of Federal funds for certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 3717. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit certain unfair credit practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3718. A bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3719. A bill to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer's Law and Kristen's Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3720. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide loans for the acquisition of electric buses and related infrastructure; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3721. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of the term "family farmer"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3722. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to provide a criminal penalty for unauthorized disclosures by officers or employees of a Federal agency of certain living will and stress test determinations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3723. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for the registration of venture exchanges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 3724. A bill to improve the processing and oversight by the Federal Government of security clearances and background investigations, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3725. A bill to prohibit States from retroactively imposing a sales tax collection duty on a remote seller, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3726. A bill to amend the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act to clarify seasoning requirements for certain refinanced mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 3727. A bill to promote remediation of orphan hardrock mines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 3728. A bill to promote the provision of exercise or fitness equipment, and exercise or fitness classes and instruction, that are accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3729. A bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3730. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain teachers as a supplement to State efforts to provide teachers with a livable wage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3731. A bill to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 716. A resolution calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 717. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichand; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution recognizing the honorable service of military working dogs and soldier handlers in the tactical explosive detection dog program of the Army and encouraging the Army and other government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, with former tactical explosive detection dogs to prioritize adoption of the dogs to former tactical explosive detection dog handlers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award job training Federal Pell Grants.

S. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1446

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1446, a bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

S. 1809

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation's cities.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the child tax credit fully refundable, establish an increased child tax credit for young children, and for other purposes.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress certain documents relating to the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2219

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2718

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2718, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses incurred in the trade or business of being an employee.

S. 3172

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 3181

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3181, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 3422

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3422, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3470, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 3611

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 3611, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to facilitate the disclosure of tax return information to carry out the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 3649

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3649, a bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

S. 3688

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3688, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make it a criminal offense for individuals to engage in sexual acts while acting under color of law or with individuals in their

custody, to encourage States to adopt similar laws, and for other purposes.

S. 3698

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3698, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

S. 3702

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3702, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program.

S.J. RES. 64

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 64, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Returns by Exempt Organizations and Returns by Certain Non-Exempt Organizations".

S. RES. 633

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 633, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3719. A bill to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer's Law and Kristen's Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3719

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. USE OF GRANT FUNDS.

(a) JENNIFER'S LAW.—Jennifer's Law (34 U.S.C. 40501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 202 (34 U.S.C. 40501) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 202. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award grants to eligible entities described in paragraph (2), with priority given to eligible entities in southern border States, to enable the eligible entities to improve the transportation, processing, identification, and reporting of missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrants.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Eligible entities described in this paragraph are the following:

"(A) States and units of local government.

"(B) Accredited, government-funded, Combined DNA Index System (commonly known as 'CODIS') forensic laboratories, which demonstrate the grant funds will be used for DNA typing and uploading biological family DNA reference samples, including samples from foreign nationals, into CODIS, subject to the protocols for inclusion of such forensic DNA profiles into CODIS, and the privacy protections required under section 203(c).

"(C) Medical examiners offices.

"(D) Accredited, publicly funded toxicology laboratories.

"(E) Accredited, publicly funded crime laboratories.

"(F) Publicly funded university forensic anthropology center laboratories.

"(G) Nonprofit organizations that have working collaborative agreements with State and county forensic offices, including medical examiners, coroners, and justices of the peace, for entry of data into CODIS or the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (commonly known as 'NamUs'), or both.";

(2) in section 203 (34 U.S.C. 40502)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "a State" and inserting "an entity described in section 202";

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "State" and inserting "applicant";

(ii) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) report to the National Crime Information Center and, when possible, to law enforcement authorities throughout the applicant's jurisdiction regarding every deceased unidentified person, regardless of age, found in the applicant's jurisdiction";

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(iv) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) collect and report information to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) regarding missing persons and unidentified remains."; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR BIOLOGICAL FAMILY REFERENCE SAMPLES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any suspected biological family DNA reference samples received from citizens of the United States or foreign nationals and uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (commonly referred to as 'CODIS') by an accredited, government-funded CODIS forensic laboratory awarded a grant under this section may be used only for identifying missing persons and unidentified remains.

"(2) LIMITATION ON USE.—Any biological family DNA reference samples from citizens of the United States or foreign nationals entered into CODIS for purposes of identifying missing persons and unidentified remains may not be disclosed to a Federal or State law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes."; and

(3) by striking section 204 (34 U.S.C. 40503) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 205. USE OF FUNDS.

"An applicant receiving a grant award under this title may use such funds to—

"(1) pay for the costs incurred during or after fiscal year 2017 for the transportation, processing, identification, and reporting of missing persons and unidentified remains, including migrants;

"(2) establish and expand programs developed to improve the reporting of unidentified persons in accordance with the assurances provided in the application submitted pursuant to section 203(b);

"(3) hire and maintain additional DNA case analysts and technicians, fingerprint examiners, forensic odontologists, and forensic anthropologists, needed to support such identification programs; and

"(4) procure and maintain state of the art multi-modal, multi-purpose forensic and DNA-typing and analytical equipment.".

(b) KRISTEN'S ACT.—Section 3 of Kristen's Act (34 U.S.C. 40504 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.

"The Attorney General is authorized to use funds otherwise appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act.".

SEC. 3. RESCUE BEACONS.

Section 411(o) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(o)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) RESCUE BEACONS.—Beginning in fiscal year 2019, in carrying out subsection (c)(8), the Commissioner shall purchase, deploy, and maintain not more than 170 self-powering, 9-1-1 cellular relay rescue beacons along the southern border of the United States at locations determined appropriate by the Commissioner to mitigate migrant deaths.".

SEC. 4. REPORTING ON NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS (NAMUS) PROGRAM.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this act, and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the number of unidentified person cases processed;

(2) CODIS associations and identifications;

(3) the number of anthropology cases processed;

(4) the number of suspected border crossing cases and associations made;

(5) the number of trials supported with expert testimony;

(6) the number of students trained and professions of those students, and

(7) the turnaround time and backlog.

SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding all unidentified remains discovered, during the reporting period, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on or near the border between the United States and Mexico, including—

(1) for each deceased person—

(A) the cause and manner of death, if known;

(B) the sex, age (at time of death), and country of origin (if such information is determinable);

(C) the location of each unidentified remain; and

(2) the total number of deceased people whose unidentified remains were discovered

by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the reporting period;

(3) the efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to engage with nongovernmental organizations, institutions of higher education, medical examiners and coroners, and law enforcement agencies—

(A) to identify and map the locations at which migrant deaths occur; and

(B) to count the number of deaths that occur at such locations; and

(4) a detailed description of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Missing Migrant Program, including how the program helps mitigate migrant deaths while maintaining border security.

(b) **RESCUE BEACONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the use of rescue beacons along the border between the United States and Mexico, including, for the reporting period—

(1) the number of rescue beacons in each border patrol sector;

(2) the specific location of each rescue beacon;

(3) the frequency with which each rescue beacon was activated by a person in distress;

(4) a description of the nature of the distress that resulted in each rescue beacon activation (if such information is determinable); and

(5) an assessment, in consultation with local stakeholders, including elected officials, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners, of necessary additional rescue beacons and recommendations for locations for deployment to reduce migrant deaths.

