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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God and Father of humanity, guide our lawmakers with Your Spirit of truth and love. During days of difficulty, help them to remember that You will never leave or forsake them. Lord, provide them with the wisdom, courage, and patience to do what is best for our Nation and world. Give us all grace to maintain our faith and freedom with righteousness, fostering peace and good will for the glory of Your Name. Hasten, Lord, that perfect day, when pain and death shall cease and Your just rule shall fill the Earth with health, light, and peace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). 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 pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Claria Horn Boom, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, as I stated yesterday, the Senate will focus on personnel business.

Six well-qualified nominees are currently before the Senate. They are awaiting the full consideration they clearly deserve. Their nominations have been vetted. Their expertise is well known. Their positions sit empty, waiting to be filled. The American people are waiting for their President to have his full team and for their Federal Government to be appropriately staffed.

If last evening's vote to advance Claria Horn Boom's district court nomination were any indication, we would be in for a productive week. Ninety-six of our colleagues voted in support—96. With such broad bipartisan support, you might think that filing cloture should not have been necessary in the first place.

With nominees as uncontroversial as these, you might think the Senate would roll quickly through them and move on to other business, but unfortunately, for more than a year now, our Democratic friends have used the partisan playbook to delay and obstruct even the least controversial nominees. So unless we can reach the kind of bipartisan agreement that was once the norm around here and process non-controversial nominees more promptly, we are left with no choice but to proceed the hard way, and that is just what we have done.

Facing historic obstruction, Republicans have confirmed ambitious reformists to crucial posts where fresh

ideas were long overdue, and we have confirmed top-notch legal minds to the Federal bench, including a record number of circuit court judges for a President's first year and the generational choice of Justice Neil Gorsuch, who was confirmed to the Supreme Court 1 year ago today.

I have already stated that the Senate will remain in session as long as it takes to clear this slate of nominees. Following the confirmation of Ms. Boom, we will move to consideration of John Ring to serve on the National Labor Relations Board. After Mr. Ring comes nominees to the Department of Labor, the EPA, and two more nominees to fill district court vacancies—all vetted, all qualified, all sitting right here in the Senate. In at least one case, several of my Democratic friends have already proactively announced support for the nominee. So let's get back on track together. Let's consider and confirm these nominees without delay.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on a further matter, something exciting has started to happen all across our country. In America's small towns and suburbs, Main Street businesses are dusting off "Help Wanted" signs. In our small cities, American manufacturers are expanding facilities and creating new products. In rural America, family farmers are investing in new equipment and looking forward to increased prosperity.

For years, all of these parts of our great Nation were more or less forgotten. Millions and millions of Americans were left behind. Whether by accident or by design, the Obama administration's economic policies brought some prosperity to America's biggest and richest urban areas, but our small towns, our suburbs, our smaller cities, and our rural areas and farming communities year after year saw next to no progress. This is the disparity that President Trump and this Republican Congress were elected to change.

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



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Our Democratic friends say they are proud of a record in which urban centers like New York and San Francisco thrived, but most other areas slipped behind. I wouldn't be proud of that record. Republicans wouldn't settle for that kind of outcome. That is why, as soon as this President and this Congress took office, we began implementing an inclusive, pro-growth agenda to reignite prosperity in every corner of our Nation. We cut taxes for middle-class families and small businesses. We repealed one burdensome job-killing regulation after another. We are grabbing every tool we can find to make life easier for middle-class families who were neglected by the previous administration's policies.

One prime example is our colleague Senator SCOTT's provision in last year's historic tax reform. His legislation lets economically depressed communities across the country be designated as "opportunity zones," earning special tax treatment to make investment and job creation more attractive. In effect, this piece of tax reform will help struggling American communities set up big neon signs saying "We are open for business."

Just yesterday, in my State of Kentucky, Governor Bevin announced the certification of 144 opportunity zones. My friends and colleagues on the State and local level are excited and optimistic again. This creative policy, along with the rest of tax reform, has the Kentuckians I serve looking forward to a brighter future. More States are following suit.

From the West End in Louisville and distressed areas in Eastern Kentucky to Stockton, CA, and everywhere in between, this Congress will have helped deliver new opportunities and new hope to many of the most vulnerable communities all across our country. All this progress—all because Republicans overcame lockstep partisan opposition and passed this historic tax reform law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Friday, America lost a good and gracious person, a statesman, and many of us in the Senate lost a personal friend.

Senator Daniel Akaka was as kind and decent a man as you would ever meet in life. For 3½ decades, Danny Akaka served the people of Hawaii in the U.S. Congress with dignity, humility, and deep caring.

The Hawaiian concept of "aloha" isn't a quality that many think of when they think of politicians. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection. It means extending warmth and caring with no obligation in return, no strings attached. Danny Inouye, that giant of Hawaii and its history, once called Danny Akaka "a true ambassador of aloha."

When Danny Akaka announced in 2011 that he would not run for reelection to the Senate, then-Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie said:

The words aloha and Akaka are interchangeable. Daniel Akaka is Hawaii.

Now, at age 93, Senator Akaka is gone. I first met him in 1983. I was a newly elected Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Then we sat together on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, the two of us next to one another down at the far end of the table. Danny had 6 years' seniority on me. We served together, worked together, laughed together, traveled together, and came to be friends.

Here was a man, a great politician, who didn't have a personal ego. Politics was always about someone else, about helping other people. In fact, he went out of his way to avoid the spotlight. But don't think for a minute that he was weak. I have memories seared in my mind—certainly October 11, 2002, when 22 Members of the Democratic caucus in the Senate voted against the resolution authorizing President Bush to invade Iraq—the Iraq war resolution Danny Akaka opposed. I can recall that it was nearly 1 in the morning when that rollcall ended and he left the floor after that historic vote. Soft-spoken, yes. Capable of making hard, meaningful, courageous decisions, certainly. That was a lonely road. I believe history has judged it to be the right vote.

Danny Akaka's vote, like so many, was deeply influenced by his own experience in the U.S. military. At 17 years of age, he witnessed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Two years later, after serving as a welder and diesel mechanic with the Army Corps of Engineers, he entered Active Duty with the Army and served in several areas across the Pacific.

After the war, he used his GI benefits to go to college, and only later did he realize he was still carrying a wound from that war—post-traumatic stress disorder. He said that earning a bachelor's and master's degree in education and working as a public school teacher and principal—his first profession—helped him to cope with PTSD.

In politics, his second career, he used his influence to help other members of the military, veterans and their families.

In 2008, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Danny Akaka cosponsored the post-9/11 GI bill of rights. That new GI bill of rights included a provision that I asked Danny to include to improve care for veterans wounded by another of the often-invisible wounds of war—traumatic brain injury. Senator Akaka's leadership helped to pass that important new law.

Two years later, then chairman of the Veterans' Committee, I appealed to Danny Akaka again for another provision. It was an idea actually authored originally by Senator Hillary Clinton of New York. It was called the Caregivers Program. The idea was to allow family members of disabled veterans to care for them at home, to provide nec-

essary medical care and support in a home setting that they all wanted to be in. It was the right thing for our veterans, the right thing for our budget, and the right thing for America. Danny Akaka embraced it and became a leader on the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, providing those family members with training and modest stipends. The stipends amount to only a fraction of what would have been spent on these veterans had they been in a different setting sponsored by the government.

Well, Danny Akaka is gone, but his legacy of service lives on in millions of veterans and military families whose lives are better because of his quiet but fierce commitment.

In 1996, Senator Akaka spearheaded an effort to require reevaluation of the service records of Asian Americans who had fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Division during the war.

As a result of Danny Akaka's perseverance, almost two dozen Medals of Honor were bestowed posthumously on Asian-American veterans, many of them Japanese Americans. The most prominent recipient was his colleague, Senator Danny Inouye, who had lost an arm during World War II fighting for the United States in Italy. It was a long overdue justice for heroes whose courage had been largely ignored for decades because of racism, and Danny Akaka helped to make it happen.

In 1993, Danny Akaka helped to bend the arc of the moral universe another time when he and Senator Inouye successfully pushed through a resolution in which the Federal Government apologized for its role in overthrowing the Hawaiian monarchy a century earlier.

As a child, Danny Akaka listened to his parents speak their Native Hawaiian language in whispers. They didn't want Danny and his seven brothers and sisters to hear them because of the Territorial law allowing children to be punished if they spoke their Native Hawaiian language in school. That little boy, little Danny Akaka, grew up to be the first Native Hawaiian ever elected to the U.S. Senate. Danny Akaka was a champion of Native Hawaiians and Native Americans, a champion of good government and the men and women who do that work in government.

He was a deeply spiritual and religious man, who once considered following his brother into the ministry but instead decided to help others in his own way as a teacher and a public servant. His was a life well lived.

Last night, I had a telephone conversation with Danny's wife, Millie Akaka—what a team, 69 years of marriage. They were just a few weeks away from celebrating their 70th anniversary. They were inseparable. He was the Senator, but she was the driving force in his public career. She managed every one of his campaigns. She knew everyone in every direction. She never forgot a name, and she was always

there to finish his sentences. We talked for a long time last night about the times when we were able to get together—my wife Loretta, Millie, and Danny—and the good times we had and the great people we met in the process. I also talked about the time when Danny came before the Senate Democratic caucus luncheon. We used to have a great tradition, where every few weeks Senators would get up and just tell a little bit about their personal lives—things that don't make the headlines.

I still remember Danny Akaka's presentation. He talked about growing up in a very modest family but having a mother with a very caring heart. His mother just couldn't stand to see someone who was struggling to find a home or a meal. She was always inviting someone in. Even though they didn't have a lot themselves, they were always sharing with people. She would say: Bring them over to dinner, Danny. Let's meet them.

Then, after they met them, they would offer them a room. Danny told a story of people who came and lived in his home with him—perfect strangers who became part of their family and lived with them for months and even years. Some of those people whom they befriended went on to greatness. One was a medical doctor who became famous and never forgot the kindnesses extended by the Akaka family.

His mother's lesson was learned by Danny Akaka. It was shared with us in the Senate. It was an indication of truly a caring heart and a person who was really prepared to serve every day of his life.

I join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to Danny's wife Millie, to their five children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. May your love and memories be a comfort in this time of loss.

To my friend, Senator Danny Akaka: Aloha and mahalo. Farewell and thank you.

DACA

Mr. President, I have come to this floor over 110 different times to introduce to the Senate and to the people who follow our proceedings remarkable people who live in the shadows of America. These are Dreamers—children who were brought to this country by their parents, some at the age of 2 or 3. They were brought into this country perhaps on a visitor's visa and stayed. They grew up in America. Then, when they were 10 or 12, in some cases, their mother and father sat down and said: We need to tell you the truth about who you are and where you are.

These children are undocumented. Their parents didn't file the necessary legal papers. They live lives without a country. They have grown up here. They always believed they were Americans. They went to our schools and stood every day in class and pledged allegiance to that flag. They really believed they were part of America, but legally, no, they were Dreamers.

I have tried for 17 years now to pass legislation to give them a chance to earn their way to legal status and citizenship. I have had some luck from time to time, but we have never quite been able to find the necessary votes in both the House and the Senate in the same year.

A number of years ago, I appealed to my former Senate colleague, Barack Obama, and asked President Obama to do what he could to help these Dreamers. He created a program called DACA by Executive order. Under DACA, these young people could come forward, submit themselves to a criminal background check, pay a filing fee, and be protected from deportation for 2 years at a time. They had to renew this. So if there was any problem, they could lose their protection. That DACA Program finally brought 800,000 Americans—people who live in America—out of the shadows under the protection of DACA.

Initially, we thought new President Trump was going to give these young DACA recipients a break. He said a lot of kind things about them, even though his rhetoric about immigration has been very harsh. He said good things about them because he realized, as all of us do, that many of them are victims of unfairness and injustice and they should be given a chance to prove themselves and be part of America's future.

But then, on September 5 of last year, President Trump reversed himself. He announced that he was eliminating DACA, eliminating the protection these young people have. He challenged Congress and said: Come up with a law that protects DACA and Dreamers. I accepted the challenge and so did LINDSEY GRAHAM, the Republican Senator of South Carolina. We put together a team of six Senators—three Democrats and three Republicans—and worked for months to come up with an alternative that would protect the Dreamers, protect those who are under the DACA Program.

I think it was a good proposal. I think it was balanced. Parts of it I didn't like, and parts of it I did. That is the nature of a political compromise. It was bipartisan. We took it to President Trump, but he rejected it. He just rejected it.

There we were, emptyhanded, coming to the floor of the Senate a few weeks ago for four different votes to try to solve the DACA crisis. None of our proposals passed. The one with the most votes was the one Senator GRAHAM and I worked on and brought to the floor with Senator KING and Senator ROUNDS. It even included the President's wall. Some of us think this is a crazy idea, a waste of taxpayers' dollars, but we were prepared to say to the President: If you would give 1.8 million of these Dreamers a path to citizenship, we will at least start building your wall—one that was supposed to be paid for by Mexico. President Trump rejected it. He rejected it. March 5

came and went. The deadline for DACA ended, and protection under DACA started disappearing.

There were court suits that were brought. Two Federal courts stepped in and issued injunctions. They said to the President: Stop the threat of deportation against these DACA-protected young people. Two of those injunctions now stand, and under those our Federal Government—the Department of Homeland Security—is allowing those who were once protected by DACA to renew their status. Of course, those who were newly eligible—for instance, reaching the age of 15, which is the age of eligibility—can't sign up. But if you were in the 800,000 protected, you can renew your DACA protection by these court orders.

So how long are these young people going to be protected? We don't know. That court protection could end next week, next month, or 6 months from now. We just don't know. So they live in absolute uncertainty with the danger that at any minute DACA protection ends and they can be deported.

When I have come to the floor to tell their stories, people understand that these young people are extraordinary. Think about growing up as a teenager and all the uncertainty and challenges and things that come to your life. Imagine doing that with the knowledge that at any minute you could be deported or some misstep by you might deport your entire family. That is what these young people have grown up with. Yet they are determined. They are resilient. Some of them are nothing short of amazing on what they have done with their lives.

I have come to the floor to tell their stories so you could attach a face to them, to the issue. DACA isn't just another government program. It turns out to be something that is significant in their lives.

Today I wish to tell another one of those stories about another one of these Dreamers. This lovely young lady here is Gloria Rinconi. Gloria Rinconi is the 113th Dreamer whom I have had the honor to introduce to the Senate and to those who follow our proceedings.

Gloria was brought to the United States at the age of 1 from Mexico. She grew up in North Carolina and in Texas. Her family had so little money that at one point her parents slept on the floor of a trailer. Gloria slept on a makeshift bed made out of a piece of cardboard and a blanket.

Gloria's parents told her she was undocumented, but "you are loved by many regardless of what you might hear on TV."

Her family was poor, but Gloria was a hard worker and an extraordinarily good student. In high school, she took advanced placement courses and was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. She received the Tyler Independent School District Student Award. She was active in extracurricular activities, worked on the

school yearbook, was a member of the French club, pom squad, and drill prep. She competed in pageants, winning the National American Miss State Pageant and the National American Miss National Pageant.

Gloria graduated from high school with a medical assistant program certification. She is attending Richland College and majoring in psychology. She also works as a medical assistant for a surgeon. Her dream is to become a clinical psychologist and work with low-income families facing mental health issues.

This lovely and amazing young lady sent me a letter. Here is what she said:

DACA is my entire life. It's the only thing I have that allows me to work, give back to my community and continue with my future plans. Without it, my life as I know it will be gone.

This is what the DACA debate and the Dream Act debate is all about. It is all about the aspirations and hopes of amazing, talented, and dedicated young people who just want to be part of America's future.

Would we be better if we ended up deporting this young lady, sending her back to Mexico—a place she has probably never even visited in her entire life since she came here at the age of 1? I don't think so. I think everyone understands that a young person like this deserves a chance.

We now face the possibility that DACA protection through court order may protect those who are already protected under DACA from deportation but may not protect them for some period of time and allow them to work. That is the second part of DACA—that you can legally work in the United States.

A lot of them have graduated from college and do work today. I have met doctors, lawyers, engineers, and teachers. There are some 20,000 teachers across America who are protected by DACA and allowed to work, but President Trump has said recently that it is over and, as far as he is concerned, they should be deported. I hope his position does not prevail. I hope, for Gloria's sake and for the thousands just like her, that we will do the right thing, the just and fair thing, and that we will do something immediately to provide DACA protection, protection for Dreamers, and a path for citizenship.

How did we get into this crisis? President Trump's decision on September 5, 2017, to end DACA created the crisis we face. We need to work toward a solution.

The President has rejected six bipartisan proposals. I don't know what it will take to bring him around. I am skeptical now of any statement that he makes publicly that he wants to solve this problem. I also know that we face, as Gloria faces every day, the uncertainty for these young people.

I urge my colleagues on both sides, don't quit on this issue; don't quit on these young people. Every time I go

home—every time I go home and meet with these Dreamers—it is an emotional meeting. Few of them can tell me their life stories without breaking down in tears. Then, when they mention their parents—who have been vilified by some—these young DACA recipients break down in tears again. They say: Senator, wouldn't you have done everything in your power to help your children, even if it meant breaking a law?

Yes, I am sure I would have.

Should the parents pay a price? Well, under comprehensive immigration reform, we had a fine they had to pay, and we delayed any eligibility they had to become citizens, but we didn't deport them and break up their families. If they had no criminal record and no difficulties or problems, we gave them a chance—not amnesty, a price had to be paid but a chance to become part of the future of America as well.