(c) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the report required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the same committees that describes—

(1) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection collects and records border-crossing death data;

(2) the differences (if any) in U.S. Customs and Border Protection border-crossing death data collection methodology across its sectors;

(3) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection's data and statistical analysis on trends in the numbers, locations, causes, and characteristics of border-crossing deaths compare to other sources of data on these deaths, including border county medical examiners and coroners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(4) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection measures the effectiveness of its programs to mitigate migrant deaths; and

(5) the extent to which U.S. Customs and Border Protection engages Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, foreign diplomatic and consular posts, and nongovernmental organizations—

(A) to accurately identify deceased individuals;

(B) to resolve cases involving unidentified remains;

(C) to resolve cases involving unidentified persons; and

(D) to share information on missing persons and unidentified remains, specifically with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 716—CALLING FOR CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 716

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilateral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and National Assembly elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria over the last two decades since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that 72 percent of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

Whereas successive elections in Nigeria have featured varying degrees of violence;

Whereas there have been deeply concerning instances of hate speech in Nigeria by members of both the ruling coalition and the opposition inciting supporters to ethnic violence as a means by which to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, or suppress voter turnout;

Whereas, during the Ekiti and Osun gubernatorial elections in July 2018 and September 2018, respectively, there were concerning incidents in which some elements of Nigeria's security agencies displayed partisanship and a lack of objectivity, which risks escalating tensions within the country;

Whereas Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has improved the voting process, notably through the introduction of continuous voter registration, the adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, and the advancement of smart card reader technology;

Whereas the statement of the September 2018 Joint National Democratic Institute/International Republican Institute Pre-Election Assessment Mission to Nigeria cited remaining challenges and concerns such as delays in finalizing the legal framework for the elections, delayed release of funds for the elections, security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, instances of vote-buying, and incitement to violence and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital for the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate elections that are credible, transparent, and peaceful in order to support the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of hate speech and incitement to violence, and refrain from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through the legal system as necessary; and

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journalists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely;

(C) move expeditiously to finalize the proposed reforms to the legal framework for elections and to ensure the disbursement of requisite funds for the 2019 elections, and

(D) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application through such measures as the establishment of the Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by—

(A) taking concrete measures to combat vote buying through voter education campaigns, enforcement of laws against voter inducement, and a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(B) releasing specimen ballots well in advance of Election Day so that civil society and other electoral stakeholders can conduct sufficient education to orient voters;

(C) making adequate arrangements to ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) taking steps to clean the voter roll and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate election-related violence, including through efforts to monitor hate speech and other forms of incitement, and further strengthen democratic processes;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State, including the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist election-related preparation in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of the elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working towards transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

SENATE RESOLUTION 717—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REBECCA TERESA WEICHHAND

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 717

Whereas Rebecca (“Becky”) Teresa Weichhand was born on February 25, 1982;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was from Stevensville, Michigan, a town of just over 1,000 people, 1 stop light, and a noon whistle to call the farmers in from the fields for lunch;

Whereas, at the age of 10, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand knew she wanted to be a lawyer;

Whereas, in her first year of college, on a trip to Romania to volunteer with abandoned children in hospitals and orphanages, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand knew she wanted to use the law to support families and ensure that every child had a place to call home;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornerstone University and a law degree from Regent University;

Whereas, during law school, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was named a Blackstone Legal Fellow and spent a summer in Strasbourg, France, participating in the Regent Human Rights Program;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand served tirelessly as a passionate advocate for children in foster care and the importance that every child have a forever family;

Whereas, as an intern for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in 2008, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand found her home base for her career and platform for service;

Whereas, as Policy Director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute from 2009 to 2014, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) worked closely with Members of Congress and congressional staff to raise awareness about adoption, foster care, and issues impacting the welfare of children; and

(2) led 3 major international policy projects focused on the welfare of children in Haiti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Guatemala;

Whereas, as Executive Director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Insti-

tute from 2014 to 2018, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) led with passion, gratitude, and an unwavering voice for children in need of families; and

(2) played an integral role in supporting the Federal adoption tax credit (section 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

Whereas, while serving at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) initiated the Foster Youth Internship policy report project, where former foster youth provide detailed recommendations on child welfare policy to Members of Congress;

(2) oversaw the completion of 11 annual policy reports; and

(3) served as an advisor, mentor, friend, and extended family member to 11 classes of foster youth interns;

Whereas, through tireless work at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) played a significant role in the Angels in Adoption program, recognizing the contributions of individuals, families, and organizations across the United States to children through adoption and improvements in the foster care system; and

(2) expanded the scope of the Angels in Adoption program to connect Angels to Members of Congress and congressional staff, enhancing—

(A) the reach of the personal stories of the Angels; and

(B) advocacy for children in need of families;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was a person of strong faith and lived her beliefs through actions of generosity, kindness, and service to others;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand passed away on November 27, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer; and

Whereas the Senate should continue to work in a bipartisan manner to improve outcomes for all at-risk children, with the goal of ensuring that every child has a forever family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedication of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand to the children in our world who are in need of a permanent, safe, and loving family and the accomplishments and advocacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand on behalf of those children;

(2) honors the memory of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand by expressing the intent of the Senate to continue working in a bipartisan manner to improve outcomes for youth in foster care, with the goal of ensuring that every child has a forever family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to follow the example of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand in expressing kindness, love in action, and compassion for those who need it most.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND SOLDIER HANDLERS IN THE TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG PROGRAM OF THE ARMY AND ENCOURAGING THE ARMY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WITH FORMER TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOGS TO PRIORITIZE ADOPTION OF THE DOGS TO FORMER TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG HANDLERS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following

concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the 341st Training Squadron, 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base provides highly trained military working dogs to the Department of Defense and other government agencies;

Whereas in 2010, the operational needs of the Army for military working dogs increased without an increase in resources to train a sufficient number of dogs for the detection of improvised explosive devices at the 341st Training Squadron;

Whereas the Army initiated the tactical explosive detection dog program in August 2010 as a nontraditional military working dog program to train and field improvised explosive device detection dogs for use in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dog program was created to reduce casualties from improvised explosive devices in response to an increase in the use of asymmetric weapons by the enemy;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dogs were a unique subset of military working dogs because the Army selected and trained soldiers from deploying units to serve as temporary handlers for only the duration of deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dogs and their soldier handlers, like other military working dog and handler teams, formed strong bonds while training for combat and performing extremely dangerous improvised explosive device detection missions in service to the United States;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dog program was a nontraditional military working dog program that terminated in February 2014;

Whereas at the termination of the tactical explosive detection dog program in February 2014, neither United States law nor Department of Defense policy established an adoption order priority, and Department of Defense policy only provided that military working dogs be adopted by former handlers, law enforcement agencies, and other persons capable of humanely caring for the animals;

Whereas an August 2016 report to Congress by the Air Force entitled “Tactical Explosive Detector Dog (TEDD) Adoption Report” concluded that the Army had a limited transition window for the disposition of tactical explosive detection dogs and the lack of a formal comprehensive plan contributed to the disorganized disposition process for the tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas the August 2016 report stated that, in 2014, the Army disposed of 229 tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas 40 tactical explosive detection dogs were adopted by handlers, 47 dogs were adopted by private individuals, 70 dogs were transferred to Army units, 17 dogs were transferred to other government agencies, 46 dogs were transferred to law enforcement agencies, and 9 dogs were deceased;

Whereas the disposition of tactical explosive detection dogs was poorly executed, proper procedures outlined in Department of Defense policy were ignored, and, as a result, the former soldier handlers were not provided the opportunity to adopt their tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas the Army should have deliberately planned for the disposition of the tactical explosive detection dogs and provided appropriate time to review and consider adoption applications to mitigate handler and civilian adoption issues;

Whereas section 342(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 129 Stat. 793) amended section 2583(c) of title 10, United States Code, to modify the list of persons authorized to adopt a military animal and prioritize the list with preference, respectively, to former handlers, other persons capable of humanely caring for the animal, and law enforcement agencies;

Whereas since 2000, Congress has passed legislation that protects military working dogs, promotes their welfare, and recognizes the needs of their veteran handlers;

Whereas Congress continues to provide oversight of military working dogs to prevent a recurrence of the disposition issues that affected tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas former soldier handlers should be reunited with their tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas congressional recognition of the military service of tactical explosive detection dogs and their former soldier handlers is a small measure of gratitude this legislative body can convey; and

Whereas over 4 years have passed since the termination of the tactical explosive detection dog program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the service of military working dogs and soldier handlers from the tactical explosive detection dog program;

(2) acknowledges that not all tactical explosive detection dogs were adopted by their former soldier handlers;

(3) encourages the Army and other government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, with former tactical explosive detection dogs to prioritize adoption to former tactical explosive detection dog handlers; and

(4) honors the sacrifices made by tactical explosive detection dogs and their soldier handlers in combat.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4069. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3119, to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

SA 4070. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. YOUNG) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2276, to require agencies to submit reports on outstanding recommendations in the annual budget justification submitted to Congress.

SA 4071. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2454, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes.