This issue is not over because we have failed in the Senate. The issue is still there. The question is whether Senators from both political parties can summon the courage to solve this problem.

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. Mr. 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 Democratic leader is recognized.

SEIZURE OF INFORMATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday FBI agents, at the direction of the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, seized information from President Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen. It was reported that the referral to the U.S. attorney's office originated with Special Counsel Mueller, but the raid itself was under the direction of the U.S. attorney's office and New York FBI agents.

We don't know the reason for Special Counsel Mueller's referral. We do know that any referral must have been signed off by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Furthermore, the U.S. attorney's office in New York would have to be convinced that whatever information Mr. Mueller passed along was worth pursuing, and the U.S. attorney would have to convince an independent magistrate or judge—non-partisan—that there was probable cause to believe that seizing information from Mr. Cohen would yield evidence of a crime. That is a serious and high standard that had to be met.

I go through these details because it is important to understand that yesterday's events could only have been the result of a rigorous legal process, with checks every step of the way and with a very high burden of proof. Yet, last night, President Trump said the FBI

raid was a “disgrace,” part of a “witch hunt,” an “attack on our country,” and mentioned that many people have encouraged him to fire Mr. Mueller. “We'll see what happens,” he concluded.

Let's break this down. The President suggests that the latest events are part of the partisan conspiracy against him. I remind the President that the source of the referral, Special Counsel Mueller, is a lifelong Republican. The Deputy Attorney General who signed off on the referral, Rod Rosenstein, is a Republican, appointed by President Trump. The Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, is a Republican, appointed by President Trump. The U.S. attorney for the Southern District in New York, who sought a search warrant based on that information, is a Republican, appointed by President Trump. The agents in New York who carried out the seizure are under the direction of Christopher Wray, a Republican, appointed by President Trump.

If President Trump believes this to be a partisan conspiracy, he once again ignores the fact that every major player is a Republican, and all but the judges are appointed by President Trump himself. The partisan affiliation of those involved really doesn't matter. These are all law enforcement officers simply doing their job—a job enshrined by the Constitution of the United States.

The President also tweeted this morning that “attorney-client privilege is dead.”

Mr. President, attorney-client privilege is alive and well, but there is an exception when the attorney might be involved in a crime or fraud. It is well known as the crime-fraud exception. That exception is obviously in play today. Law enforcement officers believe there is a good chance that the attorney for the President committed a crime or was involved in fraud or they couldn't have gotten the OK from the magistrate to make these seizures.

President Trump also said, the implication of his personal attorney for potentially serious Federal crimes constitutes an “attack on our country.” That is what he said, an “attack on our country.”

With due respect, President Trump, America has been around for over two and a half centuries. An investigation of your personal attorney is not an attack on our country. The Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor was an attack on our country; 9/11 was an attack on our country. When Russia interfered with our elections, that was an attack on our country. Investigating your personal lawyer, with a high standard to be met, is certainly not an attack on our country. It is what America has always been about and still is—the rule of law.

President Trump said the raid was a “disgrace.” I say to the President: Mr. President, you have it wrong. Interfering with the investigation would be a disgrace. Calling it an attack on our

country is a disgrace. What matters is the rule of law. In this country, no man is above the law, not even the President. Mr. President, your comments were the disgrace.

If the President is thinking of using this raid to fire Special Counsel Mueller or otherwise interfere with the chain of command in the Russia probe, we have one simple message for him: Don't even think about it.

Special Counsel Mueller has uncovered a deep and detailed pattern of Russian interference in our elections. It has led to several indictments and guilty pleas. It has also led the Trump administration itself to level sanctions against Russian individuals for meddling in our elections. That is proof positive that Mueller's investigation is not a so-called witch hunt.

If the President's own administration has leveled sanctions against Russian individuals for meddling in our elections, how can the President say it is a witch hunt? It is being pursued by his own administration, independent of the Mueller investigation. The investigation by Special Counsel Mueller is critical to the health of our democracy and the security of future elections. It must—it must—be allowed to continue.

The President seems to have a view that the Department of Justice's sole purpose is to protect the President and go after his enemies. I emphatically state to the President, that is not the role of the Department of Justice. Their role is to enforce the law and go after anyone who breaks it. That is their role, and it is not subject to the President's political interests in any way.

President Trump should not have any contact—any contact—with the new U.S. attorney in the Southern District, with his office, or the Department of Justice officials overseeing an investigation of Mr. Cohen. Any attempted contact by the President or the White House should be reported to the Department of Justice immediately.

One final point. When President Trump implies that the Mueller investigation is an assault on our country and our values, he is not only dead wrong, he is wrong in a very dangerous way. Special Counsel Mueller, the FBI, Federal prosecutors, and U.S. attorneys are following the due process of our legal system. Calling that an attack on our country undermines the rule of law—a bedrock principle of this great Nation for centuries, the reason, above all, the rest of the world looks up to these great United States of America.

The only person engaging in an attack on American values, what we all stand for—the rule of law—is, unfortunately, President Trump. It needs to stop. It is gnawing at the core of America.

It is difficult to know when you are living through a historic time in this country. Our Nation has prevailed through many dark times. We all hope that, in the sweep of history, our cur-

rent moment is not one of peril, but we have witnessed a sustained attack by the President of the United States on the rule of law in this country, and we may be getting to that point.

We have seen that any institution with the power to check the President's power—the Federal Judiciary, the Department of Justice, the FBI, the Congress, the press—suffers his disdain and derision. If we fail to defend these institutions, which represent the rule of law, the Constitution, and the balance of power in our country the Founding Fathers so brilliantly enshrined, then we are letting our grand democracy diminish.

I beseech my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up and say what the President is doing is wrong. Make it clear that firing Mueller or interfering in his investigation crosses a redline and is a threat to our constitutional order. Let us also be clear that the President does not have the authority to order the special counsel's firing without cause.

Finally, let us take steps to protect the special counsel from political interference. We have several bipartisan bills designed to do just that. Majority Leader MCCONNELL should bring them to the floor and let us debate them very soon.

For months, Republicans have said that legislation to protect the special counsel is not needed because they have been assured by nameless people that the President will not fire the special counsel. That assurance has been shaken by the President's comments last night. By his own words, it is clear the President may—may—be considering firing the special counsel. This Congress must respond forcefully, and on a bipartisan basis, by reaffirming our belief that the President cannot fire the special counsel without cause and by passing legislation to ensure that any attempts to remove Robert Mueller will be unsuccessful.

We should not abide the President's attempted assault on the rule of law in America. The eyes of history are upon us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ONLINE PRIVACY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today we have a joint Commerce and Judiciary Committee hearing on online privacy and the abuse of data obtained by social media platforms. Ordinarily, I wouldn't come to the Senate floor to talk about an individual legislative hearing, but this is no run-of-the-mill event. The CEO of Facebook will be testifying, and I believe his company and other parties have some important explaining to do.

One question is what Facebook's priorities are and whether they are what they should be. Facebook, of course, is a publicly traded company, and it has a fiduciary duty to its shareholders that it shares in common with every other shareholder-owned enterprise. Its busi-

ness model is unique. It collects information on billions of people and uses that data to help drive its profits. One wonders whether, and at what point, that profit motive has come to be at odds with protecting the privacy of individual users. To me, that is one of the fundamental questions Mr. Zuckerberg is going to have to answer today.

From testimony released yesterday, we know Facebook will admit it made mistakes; that it didn't take a broad enough view of its responsibility and prevent its tools from being used in ways that it says it did not intend. That act of contrition is one we all welcome, of course, but it will not matter much without additional action, some of which might be even foundational to Facebook's entire business model.

Those changes, we are told, can take some time. Meanwhile, Americans will continue to wonder about their privacy, about who is acquiring data about their political opinions, their personal taste, and their preferences without their informed consent.

How much have any of us read of the terms of service for the social media platforms that we use? They are written by lawyers for legal purposes, which is basically to prevent any lawsuits from being successfully filed against the company. Yet, in terms of informed consent, which is what we ought to be focused on here, how much do consumers really understand about how the data is used that they turn over to these social media platforms?

Mr. Zuckerberg has an opportunity today to explain whether consumers are really being protected in any meaningful way. It is good that Facebook has, in recent months, shut down accounts that have had links to the Russian Government—accounts that were used to meddle in our last election. That is surely one actor we know who has used Facebook in improper ways, but it never should have reached that point. The company should have spotted this attempt of foreign influence much earlier and contained its spread.

In our moving forward, now is the time to demand a comprehensive accounting of internal monitoring efforts as well as the full extent of the infiltration and manipulation of that and other social media platforms in the past, not just by Russia but by other foreign actors, including rogue actors.

In addition to its response to the Russia allegations, Facebook, we have been told, has limited which online apps can literally vacuum up information from users' profiles. Once again, this announcement only tells us so much. We need to understand which apps are still being allowed to mine that data and under what conditions.

We have all heard about one egregious case of this happening—a political consulting firm, using Facebook, that improperly accessed the private data of some 87 million users. This data was used to assemble a psychological

profile to assess how people might respond to political advertising and how they might vote in an election. When people access Facebook to trade pictures with families and friends or to communicate with family and talk about their most recent vacations, I doubt they realize that data could be acquired by a third party, like Cambridge Analytica, and that it can not only literally use that information but all of the personal data of their friends and relatives in order to target political messaging for its use in an election.

Facebook has historically been a platform for all ideas, as they say, but now the company realizes that because of its business model, it has more responsibilities. It is not just a neutral platform. It must defend against false information, foreign government subterfuge, and other destructive conduct, such as child pornography and human trafficking. We know, as a result of the most recent legislation we passed relative to human trafficking, that we have actually expanded the responsibilities of social media platforms in the human trafficking arena because of the threat it poses to so many innocent people.

The basic questions are whether Facebook is responsible for misinformation in its use of its platform, for outright falsehoods, or attempts by foreign governments to meddle in our elections by sowing discord and disinformation. There are also some important questions about whether Facebook is inconsistently using the data that it collects in a way that obviously benefits itself financially but is not sharing it on an equal basis with law enforcement or intelligence when the intelligence community needs that information to solve crimes or to keep the country safe.

A lot of ideas have been tossed around about how to respond to these difficult questions. Perhaps we should treat social media platforms as information fiduciaries and impose legal obligations on them, as we do with lawyers and doctors, who are privy to some of our most personal, private information.

To me, one of the most important questions is who owns that data that we share on social media platforms and whether the data that is shared is shared with one's fully informed consent so that consumers are protected against consequences they had no way of anticipating and that are damaging to their personal privacy.

Other ideas involve increased transparency, partnering with the Federal Trade Commission, or passing new data privacy laws. They involve giving consumers more control and requiring companies to disclose in plain English and in nontechnical ways what information they collect before users are presumed to have given their consent. I look forward to exploring these and other related ideas at the hearing later today.

Facebook and other social media platforms need to come clean with the American people. An apology, while necessary and welcome, is not enough. These companies must back up their words with actions that better safeguard the American consumer and their right to privacy. Technology can be a good thing, but it can also be abused in ways that we need to reckon with. This afternoon's hearing will be the beginning of those efforts in a very substantial and comprehensive way.

Mr. President, on a separate matter, we have a lot on our plate here in the Senate apart from conducting the hearing that I just mentioned. One of our items on our "to do" list is to continue to confirm the President's nominees, who have faced an unprecedented level of obstruction from the minority. The majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has been forced to file cloture—a formal piece of paper—on six important nominees, many of whom will be confirmed with strong bipartisan support, but because our colleagues on the other side refuse to consent to the expedited consideration of these noncontroversial nominees, we will have to literally burn up a week of the Senate's time during which we could be doing other important work.

NOMINATION OF GINA HASPEL

Mr. President, in addition to the six nominees whom we will confirm this week, I want to talk about two in particular, two outstanding individuals who have been nominated by the President to some of the most important positions in the Federal Government. These posts are the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of State.

Gina Haspel has been nominated for the first position. She joined the CIA in 1985, which was during the final years of the Cold War. She is a career intelligence officer and has served for more than 30 years overseas, around the world, and in Washington. She has held various leadership roles at the Central Intelligence Agency, including that of Deputy Director of the National clandestine Service. You can imagine this is some of the most sensitive and important work that is being done in the intelligence community, and she has been right in the middle of it. She has also worked in the Counterterrorism Center, where her first day of work was on September 11, 2001—that fateful day when the Twin Towers fell and the Pentagon was attacked.

Throughout her career, Ms. Haspel has held some of the most demanding and least publicly acknowledged assignments in the far-off reaches of the globe—in places like Africa and the Middle East. She did not always seek out these difficult roles; she took them because she saw them as her duty. That is the challenge, honestly, when it comes to somebody who has had an incredible career like Gina Haspel's, because so much of what she has done, she has done in a classified setting. We cannot really talk about the details

without jeopardizing the sources and methods of our intelligence-gathering or without revealing information which could undermine our national security.

There have already been some attacks on Ms. Haspel, which, I think, are, honestly, a caricature of her 30-plus years of service to the country. We ought to applaud, not denigrate, people who are willing to sacrifice their safety, their comfort, and their security to make us safer and more secure as the American people. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen.

She has received numerous awards which lend credence to her reputation and illustrate that other accomplished professionals hold her in high regard. These awards include the Presidential Rank Award, which is the most prestigious award in the Federal civil service. She has also received the Intelligence Medal of Merit, among others.

Her integrity and professionalism are beyond question. A bipartisan group of intelligence officials who has served in previous administrations has testified to her qualifications and her fitness for this particular position as the Director of the CIA. For example, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, who served for 50 years in the intelligence community under Republican Presidents and Democratic Presidents, said he thinks the world of Ms. Haspel. She is capable, smart, experienced, and well respected by Agency rank-and-file and is a great person, he said.

Leon Panetta, who served as the Chief of Staff to Bill Clinton when he was the President and who later served as the CIA Director and the Secretary of Defense under President Obama, said that he is glad we will have the first woman as the head of the CIA and that Gina knows the CIA inside and out.

Former CIA Director John Brennan, who also worked under President Obama, has cited her ability to "provide unvarnished, apolitical, objective intelligence to [President] Trump and to others."

Just yesterday, 53 former senior U.S. officials sent the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence a letter in which they expressed their wholehearted support for Ms. Haspel. This group includes former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, among others.

As I said, we know that some partisans have already sought to twist and distort Ms. Haspel's record and the decisions that were made in real time by accomplished professionals at a time when our country was under attack.

In Ms. Haspel's case, there have been questions about interrogation tactics that had been used in the early days of the War on Terror following 9/11. These questions are really pretty easily answered. The program complained of was investigated twice by career lawyers in the Justice Department—one under President Bush and another

under President Obama. Ms. Haspel and others were found to have done nothing unlawful. As my colleague, the junior Senator from Arkansas, has said, Ms. Haspel did not go rogue or make these policies on the fly. She dutifully executed the approved policy as determined by the Department of Justice. Moreover, she did so at one of the most dangerous moments in our Nation's history.

I am confident that Ms. Haspel will be confirmed because if she is not, it will send a horrible message to other highly qualified people who feel the call to serve our Nation, and it will send a horrible message to other CIA officers who follow lawful orders and protect our country on a daily basis. It will make our intelligence professionals more risk averse and consequently endanger our national security and American lives.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, I also commend to the Senate the nomination of Mike Pompeo as the next Secretary of State and express my support for his nomination.

After graduating first in his class at West Point and serving in the U.S. Army, Mike Pompeo attended Harvard Law School. He had a successful career in law and business before transitioning into public service as an elected official. He served as a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives for Kansas's Fourth Congressional District, and he served in the U.S. House on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He was, of course, named by President Trump to lead the CIA after President Trump was elected.

Director Pompeo is smart and well respected by all. He has developed a keen sense of the delicate nature of global diplomacy and the crucial and indispensable role that America plays in world affairs. I know he has great personal rapport and the confidence of the President, and I think he will make an excellent Secretary of State.

Earlier this month, a group of influential conservatives sent a letter applauding Director Pompeo's nomination. They praised his management of the CIA and the trust he has earned of career officials there. They noted Director Pompeo's firsthand knowledge of the legislative process, something that is always handy for an executive branch official. They noted his congressional relationships—as we know, relationships are very important here, as well—but also his experience serving in the military, which gives him a unique perspective on a wide variety of issues.

I have worked with the Director on a number of occasions, including recently, when we worked together on the reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act section 702 program, which the intelligence community uses to monitor the communications of terrorists and other people who are a threat to the national security of the United States. Without the

Director's stalwart support, we would not have been successful at renewing that program for 6 more years this last January.

The Director never waivers from a fight, even under pressure, and he understands the important role that our intelligence officials have in responding to national security threats. That characteristic of his—not backing down from a fight—is important for a Secretary of State because inevitably they are involved in controversial matters. I believe he has the personal tact, skill, and intelligence to be able to deal with our allies and to address our adversaries on the world stage in a way that would help the United States and help us lead in the world.

Once he is confirmed, Americans would be fortunate to have Mike Pompeo's critical eye trained on difficult conflicts like that in Syria, upcoming negotiations on denuclearization with North Korea, the growing threat posed by China and its dictatorship, and the new and evolving forms of Russian aggression, including meddling in our elections. Mike Pompeo is not naive about these dangers. He is thoughtful, and I expect that, once confirmed, he will be direct, respectful, and collaborative in working with the White House and the Congress.

I strongly support the President's nomination of Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 2640 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATIONS OF JOHN RING AND PATRICK PIZZELLA

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I am here today to urge my colleagues to oppose the confirmation of two Trump nominees—John Ring, who has been nominated to the National Labor Relations Board, and Patrick Pizzella, who has been nominated Deputy Secretary of Labor. These two nominees have been selected to hold critical jobs to protect workers. That is what these jobs are about.