SA 4072. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5075, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4069. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3119, to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and

its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) preventing predation by sea lions, recovery of listed salmonid stocks, and preventing future listings of fish stocks in the Columbia River under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is a vital priority; and

(2) the Federal Government should continue to fund lethal and nonlethal removal, and deterrence, measures for preventing such predation.

SEC. 3. TAKING OF SEA LIONS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES OF SALMON AND OTHER NONLISTED FISH SPECIES.

Section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) TEMPORARY MARINE MAMMAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY ON THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES.—

“(1) REMOVAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may issue a permit to an eligible entity to authorize the intentional lethal taking on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries of individually identifiable sea lions that are part of a population or stock that is not categorized under this Act as depleted or strategic for the purpose of protecting—

“(A) species of salmon, steelhead, or eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

“(B) species of lamprey or sturgeon that are not so listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern.

“(2) PERMIT PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may apply to the Secretary for a permit under this subsection.

“(B) TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES OF APPLICATION.—The timelines and procedures described in subsection (c) shall apply to applications for permits under this subsection in the same manner such timelines apply to applications under subsection (b).

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to coordinate issuance of permits under this subsection, including application procedures and timelines, delegation and revocation of permits to and between eligible entities, monitoring, periodic review, and geographic, seasonal take, and species-specific considerations.

“(D) DURATION OF PERMIT.—A permit under this subsection shall be effective for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed by the Secretary.

“(3) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TAKINGS.—The Secretary shall apply the process for determining limitations on annual take of sea lions under subsection (c) to determinations on limitations under this subsection, and the cumulative number of sea lions authorized to be taken each year under all permits in effect under this subsection shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual potential biological removal level for sea lions.

“(4) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—Intentional lethal takings under this subsection shall—

“(A) be humane within the meaning of such term under section 3(4);

“(B) require that capture, husbandry, transportation, and euthanasia protocols are

based on standards propagated by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and that primary euthanasia be limited to humane chemical methods; and

“(C) be implemented by agencies or qualified individuals described in subsection (c)(4), or by individuals employed by the eligible entities described in paragraph (6).

“(5) SUSPENSION OF PERMITTING AUTHORITY.—If, 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, the Secretary, after consulting with State and tribal fishery managers, determines that lethal removal authority is no longer necessary to protect salmonid and other fish species from sea lion predation, the Secretary shall suspend the issuance of permits under this subsection.

“(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River, from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries in the State of Washington, and its tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and the State of Idaho;

“(ii) with respect to removal in the mainstem Columbia River from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries within the State of Washington and in any of its tributaries above Bonneville Dam within the State of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; and

“(iii) with respect to removal in the Willamette River and other tributaries of the Columbia River within the State of Oregon below Bonneville Dam, a committee recognized by the Secretary under subparagraph (D).

“(B) DELEGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may allow eligible entities described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) to delegate their authority under a permit under this subsection to the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission for removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries within the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(C) ADDITIONAL DELEGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may allow an eligible entity described in subparagraph (A)(i) to delegate its authority under a permit under this subsection to any entity described in subclause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(D) COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall recognize a committee established in accordance with this subparagraph as being eligible for a permit under this subsection, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(ii) MEMBERSHIP.—A committee established under this subparagraph shall consist of the State of Oregon and each of the following:

“(I) The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians or the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, or both.

“(II) The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs or the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, or both.

“(iii) MAJORITY AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—A committee established under this subparagraph may take action with respect to a permit application and removal under this subsection only with majority agreement by the committee members.

“(iv) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a committee established under this subparagraph.

“(7) INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be individually identifiable.

“(8) SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located in the mainstem of the Columbia River upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be having a significant negative impact, within the meaning of subsection (b)(1).

“(9) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

SEC. 4. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty or other right of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall study and report to Congress on the effects of deterrence and the lethal taking of sea lions on the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River subject to section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)), as amended by this Act.

SA 4070. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. YOUNG) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2276, to require agencies to submit reports on outstanding recommendations in the annual budget justification submitted to Congress; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act” or the “GAO-IG Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency” means—

(1) a designated Federal entity, as defined in section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.);

(2) an establishment, as defined in section 12(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(3) legislative branch agencies, including the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the United States Capitol Police.

(b) REQUIRED REPORTS.—In the annual budget justification submitted to Congress,

as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, each agency shall include—

(1) a report listing each public recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented” for a period of not less than 1 year preceding the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted;

(2) a report listing each public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that—

(A) was published not less than 1 year before the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(B) for which no final action was taken as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(3) a report on the implementation status of each public recommendation described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which shall include—

(A) with respect to a public recommendation that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”—

(i) that the agency has decided not to implement, a detailed justification for the decision; or

(ii) that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for full implementation, to the extent practicable, if the agency determines that the recommendation has clear budget implications;

(B) with respect to a public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action or action not recommended has been taken, an explanation of the reasons why no final action or action not recommended was taken with respect to each audit report to which the public recommendation for corrective action pertains;

(C) with respect to an outstanding unimplemented public recommendation from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for implementation;

(D) an explanation for any discrepancy between—

(i) the reports submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the semiannual reports submitted by the Office of Inspector General of the agency under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(iii) reports submitted by the Government Accountability Office relating to public recommendations that are designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”; and

(E) for the first 12 months after a public recommendation is made, if the agency is determining whether to implement the public recommendation, a statement describing that the agency is doing so, which shall exempt the agency from the requirements under subparagraphs (B) and (C) with respect to that public recommendation.

(c) COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS.—Each agency shall provide a copy of the information submitted under subsection (b) to the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General of the agency.

SEC. 3. TIMELINE FOR AGENCY STATEMENTS.

Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “61st” and inserting “181st”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “60” and inserting “180”.

SA 4071. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2454, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data

framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, 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 Data Framework Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DATA FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop a data framework to integrate existing Department of Homeland Security datasets and systems, as appropriate, for access by authorized personnel in a manner consistent with relevant legal authorities and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the framework required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the following information is included:

(A) All information acquired, held, or obtained by an office or component of the Department of Homeland Security that falls within the scope of the information sharing environment, including homeland security information, terrorism information, weapons of mass destruction information, and national intelligence.

(B) Any information or intelligence relevant to priority mission needs and capability requirements of the homeland security enterprise, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) DATA FRAMEWORK ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the data framework required under this section is accessible to employees of the Department of Homeland Security who the Secretary determines—

(A) have an appropriate security clearance;

(B) are assigned to perform a function that requires access to information in such framework; and

(C) are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using such information.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) issue guidance for Department of Homeland Security employees authorized to access and contribute to the data framework pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) ensure that such guidance enforces a duty to share between offices and components of the Department when accessing or contributing to such framework for mission needs.

(3) EFFICIENCY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate data standards and instruct components of the Department of Homeland Security to make available information through the data framework required under this section in a machine-readable standard format, to the greatest extent practicable.

(c) EXCLUSION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may exclude information from the data framework required under this section if the Secretary determines inclusion of such information may—

(1) jeopardize the protection of sources, methods, or activities;

(2) compromise a criminal or national security investigation;

(3) be inconsistent with other Federal laws or regulations; or

(4) be duplicative or not serve an operational purpose if included in such framework.

(d) **SAFEGUARDS.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall incorporate into the data framework required under this section systems capabilities for auditing and ensuring the security of information included in such framework. Such capabilities shall include the following:

(1) Mechanisms for identifying insider threats.

(2) Mechanisms for identifying security risks.

(3) Safeguards for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

(e) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure the data framework required under this section has the ability to include appropriate information in existence within the Department of Homeland Security to meet the critical mission operations of the Department of Homeland Security.

(f) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **STATUS UPDATES.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees regular updates on the status of the data framework until the framework is fully operational.

(2) **OPERATIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the data framework required under this section is fully operational, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide notice to the appropriate congressional committees that the data framework is fully operational.

(3) **VALUE ADDED.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall annually brief Congress on component use of the data framework required under this section to support operations that disrupt terrorist activities and incidents in the homeland.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE; HOMELAND.**—The terms “appropriate congressional committee” and “homeland” have the meaning given those terms in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

(2) **HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION.**—The term “homeland security information” has the meaning given such term in section 892 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 482).