I will be blunt. I start with a pretty high bar here since, despite his campaign rhetoric from 2 years ago, the President's track record on standing up for workers has been absolutely miserable. From the day he nominated Andrew Puzder—an executive who delighted in mocking and belittling his

own low-wage workers—to run the Department of Labor, this administration has delivered one gut punch after another to America's working people.

The National Labor Relations Board is responsible for protecting the rights of workers to organize and bargain for better wages and benefits, so as we consider President Trump's latest nominee for the Board, it makes sense to look at what his nominees so far have already done.

Look at the new Republican majority's very first week back on the job back in December. In just 5 days, the Board mowed its way through a giant wish list of areas where giant companies were begging to be let off the hook for violating workers' rights.

Allowing employers to shirk their collective bargaining obligations by contracting out workers? Check.

Making it easier for employers to control the outcome of union elections. Check.

Opening the door for workplace rules that chill workers' ability to join together on the job. Check.

Allowing cases to be "settled" without input from the workers whose rights are affected by the settlement. Check.

Just as troubling as these anti-worker decisions themselves are the egregious conflicts of interest behind them.

From the moment he was nominated by President Trump, I have repeatedly raised concerns about Board Member William Emanuel's history of representing big corporations that have abused their workers and about his mile-long list of potential conflicts of interest. Sure enough, after just a few months on the Board, NLRB's inspector general determined that Mr. Emanuel participated in not one but two important decisions involving his former law firm, which directly violated his ethics pledge. In response, the Board vacated one of its most consequential decisions of the last year, and Member Emanuel lost any remaining credibility that he could be an impartial Board member. So I called on him to resign.

Now the President wants us to put John Ring on the Board. I have asked Mr. Ring to provide a list of clients and cases that might require his recusal. To his credit, he has done so. But Mr. Ring's long list of clients is a huge red flag. Either he will ignore the ethics rules when they are inconvenient—like Mr. Emanuel did—or he will likely have to recuse himself from important cases.

A large number of potential conflicts of interest isn't the only thing Mr. Ring has in common with Mr. Emanuel. Like Emanuel, Mr. Ring has also spent his career representing large employers against workers, and his few public statements on the NLRB express a belief that the Board has been too friendly to workers and that corporations have gotten the short end of the stick.

After decades of stagnant wages and skyrocketing corporate profits, does

anyone other than insider lobbyists and lawyers think that Washington is working for middle-class families and that big corporations are the ones under attack? I don't think so. That is exactly why an NLRB that looks out for workers is more important than ever. President Trump's NLRB is failing miserably at that mission.

Working Americans deserve Board members with a demonstrated record of fighting for workers, not against them. They deserve Board members who aren't ethically and legally constrained from doing the job. Mr. Ring does not meet those qualifications.

Workers need an NLRB that works for them, and they need leaders at the Department of Labor who are going to be on their side, not on the side of giant employers and extreme, right-wing donors. Patrick Pizzella has been nominated to the No. 2 job at the Department of Labor, and nothing in Mr. Pizzella's resume tells us that he meets the description of being on the side of workers.

In the 1990s, Mr. Pizzella lobbied with Jack Abramoff to exempt the Northern Mariana Islands from Federal labor laws. Do you know what that did? That allowed companies to run sweatshops while slapping "Made in America" labels on their products.

Later, when Mr. Pizzella was in charge of data management and other operations at the Labor Department, the Government Accountability Office found that the Wage and Hour Division was egregiously mishandling wage theft complaints, consistently leaving vulnerable low-wage workers out to dry, because of faulty data systems and other operational failures.

After leaving the Department, Mr. Pizzella went to work for secretive, far-right donor groups, such as the Conservative Action Project, which secretly planned out the 2013 government shutdown to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and undermine many workers' access to healthcare, all while Mr. Pizzella was its highest paid employee.

The Deputy Secretary position should be filled by someone who has defended worker rights, not undermined them, someone who will make government work for the American people, not hamstringing it for political purposes. Mr. Pizzella is the wrong man for this job.

President Trump talked a big game during his campaign about fighting for workers, but after a year of corporate tax cuts and rolling back commonsense protections for workplace safety, retirement security, and more, we know that those promises have turned out not to be worth much of anything.

The Senate should send a clear message to this administration that we expect agencies like the NLRB and the Labor Department to stand up for working people, not to suck up to corporate lobbyists. Rejecting these two nominees would be a good first step.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Under the previous order, all time has expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Ex.]

YEAS—96

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

NAYS—1

Sanders

NOT VOTING—3

Booker Duckworth McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:47 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2022.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Michael B. Enzi, Lamar Alexander, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, Tim Scott, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Bennet	Harris	Menendez
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Brown	Heinrich	Murphy
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Murray
Cardin	Hirono	Nelson
Carper	Jones	Peters
Casey	Kaine	Reed
Coons	King	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schatz
Donnelly	Leahy	Schumer
Durbin	Manchin	Shaheen
Feinstein	Markey	Smith

Stabenow
Tester
Udall

Van Hollen
Warner
Warren

Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Booker Duckworth McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2022.

(Mr. HOEVEN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Washington.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today for two reasons. Before discussing the nomination at hand—John Ring for the National Labor Relations Board—I do want to take a couple of minutes to mark Equal Pay Day.

Today, it takes women more than 3 additional months to make what their male colleagues made in 2017. In the 21st century, there is absolutely no excuse for the reality that women are still being paid less than men for the same work. It is wrong, it is harmful, and it has to change.

What is even more unacceptable is that for women of color, the pay gap is even worse. African-American women, working full time, only make 63 cents for every dollar their White male colleagues make, and on average, Latinas earn 54 cents for every dollar their White male colleagues make.

The wage gap doesn't hurt just women; it hurts families and our economy. Women are actually the sole or cobreadwinner in two-thirds of families with children. Families increasingly rely on women's wages to help make ends meet—to buy groceries, pay the bills, or pay for childcare.

In order to help women and all working families get ahead, I am very proud to be a sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. The Paycheck Fairness Act provides transparency and support for women who are being paid less than their male colleagues. It protects women from retaliation for discussing salary information with their coworkers, it allows women to join together in class action lawsuits, and it prohibits employers from seeking salary history, so the cycle of pay discrimination cannot continue.

As President Trump now continues to roll back worker protections and prioritize corporate profits over working families' wages, I think it is time for Congress to act and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act because workers do deserve to be paid fairly, end of story, no matter their gender.

Mr. President, I want to turn to the nomination before the Senate today,

the nomination of John Ring for the National Labor Relations Board.

First, I have to object to the unprecedented nature in which we are jamming this nominee through.

It is standard practice that Board nominees are always confirmed in pairs—one Democrat and one Republican. We do this to keep the Board as fair and balanced as possible in hopes that workers have a fair hearing when corporations violate their rights or bargain in bad faith, because the Board is the only place to which workers can turn to enforce their rights under the National Labor Relations Act. Workers cannot sue in court. So I must ask, why is this nominee being forced through without also filling the Democratic seat that is about to be vacated, especially at a time when so many other nominees have been waiting significantly longer—some more than 6 months—to be confirmed? I have to believe that it is because special corporate interests are putting immense pressure on my colleagues across the aisle to confirm someone who will advocate for corporations, no matter the cost to workers.

Right now, the Board's credibility is damaged because another Trump-appointed Board member, William Emanuel, chose to cast aside his ethics pledge and commitment to me by participating in Board actions that would directly benefit his former employer. Because of those actions, Mr. Emanuel—the Board's independent watchdog—opened an investigation, and because there was a clear conflict of interest, the Board was forced to vacate the decision that overruled Obama-era worker protections.

With a cloud of ethics controversies surrounding the current Board members, it is clear to me why corporations and special interests are trying to get Mr. Ring confirmed so quickly. Mr. Ring has spent his career as a corporate lawyer representing the interests of companies, not workers. He has opposed the Board's reforms that stop companies from unnecessarily delaying union elections. He has encouraged the Board to undermine long-established rights, including the right for workers to have coworker representation in disciplinary interviews. I find it difficult to believe he will advocate now for workers, as this Board desperately needs to be doing.

This administration has spent more than a year undermining workers' rights and making it easier for corporations to take advantage of them, and the Board, under Republican control, has been leading that charge by ignoring longstanding practices in a rush to overturn precedents that protect workers.

At a time when corporations in this country and the richest among us are getting richer and working families are left behind, it is so critical today that the Board be independent and able to advocate for workers. Now is not the time to break precedent and vote on a nominee without the Democratic pair.

For all these reasons, I will be voting no on this nominee. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. JOHNSON assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of Senator BROWN's remarks I be recognized for my remarks.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, thank you.

I thank the Senator from Rhode Island, who has been a great advocate for moving this country forward on everything from campaign finance rules to labor, to justice, and to keeping our planet as clean as possible.