(3) **NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.**—The term “national intelligence” has the meaning given such term in section 3(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(5)).

(4) **TERRORISM INFORMATION.**—The term “terrorism information” has the meaning given such term in section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485).

SA 4072. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5075, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, 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 “Ashanti Alert Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

Kristen’s Act (Public Law 106–468; 114 Stat. 2027) is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 2 (34 U.S.C. 40504) the following:

“TITLE I—GRANTS”;

(2) by redesignating sections 2 (34 U.S.C. 40504) and 3 (34 U.S.C. 40504 note) as sections 101 and 102, respectively;

(3) in section 101(b), as so redesignated, by striking “this Act” and inserting “this title”;

(4) in section 102, as so redesignated, by striking “this Act” and inserting “this title”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE II—ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

“SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) **AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**—The term ‘AMBER Alert communications network’ means the AMBER Alert communications network established under subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

“(2) **ASHANTI ALERT.**—The term ‘Ashanti Alert’ means an alert issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network, related to a missing adult.

“(3) **ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**—The term ‘Ashanti Alert communications network’ means the national communications network established by the Attorney General under section 202(a).

“(4) **ASHANTI ALERT COORDINATOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; COORDINATOR.**—The term ‘Ashanti Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice’ or ‘Coordinator’ means the employee designated by the Attorney General to act as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network under section 203(a).

“(5) **ASHANTI ALERT PLAN.**—The term ‘Ashanti Alert plan’ means a local element of the Ashanti Alert communications network.

“(6) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ means a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)).

“(7) **MISSING ADULT.**—The term ‘missing adult’ means an individual who—

“(A) is older than the age for which an alert may be issued through the AMBER Alert communications network in the State or territory of an Indian Tribe in which the individual is identified as a missing individual;

“(B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as a missing individual; and

“(C) meets the requirements to be designated as a missing adult, as determined by the State in which, or the Indian Tribe in the territory of which, the individual is identified as a missing individual.

“(8) **STATE.**—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“SEC. 202. ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a national communications network within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing adults through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of local elements of the network, in coordination with States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to adults.

“(b) **INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**—In establishing the Ashanti Alert communications network under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall coordinate, when advisable, with missing person alert systems in existence as of the date of enactment of this title, such as

the AMBER Alert communications network and Silver Alert communications networks.

“SEC. 203. ASHANTI ALERT COORDINATOR.

“(a) **NATIONAL COORDINATOR WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**—The Attorney General shall designate an employee of the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network.

“(b) **DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.**—In acting as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

“(1) work with States and Indian Tribes to encourage the development of additional Ashanti Alert plans in the network;

“(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States and Indian Tribes to use in developing Ashanti Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

“(A) a list of the resources necessary to establish an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing an Ashanti Alert, taking into consideration the need for the use of Ashanti Alerts to be limited in scope because the effectiveness of the Ashanti Alert communications network may be affected by overuse, including criteria to determine—

“(i) whether the mental capacity of an adult who is missing, and the circumstances of his or her disappearance, including any history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or human trafficking, warrant the issuance of an Ashanti Alert; and

“(ii) whether the individual who reports that an adult is missing is an appropriate and credible source on which to base the issuance of an Ashanti Alert;

“(C) a description of the appropriate uses of the Ashanti Alert name to readily identify the nature of search efforts for missing adults; and

“(D) recommendations on how to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, autonomy, and safety of any missing adult who may be the subject of an Ashanti Alert;

“(3) develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing adults and to reduce the number of adults who are reported missing, including protocols for procedures that are needed from the time of initial notification of a law enforcement agency that the adult is missing through the time of the return of the adult to family, guardian, or domicile, as appropriate, including—

“(A) public safety communications protocol;

“(B) case management protocol;

“(C) command center operations;

“(D) reunification protocol;

“(E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures; and

“(F) protocols for declining to issue an Ashanti Alert;

“(4) work with States and Indian Tribes to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

“(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the Ashanti Alert communications network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Ashanti Alert plans, which shall include—

“(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

“(B) members who are—

“(i) representatives of adult citizen advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, victim service providers (as defined in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), and public safety communications;

“(ii) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

“(iii) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the Ashanti Alert communications network; and

“(6) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

“(A) the development of the network; and

“(B) regional coordination of alerts for missing adults through the network.

“(c) COORDINATION.—

“(1) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Coordinator shall coordinate and consult with the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, the Assistant Secretary for Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other appropriate offices of the Department of Justice, including the Office on Violence Against Women, in carrying out activities under this title.

“(2) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL COORDINATION.—The Coordinator shall consult with local broadcasters and State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in establishing minimum standards under section 204 and in carrying out other activities under this title, as appropriate.

“(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on—

“(A) the activities of the Coordinator; and

“(B) the effectiveness and status of the Ashanti Alert plan of each State or Indian Tribe that has established or is in the process of establishing such a plan.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a list of each State or Indian Tribe that has established an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(B) a list of each State or Indian Tribe that is in the process of establishing an Ashanti Alert plan;

“(C) for each State or Indian Tribe that has established an Ashanti Alert plan, to the extent the data is available—

“(i) the number of Ashanti Alerts issued;

“(ii) the number of missing adults located successfully;

“(iii) the average period of time between the issuance of an Ashanti Alert and the location of the missing adult for whom the Alert was issued;

“(iv) the State or Tribal agency or authority issuing Ashanti Alerts, and the process by which Ashanti Alerts are disseminated;

“(v) the cost of establishing and operating the Ashanti Alert plan;

“(vi) the criteria used by the State or Indian Tribe to determine whether to issue an Ashanti Alert; and

“(vii) the extent to which missing adults for whom Ashanti Alerts were issued crossed State lines or territorial borders of an Indian Tribe;

“(D) actions States and Indian Tribes have taken to protect the privacy and dignity of the missing adults for whom Ashanti Alerts are issued;

“(E) ways that States and Indian Tribes have facilitated and improved communication about missing adults between families, caregivers, law enforcement officials, and other authorities; and

“(F) any other information the Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

“SEC. 204. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH ASHANTI ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Subject to subsection (b), the Coordinator shall establish minimum standards for—

“(1) the issuance of alerts through the Ashanti Alert communications network; and

“(2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network.

“(b) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies), provide for the dissemination of appropriate information relating to the special needs of a missing adult (including health care needs) to the appropriate law enforcement, public health, and other public officials.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies), provide that the dissemination of an alert through the Ashanti Alert communications network shall be limited to the geographic areas that the missing adult could reasonably reach, considering—

“(A) the circumstances and physical and mental condition of the missing adult;

“(B) the modes of transportation available to the missing adult; and

“(C) the circumstances of the disappearance.

“(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall require that, in order for an Ashanti Alert to be issued for a missing adult, the missing adult—

“(A) suffers from a proven mental or physical disability, as documented by a source determined credible by an appropriate law enforcement agency; or

“(B) be missing under circumstances that indicate, as determined by an appropriate law enforcement agency—

“(i) that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered; or

“(ii) that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.

“(4) SAFETY, PRIVACY, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall—

“(A) ensure that alerts issued through the Ashanti Alert communications network comply with all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local privacy laws and regulations;

“(B) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties and sensitive medical information of missing adults; and

“(C) include standards requiring, as appropriate, a review of relevant court records, prior contacts with law enforcement, and other information relevant to the missing adult or the individual reporting, in order to provide protections against domestic violence.

“(5) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY COORDINATION.—In establishing minimum standards under subsection (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with the system of voluntary coordination between local broadcasters and State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies for purposes of regional and local search efforts for missing adults that was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this title.

“SEC. 205. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

“The minimum standards established under section 204(a), and any other guidelines and programs established under section 203, shall be adoptable on a voluntary basis only.

“SEC. 206. TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

“The Coordinator shall make available to States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities that are involved in initiating, facilitating, or promoting Ashanti Alert plans, including broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, public safety communications personnel, and radio station personnel—

“(1) training and educational programs related to the Ashanti Alert communications network and the capabilities, limitations, and anticipated behaviors of missing adults, which the Coordinator shall update regularly to encourage the use of new tools, technologies, and resources in Ashanti Alert plans; and

“(2) informational materials, including brochures, videos, posters, and websites to support and supplement the training and educational programs described in paragraph (1).