During his campaign, Candidate Trump made a lot of big promises to workers in Ohio and across the country. He told them he would put American workers first, but too often the people he has put in charge have a record of doing exactly the opposite. That is certainly true of the two nominees to the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board whom we will consider this week, Patrick Pizzella and John Ring.

Think about this. They have spent their careers working to strip workers of their rights, defending corporations that are accused of mistreating workers, and trying to undermine collective bargaining rights.

Mr. Pizzella worked for disgraced former lobbyist and convicted felon, Jack Abramoff. They worked on the same lobbying team at the law firm of Preston Gates, trying to keep workers from being protected by Federal labor laws. These are the candidates the President of the United States, who talked about empowering workers and being on the side of workers, has nominated, one for the Department of Labor and one for the National Labor Relations Board. They have been busy through their professional careers—and very well paid doing it—trying to keep workers from being protected by Federal labor laws.

I know everyone is entitled to representation, but when you devote your life to keeping workers from having collective bargaining, keeping workers from working in a safe workplace, and defending companies who are accused of mistreating workers, it makes you wonder.

Mr. Pizzella also previously served at the Department of Labor, but his record there gives us no reason to rehire him at the Department of Labor. He worked at the Wage and Hour Division. He was supposed to look out for workers being cheated by their bosses out of the paychecks they had earned.

All over my State, from Cleveland to Cincinnati, from Ashtabula to Lima, from Marietta to Bryan and Toledo, I

hear stories of workers who simply couldn't fight back when their employers would occasionally cheat them out of a paycheck or overtime or misclassify them. We know most employers don't do that, but we know it happens with some regularity in communities all over my State and all over our country. That is why it is so important to have someone at the Department of Labor who looks out for the worker who doesn't often have a strong voice, as opposed to always siding with the employer on every issue.

Instead, an independent review by the Government Accountability Office found that when he was in his Department, the Wage and Hour Division was ineffective and actually discouraged workers from lodging complaints to get their hard-earned money back. So when a worker felt that he or she was cheated in the workplace, when Mr. Pizzella was in the Wage and Hour Division, those workers were reluctant to lodge complaints to get their money back because the Department of Labor was not on their side in those days.

This is the man who wants to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. He would be the second highest ranking official in charge of looking out for working men and women. His record indicates he would be more interested in looking out for corporations that want to take advantage of their workers. Isn't there enough of that in this country without the government siding with the richest, most privileged people in the country, the large corporations in the country against workers who simply don't have much of a voice? We are going to put government on the side of those corporations against those workers.

John Ring's nomination to the NLRB may be even worse. He has been nominated to be on the National Labor Relations Board. He is supposed to be a neutral arbiter between workers and management. He has spent his career representing employers. He has attacked the agency he is seeking to join. So much is at stake with this nomination. It will likely result in a 3-to-2 anti-worker and anti-labor majority on a board that has enormous influence over American workers. It will mean big advances in the decades-long campaign to chip away at workers' power in the workplace.

We need someone in both of these jobs—Mr. Pizzella at the Department of Labor and Mr. Ring at the NLRB—who wakes up every day thinking: How do I help American workers? How do I help American workers have a safer workplace? How do I help American workers get paid fairly? How do we make sure companies do the right thing as they treat their workers? That is what they should wake up every day thinking. Instead, President Trump has nominated and is hiring two people who have spent their careers trying to push those workers down. What these folks don't seem to understand is that it is not corporations that drive the economy; it is workers.

There is a problem in this institution. The leaders in this institution—the majority leader down the hall, Senator MCCONNELL—think you grow the economy from the top down. They think you give the richest people in the country tax cuts, you give the largest corporations in the country tax breaks, and it will trickle down and help workers.

No, that is not how you grow the economy. You grow the economy from the middle out. That is why we had greater job growth with President Obama after the auto rescue in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. More jobs were created in almost every one of those years than in 2017—President Trump's first year in office.

If work isn't valued, if corporations shortchange workers with the help of lawyers like Mr. Ring and Mr. Pizzella, then Americans can't earn their way to a better life for their families, no matter how hard they work.

In my hometown of Mansfield or where Connie and I live in Cleveland or in Cranston, RI—Senator WHITEHOUSE's hometown, where my daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren live—how many times do I hear people in these communities say: You know, I am working harder than ever, and I have less to show for it.

President Trump is going to put two lawyers in key places in the Federal Government who are going to stack the deck even more against those workers. The last thing we need is more people serving in Washington who don't value work and who don't respect the Americans who do it.

I urge my colleagues to listen a little more to the Americans we serve. As President Lincoln said: Go out and get your public opinion bath. Listen to workers—not just employers, not just lawyers, not just to country clubs. Go to where workers hang out. Listen a little more to the workers we serve and a little less to big corporations, which it seems these days are trying to squeeze every last penny out of their workers.

Mr. President, reject these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here on the floor for my 202nd "Time to Wake Up" speech. I would like to begin by thanking this body for the passing of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund as part of the measure that Republicans and Democrats agreed to before the recent recess. The Presiding Officer obviously represents an extremely coastal State. I represent Rhode Island, a very coastal State. This new program will provide resources for the communities along our shores to be able to deal with the threats they are seeing from sea level rise, fisheries moving about, worsening offshore storms, tides that now come ashore on bright sunny days, and the various hazards that they must

undertake so that they are not left alone trying to address them.

I often use these speeches to explore why it is that we get nothing done in Congress on climate. I point out that the major reason is the insidious fossil-fuel-funded web of climate change denial, with a parallel lobbying and electioneering effort.

I point out that this network is funded by the fossil fuel industry in a deliberate and systematic effort to misdirect public discussion and to distort public understanding of climate change and climate science.

I point out that it is actually working. It has been so effective at infiltrating our political system that the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is a full-on fossil fuel flunky. I discuss the fossil fuel industry's parallel web that directs rivers of dark money into our political system and deploys related, but more clandestine, threats and promises to work the industry's will in Congress.

Like I said, it is working. The web of denial and political enforcement organizations has so far achieved its purpose: to prevent Congress from carrying out its responsibility to rein in carbon pollution. We are, as a result, failing to protect the American people and our economy from the effects of that pollution, particularly our coastal economies. But now agriculture and other economies are feeling it too, and Congress is still doing nothing.

So this secretive and insidious apparatus deserves our attention. Nowadays, this apparatus is dedicated to denying science, confusing the public, and holding a political whip hand over Congress on the issue of climate change. Nowadays, it does this to protect the fossil fuel industry from responsibility for its pollution. But it is actually not a new enterprise.

We have never seen this machinery operating at this scale before. It is bigger and more multifaceted than ever, but we have seen its tricks before. The science denial playbook, commissioned by the Koch brothers, ExxonMobil, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to stymie climate action, is the same doubt-mongering playbook we have seen used by Big Tobacco, by chemical industries, and by other corporate polluters for decades.

I am not the only one who has noticed. A lot of work has examined this denial apparatus—how it is funded, how it hides its funding, how it communicates, and how it propagates the denial message. This is valuable work because the better America understands the mechanisms of this deceitful operation, the better America can inoculate itself against that deceit.

So I have brought some of this work with me to the Senate floor today. It is kind of a beginner's bibliography of this apparatus.

I will start with a book called "Deceit and Denial," and, on the cover, described by Bill Moyers as "the best detective story I've read in years." This

book is written by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, who have been tracking the efforts of industry to hide scientific facts about pollution for a long time. They point out in their introduction here:

Some industries . . . have reassured the public that their products are benign by controlling research and manipulating science. Throughout much of the twentieth century, most scientific studies of the health effects of toxic substances have been done by researchers in the employ of industry or in universities with financial ties to members of that industry. At times their results were subject to review by industry; if the results indicated a problem, the information was suppressed.

This goes way back into the annals of denial.

My next book is "Poison Tea." It is a book written by Jeff Nesbit. It goes back into the tobacco documents that were protected in the tobacco settlement. The attorneys general demanded that the documents of the tobacco companies be set aside as a permanent reference. Jeff Nesbit was present at some of the efforts to create the tobacco industry version of climate denial. He saw it happening up close. He was in some of the meetings. In chapter 25, he opens up with this:

If the 14 million internal tobacco industry memos and documents show one thing clearly, it is this: political campaign networks built to defend and promote large corporate interests with integrated goals, messaging, targets, and allies simply don't materialize overnight. The funding and strategies behind them take years to develop before reaching maturity. And they build on each other over time.

I turn now to "Doubt is Their Product." This is David Michaels' book. The subtitle is "How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health."

The quotation I have selected moves from the general principle of science denial on behalf of industries into global warming as this scheme moved forward:

Take global warming. The vast majority of climate scientists believe there is adequate evidence of global warming to justify immediate intervention to reduce the human contribution.

Now, this was written, just to be clear, in 2008, a decade ago—a decade ago:

The vast majority of climate scientists believe there is adequate evidence global warming to justify immediate intervention to reduce the human contribution. They understand that waiting for absolute certainty is far riskier—and potentially far more expensive—than acting responsibly now—

That is, 10 years ago—

to control the causes of climate change. Opponents of action, led by the fossil fuels industry, delayed this policy debate—

And for another decade—

by challenging the science with a classic uncertainty campaign.

He cites what he calls a cynical memo that Republican political consultant Frank Luntz delivered to his clients in early 2003, saying:

The scientific debate is closing [against us] but not yet closed. There is still a window of opportunity to challenge the science.

Luntz understood that his clients can oppose (and delay) regulation . . . by simply manufacturing uncertainty. Doubt is their product.

The next book is by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, entitled "Merchants of Doubt," which was actually made into a film as well. They have done a lot of work in this area.

Here is the conclusion:

Doubt-mongering works because we think science is about facts—cold, hard, definite facts.

This is a mistake. There are always uncertainties in any live science because science is a process of discovery.

Doubt is crucial to science . . . but it also makes science vulnerable to misrepresentation, because it is easy to take uncertainties out of context and create the impression that everything is unresolved. This was the tobacco industry's key insight: That you could use normal scientific uncertainty to undermine the status of actual scientific knowledge.

"Doubt is our product," ran the infamous memo written by one tobacco industry executive in 1969.

"Merchants of Doubt" goes on to describe how that exact same technique—and many of the same individuals and organizations—carried that over from tobacco smoke to global warming. Subtitle: "How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming."

This is a book by Pulitzer Prize winning author Steve Coll. He is actually speaking tonight at the Library of Congress. This book is called "Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power." It describes the mischief that Exxon got up to in pursuing its political goals here in Washington. He describes the underlying structure of Washington policy debates. He calls it a "kaleidoscope of overlapping and competing influence campaigns, some open, some conducted by front organizations, and some entirely clandestine."

Obviously, if you are ExxonMobil, you don't want your name on all of this stuff—hence, the "kaleidoscope of overlapping and competing influence campaigns, some open, some conducted by front organizations, and some entirely clandestine."

He continues:

Strategists created layers of disguise, subtlety, and subterfuge—corporate-funded "grassroots" programs and purpose-built think tanks, as fingerprint-free as possible. In such an opaque and untrustworthy atmosphere, the ultimate advantage lay with any lobbyist whose goal was to manufacture confusion and perpetual controversy. On climate, this happened to be the oil industry's position.

In his book "The War on Science," Shawn Otto goes in some detail through the scheming that backs up what he calls "a steady stream of pseudoscience that can be used by foot soldiers to sway the public debate."

He goes through a number of steps that are the standard parts of this campaign, starting with phony science:

Phony science . . . that creates "uncertainties" about the accepted views of mainstream science.

So you start off with phony science that creates phony uncertainties about the accepted views of mainstream science.

Step two follows with slanted press materials spoon-fed to journalists by industry-affiliated nonprofits and bloggers.

A third step of this PR battle is what he calls "building and financing industry-aligned front groups (fake public-interest organizations) and astroturf groups (fake grassroots organizations)."

And we sure do see those fake public interest organizations and fake grassroots organizations whipped up by the fossil fuel industry today.

Step 4 is outlier scientists—the ones who can cook up the pseudoscience that can be used by foot soldiers:

Outlier scientists are recruited to publish in phony journals and speak at conferences of physicians, lawyers, and other professionals, emphasizing the controversy and sowing "uncertainties" and denial, thus using peer-pressure to create true believers among the influential opinion leaders.

You then shove out into "industry-aligned, or otherwise sympathetic talk-radio and cable-news purveyors, who reference these mainstream sources, react with outrage, and call for policy action." This provides political cover for legislative or other "policy action by partisan allies in government."

Industry representatives can step safely out from behind the curtain for the main act of the culture-war drama and plead their case to policymakers. . . . The strategy is designed to neutralize the primacy of objective knowledge—

We wouldn't want to make decisions around here based on objective knowledge—

and slowly move public opinion toward accepting the industry's position as the only truly reasonable one, subverting the democratic process.

From my experience, that is a pretty good description as to how this game is played.

Thank you, Shawn Otto.

Two of the people who do some of the best work looking at this climate denial apparatus and tracking its funding are academic writers Riley Dunlap and Robert Brulle. Their book, "Climate Change and Society," drills into this pretty well. Here is the description.

Over time, manufacturing uncertainty has evolved into "manufacturing controversy," creating the impression that there is major debate and dissent within the scientific community over the reality of anthropogenic climate change. To accomplish this, corporations and especially CTTs have supported a small number of contrarian scientists (many with no formal training in climate science) and other self-styled "experts" (often social scientists affiliated with CTTs) to produce non-peer-reviewed reports and books, publish in a handful of marginal journals, hold "scientific" conferences, compile dubious lists of supposed scientists who question climate change, and in general mimic the workings of conventional science . . . fashioning a "parallel scientific universe" that serves to generate confusion among the public and policymakers.

Thank you, Riley Dunlap and Robert Brulle for your years of research.

Recently Jane Mayer's book, "Dark Money," has gotten a lot of attention. It focuses on the extent to which the Koch brothers specifically use the caverns for subterranean dark money to mess around in our politics. Following up on the use of conservative think tanks, we have an early—I guess you would say "strategizer" of this effort quoted as saying:

It would be necessary to use ambiguous and misleading names, obscure the true agenda, and conceal the means of control.

That is the background. This whole development of the think tank is described here this way:

In the 1970s, with funding from a handful of hugely wealthy donors . . . as well as some major corporate support, a whole new form of "think tank" emerged that was more engaged in selling predetermined ideology to politicians and the public than undertaking scholarly research.

To use her phrase, it was "the think tank as disguised political weapon."

That is part of what we are up against.

"Democracy in Chains," a book by Nancy MacLean, looks back at some of the early history through which the Koch brothers and others funded this operation. It points out that "the Koch team's most important stealth move, and the one that proved most critical to success, was to wrest control over the machinery of the Republican Party, beginning in the late 1990s and with sharply escalating determination after 2008."

What made them want to do this? I will read. The Koch cadre identified the public's embrace of environmentalism as a problem early on. They then pulled together—

a circle of less-known Koch-funded libertarian think tanks driving what two science scholars describe as systematic environmental "misinformation campaigns." They spread junk pseudoscience to make the public believe that there is still doubt about the peril of climate change, a tactic they learned from the tobacco companies that for years sowed doubt about science to keep the public from connecting smoking and illness.

The Koch team by then could count on its Club for Growth to fund primary challenges to ensure that the party line on environmentalism would be maintained by Republican members of Congress. . . . "We're looking at a party," the economist and columnist Paul Krugman rightly points out, "that has turned its back on science at a time when doing so puts the very future of civilization at risk."

Backing up that chokehold on federal action is what one reporter called a "secretive alliance" between red-state attorneys general and fossil fuel corporations.

Again, we link back to my earlier remarks. One of the red States' attorneys general who link up with the fossil fuel corporations is none other than our EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt.

She concludes it this way:

To put all this another way: if the Koch-network-funded academics and institutions were not in the conversation, the public would have little doubt that the evidence of science is overwhelming and government action to prevent further global warming is urgent.

I will close with a return to Jane Mayer, whose research on this whole dark money problem that bedevils our democracy has been nothing less than heroic, in my view. She wrote recently:

If there was any lingering doubt that a tiny clique of fossil-fuel barons has captured America's energy and environmental policies, it was dispelled . . . when the Trump Administration withdrew from the Paris climate accord. . . . [A] majority of Americans in literally every state wanted to remain within the agreement, and . . . the heads of many of the country's most successful and iconic Fortune 100 companies, from Disney to General Electric, did, too. . . . Yet . . . a tiny—and until recently, almost faceless—minority somehow prevailed.

How this happened is no longer a secret. The answer . . . is "a story of big political money." It is, perhaps, the most astounding example of influence-buying in modern American political history.

It is focused now on climate change because climate change is—and I quote her again here—"a direct challenge to the most powerful industry that has ever existed on the face of the Earth. There's no depth to which they are unwilling to sink to challenge anything threatening their interests."

That is a pretty good description by a lot of very well-regarded, and some in cases, Pulitzer Prize winning and award-winning writers and researchers about where we are. The result of all that is the gridlock that these interests have bought and paid for in Congress on this critical issue and an administration that is driven by fossil fuel interests to roll back all regulations that impinge on fossil fuel profits. Using that screen these authors have talked about—and that I have talked about—of think tanks and foundations and public relations firms and trade associations and, of course, those rivers of dark money flowing through subterranean political caverns, this industry—the fossil fuel industry—has taken control of and disabled our American political system. That is a very inconvenient truth for those in our political system, but its inconvenience takes away nothing from its truth.