“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$3,000,000 to carry out the Ashanti Alert communications network as authorized under this title for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022.”

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

Section 609Y(a) of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 50112(a)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2022”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Proxy process and Rules: Examining current practices and potential changes.”

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 11 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Architect of the Capitol's Human Resources Policies.”

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH
POLICY

The Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Zimbabwe After the Elections.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE,
FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Preparing for maritime transportation in a changing arctic.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for Abigail Regitsky, a fellow in my office, to be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUP-
PORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2018

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 387, S. 2597.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2597) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

The bill (S. 2597) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2597

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF PAYMENTS TO CHILDREN'S
HOSPITALS THAT OPERATE GRAD-
UATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PRO-
GRAMS.

Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018,” and insert-

ing “, each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, and each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”;

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(D), by inserting “and the end of fiscal year 2022,” after “fiscal year 2018,”; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking “; and” and inserting “;”;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, \$110,000,000.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; and” and inserting “;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, \$220,000,000.”.

SAVANNA'S ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 715, S. 1942.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1942) to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as “Savanna's Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On some reservations, Indian women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average.

(2) American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.5 times as likely to experience violent crimes—and at least 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes—compared to all other races according to the National Congress of American Indians.

(3) More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women, or 84.3 percent, have experienced violence in their lifetime according to the National Institute of Justice.

(4) More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native men, or 81.6 percent, have experienced violence in their lifetime according to the National Institute of Justice.

(5) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age.

(6) Investigation into cases of missing and murdered Indian women is made difficult for Tribal law enforcement agencies due to a lack of resources, such as—

(A) necessary training, equipment, or funding;

(B) a lack of interagency cooperation; and

(C) a lack of appropriate laws in place.

(7) The complicated jurisdictional scheme that exists in Indian country—

(A) has a significant negative impact on the ability to provide public safety to Indian communities;

(B) has been increasingly exploited by criminals; and

(C) requires a high degree of commitment and cooperation among Tribal, Federal, and State law enforcement officials.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies with respect to responding to cases of missing and murdered Indians;

(2) to increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including medical examiner and coroner offices;

(3) to empower Tribal governments with the resources and information necessary to effectively respond to cases of missing and murdered Indians; and

(4) to increase the collection of data related to missing and murdered Indian men and women and the sharing of information among Federal, State, and Tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating cases of missing and murdered Indians.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DATABASES.—The term “databases” means—

(A) the National Crime Information Center database;

(B) the Combined DNA Index System;

(C) the Next Generation Identification System; and

(D) any other database relevant to responding to cases of missing and murdered Indians, including that under the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

(2) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” means a member of an Indian Tribe.

(3) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The term “Indian country” has the meaning given the term in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(4) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land” means—

(A) Indian lands, as defined in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302); and

(B) land owned by a Regional Corporation or Village Corporation, as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means a Tribal, Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING TRIBAL ACCESS TO DATA-
BASES.

(a) TRIBAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION.—The Attorney General shall provide training to law enforcement agencies regarding how to record the Tribal enrollment information or affiliation, as appropriate, of a victim in Federal databases.

(b) CONSULTATION.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall complete a formal consultation with Indian Tribes on how to further improve Tribal data relevance and access to databases.

(2) ANNUAL CONSULTATION.—Section 903(b) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (34 U.S.C. 20126) is amended—

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

“(2) enhancing the safety of Indian women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, homicide, stalking, and sex trafficking;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) improving access to local, regional, State, and Federal crime information databases and criminal justice information systems.”.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall—

(1) develop and implement a dissemination strategy to notify United States citizens of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and

(2) conduct specific outreach to Indian Tribes regarding the ability to publicly enter information, through the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System or other non-law enforcement sensitive portal, regarding missing persons, which may include family members and other known acquaintances.

SEC. 5. GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO CASES OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the consultation described in section 4(b)(1) is completed, the Attorney General shall direct United States attorneys with jurisdiction to prosecute crimes in Indian country under sections 1152 and 1153 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law, as part of the annual consultations on sexual violence by United States attorneys with Indian Tribes and Federal partners, to develop guidelines to respond to cases of missing and murdered Indians that shall include—

(1) guidelines on inter-jurisdictional cooperation among law enforcement agencies at the Tribal, Federal, State, and local levels, including inter-jurisdictional enforcement of protection orders and detailing specific responsibilities of each law enforcement agency;

(2) best practices in conducting searches for missing persons on Indian land;

(3) standards on the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains, and information on culturally appropriate identification and handling of human remains identified as Indian, including guidance stating that all appropriate information related to missing and murdered Indians be entered in a timely manner into applicable databases;

(4) guidance on which law enforcement agency is responsible for inputting information into appropriate databases under paragraph (3) if the Tribal law enforcement agency does not have access to those appropriate databases;

(5) guidelines on improving law enforcement agency response rates and follow-up responses to cases of missing and murdered Indians; and

(6) guidelines on ensuring access to culturally appropriate victim services for victims and their families.

(b) CONSULTATION.—United States attorneys shall develop the guidelines required under subsection (a) in consultation with Indian Tribes and other Federal partners, including—

(1) the Department of Justice;

(2) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(3) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(4) Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agencies;

(5) medical examiners;

(6) coroners; and

(7) Tribal, State, and local organizations that provide victim services.

(c) COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the next sexual violence response annual consultation occurs in each region after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States attorneys shall modify the sexual violence response guidelines to incorporate the guidelines developed under subsection (a) and implement such modified guidelines.

(2) MODIFICATION.—Each Federal law enforcement agency shall modify the guidelines, policies, and protocols of the agency to incorporate the guidelines developed under subsection (a).

(3) DETERMINATION.—Not later than the end of each fiscal year beginning after the date the guidelines are established under this section and incorporated under this subsection, the Attorney General shall determine whether each Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agency has incorporated guidelines into their respective guidelines, policies, and protocols.

(4) PREFERENCE.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, for the fiscal year in which a grant was solicited, the Attorney General shall give affirmative preference to all National Institute of Justice and Office for Victims of Crime discretionary grant applications of a Tribal, State, or local law enforcement agency, or applications submitted on behalf of such law enforcement agencies by a local, State, or Tribal government, if the Attorney General has determined under paragraph (3) that the agency has incorporated the guidelines.

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Not later than 30 days after compliance determinations are made each fiscal year in accordance with subsection (c)(3), the Attorney General shall—

(1) disclose and publish, including on the website of the Department of Justice, the name of each Tribal, State, or local law enforcement agency that the Attorney General has determined has not incorporated guidelines in accordance with subsection (c)(3); and

(2) if a law enforcement agency described in paragraph (1) subsequently receives a determination of compliance, the Attorney General shall—

(A) immediately correct the applicable record; and

(B) not later than 3 days after the determination, remove the record from the website of the Department of Justice and any other location where the record was published.

(e) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Attorney General shall use the National Indian Country Training Initiative to provide training and technical assistance to Indian Tribes and law enforcement agencies on—

(1) implementing the guidelines developed under subsection (a) or developing and implementing locally specific guidelines or protocols for responding to cases of missing and murdered Indians; and

(2) using the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and accessing program services that will assist Indian Tribes with responding to cases of missing and murdered Indians.

SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall include in its annual Indian Country Investigations and Prosecutions report to Congress information that—

(1) includes known statistics on missing Indians in the United States, available to the Department of Justice, including—

(A) age;

(B) gender;

(C) Tribal enrollment information or affiliation, if available;

(D) the current number of open cases per State;

(E) the total number of closed cases per State each calendar year, from the most recent 10 calendar years; and

(F) other relevant information the Attorney General determines is appropriate;

(2) includes known statistics on murdered Indians in the United States, available to the Department of Justice, including—

(A) age;

(B) gender;

(C) Tribal enrollment information or affiliation, if available;

(D) the current number of open cases per State;

(E) the total number of closed cases per State each calendar year, from the most recent 10 calendar years; and

(F) other relevant information the Attorney General determines is appropriate;

(3) maintains victim privacy to the greatest extent possible by excluding information that can be used on its own or with other information to identify, contact, or locate a single person, or to identify an individual in context; and

(4) includes—

(A) an explanation of why the statistics described in paragraph (1) may not be comprehensive; and

(B) recommendations on how data collection on missing and murdered Indians may be improved.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, for the purpose of compiling accurate data for the annual report required under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall request all Tribal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to submit to the Department of Justice, to the fullest extent possible, all relevant information required, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) DISCLOSURE.—The Attorney General shall disclose and publish annually, including on the website of the Department of Justice, the name of each Tribal, State, or local law enforcement agency that the Attorney General has determined has not submitted the information requested under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year in which the report was published.

(3) PREFERENCE.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, for the fiscal year in which a grant was solicited, the Attorney General shall give affirmative preference to all Department of Justice discretionary grant applications of a Tribal, State, or local law enforcement agency, or applications submitted on behalf of such law enforcement agencies by a local, State, or Tribal government, that would aid in the implementation of the guidelines developed under section 5 or help address the issue of missing and murdered Indians, if the Attorney General has determined the agency has submitted the information requested under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year in which the report was published.

(c) INCLUSION OF GENDER IN MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS STATISTICS.—Beginning in the first calendar year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall include gender in its annual statistics on missing and unidentified persons published on its public website.

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

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

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

The bill (S. 1942), as amended, was passed.

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

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

**PRECISION AGRICULTURE
CONNECTIVITY ACT OF 2018**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 615, S. 2343.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2343) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2343

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

[SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.]

[This Act may be cited as the “Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018”].

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.]

[Congress finds the following:

(1) Precision agriculture technologies and practices allow farmers to significantly increase crop yields, eliminate overlap in operations, and reduce inputs such as seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, and fuel.

(2) These technologies allow farmers to collect data in real time about their fields, automate field management, and maximize resources.

(3) Studies estimate that precision agriculture technologies can reduce agricultural operation costs by up to 25 dollars per acre and increase farm yields by up to 70 percent by 2050.

(4) The critical cost savings and productivity benefits of precision agriculture cannot be realized without the availability of reliable broadband Internet access service delivered to the cropland and ranchland of the United States.

(5) The deployment of broadband Internet access service to unserved and underserved cropland and ranchland is critical to the United States economy and to the continued leadership of the United States in global food production.

(6) Despite the growing demand for broadband Internet access service on cropland and ranchland, broadband Internet access service is not consistently available where needed for agricultural operations.

(7) The Federal Communications Commission has an important role to play in the deployment of broadband Internet access service infrastructure on unserved and underserved cropland and ranchland to promote precision agriculture.

[SEC. 3. TASK FORCE.]

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In this section—

(A) the term “broadband Internet access service” has the meaning given the term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;

(B) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(C) the term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

(D) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(E) the term “Task Force” means the Task Force for Meeting the Connectivity and

Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States, as established under subsection (b).

(2) **AGRICULTURAL TERMS.**—For purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall define the terms “agricultural operations”, “cropland”, and “ranchland”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish the Task Force for Meeting the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States.

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Task Force shall collaborate with the Secretary and public and private stakeholders in the agriculture and technology fields to—

(A) identify and measure current gaps in broadband Internet access service coverage of cropland and ranchland;

(B) assemble a comprehensive guide of all Federal programs or resources working to expand broadband Internet access service on unserved cropland and ranchland;

(C) develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service on unserved croplands and ranchlands, with a goal of achieving reliable service on 95 percent of croplands and ranchlands in the United States by 2025;

(D) promote effective policy and regulatory solutions that encourage the adoption of broadband Internet access service on farms and ranches and promote precision agriculture;

(E) propose new rules of the Commission or amendments to existing rules of the Commission to achieve the goals and purposes described in subparagraph (C);

(F) recommend specific steps that the Commission and other Federal agencies should take to obtain reliable and standardized data measurements of broadband Internet access service coverage as may be necessary to target funding support to unserved croplands and ranchlands in need of broadband Internet access service; and

(G) recommend specific steps that the Commission should take to ensure that the expertise of the Secretary and available farm data are reflected in developing Federal programs to deploy broadband Internet access service infrastructure and to direct available funding to unserved croplands and ranchlands where needed.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Task Force shall consult with the Secretary to develop recommendations for the Commission that utilize the expertise, data mapping information, and resources of the Department that the Department uses to identify croplands, ranchlands, and other areas with agricultural operations.

(d) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Task Force shall be—

(1) composed of not more than 15 members who shall—

(A) be selected by the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with appropriate staff of the Commission and with the Secretary; and

(B) include—

(i) agricultural producers representing diverse geographic regions and farm sizes, including owners and operators of farms of less than 100 acres;

(ii) Internet service providers, including regional or rural fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers;

(iii) representatives from the satellite industry;

(iv) representatives from precision agriculture equipment manufacturers, including drone manufacturers, manufacturers of autonomous agricultural machinery, and man-

ufacturers of farming robotics technologies; and

(v) representatives from State and local governments; and

(2) fairly balanced in terms of technologies, points of view, and fields represented on the Task Force.

(e) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Commission establishes the Task Force, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report that details—

(1) the status of fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service coverage of croplands and ranchlands;

(2) the projected future connectivity needs of agricultural operations, farmers, and ranchers; and

(3) the steps being taken to accurately measure the availability of high speed broadband Internet access service on croplands and ranchlands and the limitations of current, as of the date of the report, measurement processes.

(f) **EXISTING FUNDS.**—The Commission shall use existing funds of the Commission to carry out the Task Force and the duties of the Commission under this section.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—The Task Force shall terminate on January 1, 2025.]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Precision agriculture technologies and practices allow farmers to significantly increase crop yields, eliminate overlap in operations, and reduce inputs such as seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, and fuel.

(2) These technologies allow farmers to collect data in real time about their fields, automate field management, and maximize resources.

(3) Studies estimate that precision agriculture technologies can reduce agricultural operation costs by up to 25 dollars per acre and increase farm yields by up to 70 percent by 2050.

(4) The critical cost savings and productivity benefits of precision agriculture cannot be realized without the availability of reliable broadband Internet access service delivered to the agricultural land of the United States.

(5) The deployment of broadband Internet access service to unserved agricultural land is critical to the United States economy and to the continued leadership of the United States in global food production.

(6) Despite the growing demand for broadband Internet access service on agricultural land, broadband Internet access service is not consistently available where needed for agricultural operations.

(7) The Federal Communications Commission has an important role to play in the deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land to promote precision agriculture.

SEC. 3. TASK FORCE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “broadband Internet access service” has the meaning given the term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;

(2) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

(4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(5) the term “Task Force” means the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States established under subsection (b).

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall consult with the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, and collaborate with public and private stakeholders in the agriculture and technology fields to—

(A) identify and measure current gaps in the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land;

(B) develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land, with a goal of achieving reliable capabilities on 95 percent of agricultural land in the United States by 2025;

(C) promote effective policy and regulatory solutions that encourage the adoption of broadband Internet access service on farms and ranches and promote precision agriculture;

(D) recommend specific new rules or amendments to existing rules of the Commission that the Commission should issue to achieve the goals and purposes of the policy recommendations described in subparagraph (B);

(E) recommend specific steps that the Commission should take to obtain reliable and standardized data measurements of the availability of broadband Internet access service as may be necessary to target funding support, from future programs of the Commission dedicated to the deployment of broadband Internet access service, to unserved agricultural land in need of broadband Internet access service; and

(F) recommend specific steps that the Commission should consider to ensure that the expertise of the Secretary and available farm data are reflected in future programs of the Commission dedicated to the infrastructure deployment of broadband Internet access service and to direct available funding to unserved agricultural land where needed.

(2) NO DUPLICATE DATA REPORTING.—In performing the duties of the Commission under paragraph (1), the Commission shall ensure that no provider of broadband Internet access service is required to report data to the Commission that is, on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, required to be reported by the provider of broadband Internet access service.

(3) HOLD HARMLESS.—The Task Force and the Commission shall not interpret the phrase “future programs of the Commission”, as used in subparagraphs (E) and (F) of paragraph (1), to include the universal service programs of the Commission established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall explain and make available to the Task Force the expertise, data mapping information, and resources of the Department that the Department uses to identify cropland, rangeland, and other areas with agricultural operations that may be helpful in developing the recommendations required under paragraph (1).

(5) LIST OF AVAILABLE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Commission shall jointly submit to the Task Force a list of all Federal programs or resources available for the expansion of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land to assist the Task Force in carrying out the duties of the Task Force.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be—

(A) composed of not more than 15 voting members who shall—

(i) be selected by the Chairman of the Commission; and

(ii) include—

(I) agricultural producers representing diverse geographic regions and farm sizes, including owners and operators of farms of less than 100 acres;

(II) an agricultural producer representing tribal agriculture;

(III) Internet service providers, including regional or rural fixed and mobile broadband

Internet access service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers;

(IV) representatives from the electric cooperative industry;

(V) representatives from the satellite industry;

(VI) representatives from precision agriculture equipment manufacturers, including drone manufacturers, manufacturers of autonomous agricultural machinery, and manufacturers of farming robotics technologies; and

(VII) representatives from State and local governments; and

(B) fairly balanced in terms of technologies, points of view, and fields represented on the Task Force.

(2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commission appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve for a single term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Task Force—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Task Force; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3) EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Task Force.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Commission establishes the Task Force, and annually thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Chairman of the Commission a report, which shall be made public not later than 30 days after the date on which the Chairman receives the report, that details—

(1) the status of fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service coverage of agricultural land;

(2) the projected future connectivity needs of agricultural operations, farmers, and ranchers; and

(3) the steps being taken to accurately measure the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land and the limitations of current, as of the date of the report, measurement processes.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall renew the Task Force every 2 years until the Task Force terminates on January 1, 2025.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2343), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ENDANGERED SALMON PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 702, S. 3119.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3119) to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

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

had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) preventing predation by sea lions, recovery of listed salmonid stocks, and preventing future listings of fish stocks in the Columbia River under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is a vital priority; and

(2) the Federal Government should continue to fund lethal and nonlethal removal, and deterrence, measures for preventing such predation.

SEC. 3. TAKING OF SEA LIONS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES OF SALMON AND OTHER NONLISTED FISH SPECIES.

Section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) TEMPORARY MARINE MAMMAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY ON THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES.—

“(1) REMOVAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may issue a permit to an eligible entity to authorize the intentional lethal taking on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries of individually identifiable sea lions that are part of a population or stock that is not categorized under this Act as depleted or strategic for the purpose of protecting—

“(A) species of salmon, steelhead, or eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

“(B) species of lamprey or sturgeon that are not so listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern.

“(2) PERMIT PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may apply to the Secretary for a permit under this subsection.

“(B) TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES OF APPLICATION.—The timelines and procedures described in subsection (c) shall apply to applications for permits under this subsection in the same manner such timelines apply to applications under subsection (b).

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to coordinate issuance of permits under this subsection, including application procedures and timelines, delegation and revocation of permits to and between eligible entities, monitoring, periodic review, and geographic, seasonal take, and species-specific considerations.

“(D) DURATION OF PERMIT.—A permit under this subsection shall be effective for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed by the Secretary.

“(E) COORDINATION WITH OTHER TRIBES.—To the extent practicable, and prior to issuing a permit under this section, the Secretary shall consult with all Indian tribes with legal or historic interests in the protection of salmonid species in the area of the Columbia River and its tributaries described in paragraph (8).

“(3) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TAKINGS.—The Secretary shall apply the process for determining limitations on annual take of sea lions under subsection (c) to determinations on limitations under this subsection, and the cumulative number of sea lions authorized to be taken each year under all permits in effect under this subsection shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual potential biological removal level for sea lions.

“(4) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—Intentional lethal takings under this subsection shall—

“(A) be humane within the meaning of such term under section 3(4);

“(B) require that capture, husbandry, transportation, and euthanasia protocols are based on standards propagated by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and that primary euthanasia be limited to humane chemical methods; and

“(C) be implemented by agencies or qualified individuals described in subsection (c)(4), or by individuals employed by the eligible entities described in paragraph (6).

“(5) **SUSPENSION OF PERMITTING AUTHORITY.**—If, 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, the Secretary, after consulting with State and tribal fishery managers, determines that lethal removal authority is no longer necessary to protect salmonid and other fish species from sea lion predation, the Secretary shall suspend the issuance of permits under this subsection.

“(6) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.**—

“(A) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River and its tributaries, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and the State of Idaho;

“(ii) with respect to removal in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; and

“(iii) with respect to removal in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission.

“(B) **DELEGATION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may allow an eligible entity described in clause (i) to delegate its authority under a permit under this subsection to any entity described in subclause (ii) or (iii).

“(7) **INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION.**—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located upstream of river mile 112, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be individually identifiable.

“(8) **SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT EXCEPTION.**—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located in the mainstem of the Columbia River upstream of river mile 112, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be having a significant negative impact, within the meaning of subsection (b)(1).

“(9) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”

SEC. 4. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect or modify any treaty or other right of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall study and report to Congress on the effects of deterrence and the lethal taking of sea lions on the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River subject to section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)), as amended by this Act.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, that the Risch substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, that

the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4069) 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 “Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) preventing predation by sea lions, recovery of listed salmonid stocks, and preventing future listings of fish stocks in the Columbia River under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) is a vital priority; and

(2) the Federal Government should continue to fund lethal and nonlethal removal, and deterrence, measures for preventing such predation.

SEC. 3. TAKING OF SEA LIONS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES OF SALMON AND OTHER NONLISTED FISH SPECIES.

Section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) **TEMPORARY MARINE MAMMAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY ON THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES.**—

“(1) **REMOVAL AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may issue a permit to an eligible entity to authorize the intentional lethal taking on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries of individually identifiable sea lions that are part of a population or stock that is not categorized under this Act as depleted or strategic for the purpose of protecting—

“(A) species of salmon, steelhead, or eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

“(B) species of lamprey or sturgeon that are not so listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern.

“(2) **PERMIT PROCESS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible entity may apply to the Secretary for a permit under this subsection.

“(B) **TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES OF APPLICATION.**—The timelines and procedures described in subsection (c) shall apply to applications for permits under this subsection in the same manner such timelines apply to applications under subsection (b).

“(C) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures to coordinate issuance of permits under this subsection, including application procedures and timelines, delegation and revocation of permits to and between eligible entities, monitoring, periodic review, and geographic, seasonal take, and species-specific considerations.

“(D) **DURATION OF PERMIT.**—A permit under this subsection shall be effective for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed by the Secretary.

“(3) **LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TAKINGS.**—The Secretary shall apply the process for determining limitations on annual take of sea lions under subsection (c) to determinations

on limitations under this subsection, and the cumulative number of sea lions authorized to be taken each year under all permits in effect under this subsection shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual potential biological removal level for sea lions.

“(4) **QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.**—Intentional lethal takings under this subsection shall—

“(A) be humane within the meaning of such term under section 3(4);

“(B) require that capture, husbandry, transportation, and euthanasia protocols are based on standards propagated by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and that primary euthanasia be limited to humane chemical methods; and

“(C) be implemented by agencies or qualified individuals described in subsection (c)(4), or by individuals employed by the eligible entities described in paragraph (6).

“(5) **SUSPENSION OF PERMITTING AUTHORITY.**—If, 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, the Secretary, after consulting with State and tribal fishery managers, determines that lethal removal authority is no longer necessary to protect salmonid and other fish species from sea lion predation, the Secretary shall suspend the issuance of permits under this subsection.

“(6) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.**—

“(A) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River, from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries in the State of Washington, and its tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and the State of Idaho;

“(ii) with respect to removal in the mainstem Columbia River from river mile 112 to the McNary Dam and its tributaries within the State of Washington and in any of its tributaries above Bonneville Dam within the State of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; and

“(iii) with respect to removal in the Willamette River and other tributaries of the Columbia River within the State of Oregon below Bonneville Dam, a committee recognized by the Secretary under subparagraph (D).

“(B) **DELEGATION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may allow eligible entities described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) to delegate their authority under a permit under this subsection to the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission for removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries within the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(C) **ADDITIONAL DELEGATION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may allow an eligible entity described in subparagraph (A)(i) to delegate its authority under a permit under this subsection to any entity described in subclause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River above river mile 112 and below McNary Dam, in the Columbia River tributaries in the State of Washington, or in tributaries in the State of Oregon above Bonneville Dam and below McNary Dam.

“(D) **COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall recognize a committee established in accordance with this subparagraph as being eligible for a permit under this subsection, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(ii) MEMBERSHIP.—A committee established under this subparagraph shall consist of the State of Oregon and each of the following:

“(I) The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians or the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, or both.

“(II) The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs or the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, or both.

“(iii) MAJORITY AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—A committee established under this subparagraph may take action with respect to a permit application and removal under this subsection only with majority agreement by the committee members.

“(iv) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a committee established under this subparagraph.

“(7) INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be individually identifiable.

“(8) SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this subsection, any sea lion located in the mainstem of the Columbia River upstream of river mile 112 and downstream of McNary Dam, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be having a significant negative impact, within the meaning of subsection (b)(1).

“(9) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”

SEC. 4. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty or other right of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall study and report to Congress on the effects of deterrence and the lethal taking of sea lions on the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River subject to section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)), as amended by this Act.

The bill (S. 3119), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GOOD ACCOUNTING OBLIGATION IN GOVERNMENT ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 563, S. 2276.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2276) to require agencies to submit reports on outstanding recommendations in the annual budget justification submitted to Congress.

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

had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act” or the “GAO-IG Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency” means—

(1) a designated Federal entity, as defined in section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) an establishment, as defined in section 12(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) REQUIRED REPORTS.—In the annual budget justification submitted to Congress, as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, each agency shall include—

(1) a report listing each public recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented” as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted;

(2) a report listing each public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action has been taken as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(3) a report on the implementation status of each public recommendation described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which shall include—

(A) with respect to a public recommendation that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”—

(i) that the agency has decided not to implement, a detailed justification for the decision; or

(ii) that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for full implementation;

(B) with respect to a public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action or action not recommended has been taken, an explanation of the reasons why no final action or action not recommended was taken with respect to each audit report to which the public recommendation for corrective action pertains;

(C) with respect to an outstanding unimplemented public recommendation from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for implementation; and

(D) an explanation for any discrepancy between—

(i) the reports submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the semiannual reports submitted by the Office of Inspector General of the agency under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(iii) reports submitted by the Government Accountability Office relating to public recommendations that are designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”.

(c) COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS.—Each agency shall provide a copy of the information submitted under subsection (b) to the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General of the agency.

SEC. 3. TIMELINE FOR AGENCY STATEMENTS.

Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “61st” and inserting “181st”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “60” and inserting “180”.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, that the Young substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4070) 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 “Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act” or the “GAO-IG Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency” means—

(1) a designated Federal entity, as defined in section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.);

(2) an establishment, as defined in section 12(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(3) legislative branch agencies, including the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the United States Capitol Police.

(b) REQUIRED REPORTS.—In the annual budget justification submitted to Congress, as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, each agency shall include—

(1) a report listing each public recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented” for a period of not less than 1 year preceding the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted;

(2) a report listing each public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that—

(A) was published not less than 1 year before the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(B) for which no final action was taken as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(3) a report on the implementation status of each public recommendation described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which shall include—

(A) with respect to a public recommendation that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”—

(i) that the agency has decided not to implement, a detailed justification for the decision; or

(ii) that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for full implementation, to the extent practicable, if the agency determines that the recommendation has clear budget implications;

(B) with respect to a public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action or action not recommended has been taken, an explanation of the reasons why no final action or action not recommended was taken with respect to each

audit report to which the public recommendation for corrective action pertains;

(C) with respect to an outstanding unimplemented public recommendation from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for implementation;

(D) an explanation for any discrepancy between—

(i) the reports submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the semiannual reports submitted by the Office of Inspector General of the agency under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(iii) reports submitted by the Government Accountability Office relating to public recommendations that are designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”; and

(E) for the first 12 months after a public recommendation is made, if the agency is determining whether to implement the public recommendation, a statement describing that the agency is doing so, which shall exempt the agency from the requirements under subparagraphs (B) and (C) with respect to that public recommendation.

(c) COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS.—Each agency shall provide a copy of the information submitted under subsection (b) to the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General of the agency.

SEC. 3. TIMELINE FOR AGENCY STATEMENTS.

Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “61st” and inserting “181st”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “60” and inserting “180”.

The bill (S. 2276), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DATA FRAMEWORK ACT OF 2017

MR. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2454 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2454) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

MR. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4071) 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 Data Framework Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DATA FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop a data framework to integrate existing Department of Homeland Security datasets and systems, as appropriate, for access by authorized personnel in a manner consistent with relevant legal authorities and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the framework required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the following information is included:

(A) All information acquired, held, or obtained by an office or component of the Department of Homeland Security that falls within the scope of the information sharing environment, including homeland security information, terrorism information, weapons of mass destruction information, and national intelligence.

(B) Any information or intelligence relevant to priority mission needs and capability requirements of the homeland security enterprise, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) DATA FRAMEWORK ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the data framework required under this section is accessible to employees of the Department of Homeland Security who the Secretary determines—

(A) have an appropriate security clearance;

(B) are assigned to perform a function that requires access to information in such framework; and

(C) are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using such information.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) issue guidance for Department of Homeland Security employees authorized to access and contribute to the data framework pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) ensure that such guidance enforces a duty to share between offices and components of the Department when accessing or contributing to such framework for mission needs.

(3) EFFICIENCY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate data standards and instruct components of the Department of Homeland Security to make available information through the data framework required under this section in a machine-readable standard format, to the greatest extent practicable.

(c) EXCLUSION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may exclude information from the data framework required under this section if the Secretary determines inclusion of such information may—

(1) jeopardize the protection of sources, methods, or activities;

(2) compromise a criminal or national security investigation;

(3) be inconsistent with other Federal laws or regulations; or

(4) be duplicative or not serve an operational purpose if included in such framework.

(d) SAFEGUARDS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall incorporate into the data framework required under this section systems capabilities for auditing and ensuring

the security of information included in such framework. Such capabilities shall include the following:

(1) Mechanisms for identifying insider threats.

(2) Mechanisms for identifying security risks.

(3) Safeguards for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

(e) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure the data framework required under this section has the ability to include appropriate information in existence within the Department of Homeland Security to meet the critical mission operations of the Department of Homeland Security.

(f) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

(1) STATUS UPDATES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees regular updates on the status of the data framework until the framework is fully operational.

(2) OPERATIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the data framework required under this section is fully operational, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide notice to the appropriate congressional committees that the data framework is fully operational.

(3) VALUE ADDED.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall annually brief Congress on component use of the data framework required under this section to support operations that disrupt terrorist activities and incidents in the homeland.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE; HOMELAND.—The terms “appropriate congressional committee” and “homeland” have the meaning given those terms in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

(2) HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION.—The term “homeland security information” has the meaning given such term in section 892 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 482).

(3) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “national intelligence” has the meaning given such term in section 3(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(5)).

(4) TERRORISM INFORMATION.—The term “terrorism information” has the meaning given such term in section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485).

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2454), as amended, was passed.

NASA ENHANCED USE LEASING EXTENSION ACT OF 2018

MR. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 7 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 7) to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 7) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 7

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO LEASES OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 20145(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

ASHANTI ALERT ACT OF 2018

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5075 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5075) to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I further ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4072) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5075), as amended, was passed.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 696, H.R. 315.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 315) to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 315) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to Public Law 115–232, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission: Tom Fanning of Georgia and Chris Inglis of Maryland.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m. Monday, December 10; further, that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, following leader remarks, and notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume the consideration of the Muzinich nomination, with the cloture motion filed during today's session ripening at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018, AT 4 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:14 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 10, 2018, at 4 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 6, 2018:

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

KATHLEEN LAURA KRANINGER, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

BERNARD L. MCNAMEE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. JAMES J. MALLOY