Thanks to these authors and researchers and many others like them—many others like them—the truth of what has happened is plain. It is not just plain in these books. It will be plain before the reckoning gaze of history. There will be a reckoning. History always looks back, ultimately. If you look at these books and you look at others and you look at the record of what has taken place and the reporting, there is no doubt that this is the biggest influence-buying operation of all time. Do we in Congress really want to be found on the side of this crooked apparatus when that reckoning comes? God, I hope not. It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that at 12:20 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Ring nomination and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, a beloved statesman, and a gentleman of the Senate: Senator Daniel Akaka. On Friday, Senator Akaka passed away peacefully with his family gathered by his bedside. He leaves behind not only a strong record of legislative achievement, but a legacy of love and Aloha that animated his work here in the Senate.

Senator Akaka committed his life to public service. Whether as a soldier, educator, or Senator, he dedicated himself fully to the betterment of our Nation. After graduating high school in 1942, Senator Akaka enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers, playing a key role in critical construction projects across the Pacific Theater during World War II. Senator Akaka's military service was a springboard to even greater opportunities, allowing him to finance a college education through the GI bill.

As a beneficiary of this historic legislation, Senator Akaka was perhaps the greatest advocate of our troops during his time here in the Senate, writing and spearheading passage of the 21st Century GI bill. He wanted our servicemembers to have the same opportunity he had to transition into civilian life, receive an education, and change this country for the better.

With help from the GI bill, Senator Akaka earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from the University of Hawaii. For nearly two decades, he worked in Hawaii's public schools, first as a teacher and eventually as a principal. Working in the trenches of America's public education system, Senator Akaka gained the

hands-on experience he would need as a legislator to take an active role in some of the most important education reforms of modern times.

After working as both a teacher and an administrator, Senator Akaka served as the chief program planner in the department of health, education, and welfare, and eventually served as the director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity. The sterling reputation Senator Akaka gained in State government helped launch his legislative career, and in 1976, the people of Hawaii elected him to the U.S. House of Representatives. He had a distinguished record as a Congressman before Hawaii elected him to the Senate in 1990.

In this chamber, Senator Akaka worked hard on behalf of our Native populations as the chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. He also fought valiantly for our troops as the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, ensuring that our men and women in uniform were well taken care of upon returning home.

Having served alongside Senator Akaka for more than two decades, I remember best the spirit of civility he embodied as a legislator. He was caring and kind, loving and loyal, genuine and generous to all. He represented the best of this body in his willingness to lay aside partisan differences for the good of the Nation. Although we were members of different parties, he was the kind of Senator you could work with, never letting the perfect be the enemy of the good.

I consider myself lucky to have known Senator Akaka and even luckier to have called him a friend. Today my prayers are with Senator Akaka's family and the people of Hawaii, whom he loved and served so selflessly for so many years.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-24, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$300 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER

(For Charles W. Hooper,
Lieutenant General, USA,
Director).
Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-24

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$250 million.
Other \$50 million.
Total \$300 million.

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

MDE:

Five thousand (5,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) II Guidance Sections.

Non-MDE: Also included are five thousand (5,000) MK66-4 2.75 inch Rocket Motors, five thousand (5,000) High Explosive Warheads for Airborne 2.75 inch Rockets, inert MK66-4 2.75 inch Rocket Motors, Inert High Explosive Warhead for Airborne 2.75 inch Rockets, support equipment, spares, training, publications, engineering technical assistance, program management technical assistance, logistics support services, and other related elements of program support.

(iv) Military Department: U.S. Army (QA-B-WYX).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: QA-B-WYX, 19 Aug 14).

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 9, 2018.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—Five thousand (5,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) and Related Equipment and Support

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of five thousand (5,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) II Guidance Sections. Also included are five thousand (5,000) MK66-4 2.75 inch rocket motors, five thousand (5,000) high explosive warheads for airborne 2.75 inch rockets, inert MK66-4 2.75 inch rocket motors, inert high explosive warhead for airborne 2.75 inch rockets, support equipment, spares, training, publications, engineering technical assistance, program management technical assistance, logistics support services, and other related elements of program support. The estimated total program value is \$300 million.

This proposed sale supports the foreign policy and national security objectives of

the United States. Qatar is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region. Our mutual defense interests anchor our relationship and the Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) plays a predominant role in Qatar's defense.

Qatar intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces. This will contribute to Qatar's military goal by providing additional capability to its new AH-64E aircraft fleet. The APKWS will provide Qatar with a low-cost precision strike capability, decreasing collateral damage and expanding its options for counterterrorism operations. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor involved in this program is BAE, Nashua, New Hampshire. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require two U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to the State of Qatar for a period of one week to train in assembly and Wing Slot Seal replacement.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-24

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The APKWS II All-Up-Round is an air-to-ground weapon that consists of an APKWS II Guidance Section (GS), legacy 2.75 inch MK66 Mod 4 rocket motor and legacy MK152 and MK435/436 warhead/fuse. The APKWS II GS is installed between the rocket motor and warhead and provides a Semi-Active Laser (SAL) precision capability to legacy unguided 2.75-inch rockets. The APKWS II is procured as an independent component to be mated to the appropriate 2.75-inch warhead/fuse; however, for this case the APKWS II will be delivered as an All-up-Round (AUR).

2. The GS is manually set with the appropriate laser code during loading and is launched from any platform configured with a LAU-68F/A, or similar launcher(s). After launch, the GS activates and the seeker detects laser energy reflected from a target designated with a remote or autonomous laser. The control system then guides the rocket to the target.

3. The only interface required with the host platform is a 28V Direct Current (DC) firing pulse.

4. APKWS II increases stowed kills by providing precise engagements at standoff ranges with sufficient accuracy for a high single-shot probability of hit against soft and lightly armored targets, thereby minimizing collateral damage. The APKWS II is capable of day and night operations and performance in many adverse environments.

5. All training for APKWS II is UNCLASSIFIED. The training required is: pilot training to effectively employ the APKWS II, ordnance handler for safe handling and preparation of the APKWS II and AUR, and maintenance training for replacement of the Wing Slot Seal (WSS).

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the State of Qatar.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the votes on the

confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 539 and the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 728.

On vote No. 65, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 539.

On vote No. 66, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 728.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SCIPIO WHITE

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Scipio White for his service to our Nation, the Commonwealth, and to the Monessen community in Pennsylvania.

In 1941, Scipio entered the Army to defend our Nation during WWII. He was recognized early on for his leadership skills and his ability to interact with individuals of all backgrounds. Upon completing officer training school, Scipio was commissioned lieutenant. He became one of the first African Americans to serve as a field officer during WWII.

After the war concluded, Scipio continued his military career as an Army Reservist, eventually securing the rank of major. He served as branch president and vice president of his local Reserve Officers Association and is also active with the Military Officers Association of America.

Returning to Pennsylvania, Scipio continued his government service with the Post Office for 41 years. During that time, he completed a business degree from Douglas Business School in Monessen. Additionally, he was a board member of the Mon Valley Community Health Center during its inception and served on the board of the Washington County Postal Credit Union.

Today Scipio's devotion to the community remains evident. He actively works with the Monessen Clean Air Coalition to promote smoking cessation and remains a long-term member of the NAACP. For more than 50 years, he has worked with the Mon Yough Lodge No. 79 and is a 32 Sublime Prince with the St. Cyprian Consistory No. 4 in Pittsburgh, PA.

I commend Scipio White for his life of service and leadership on behalf of the Nation, the Commonwealth, and the residents of Monessen, PA.●

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE T. BELL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring Idaho State Representative Maxine T. Bell, of Jerome, ID, for her 30 years of serving in the Idaho House of Representatives.

Maxine has been an instrumental leader through economic challenges and an excellent role model for those interested in government service. She was first elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 1988 and has represented

the people of Jerome, Cassia, Minidoka, and rural Twin Falls Counties throughout her time in the Idaho statehouse. She also operated a family farm with her husband, Jack, and was a librarian at the Jerome Junior High School. In the State legislature, she has served as vice chairman of the agricultural affairs committee, as a member of the resources-conservation committee, as chairman of the appropriations committee, and as joint chairman of the joint finance and appropriations committee. Throughout her career, she has been known as someone who brings people together, works hard, and gets things done.

It is no wonder that Maxine Bell has received numerous awards for her distinguished service. These recognitions include being honored multiple times as the Farm Bureau's Friend of Agriculture, Ag All Star by farm organizations, Legislator of the Year by the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Co-operatives Friend, Advocate of the Year from the Idaho Career Development Association, and Legislator of the Year by the Idaho Library Association. She also received Idaho State University's President's Medallion, the Idaho Professional Technical Education Distinguished Service Award, and many other honors.

She is recognized as a strong, solution-driven leader who makes things happen. Her congenial demeanor, quick wit, and keen intellect are just a few of the traits that have made her so beloved and effective over the years. Idahoans have been fortunate to have Representative Bell's leadership in the legislature. We thank Maxine Bell for her outstanding service, congratulate her on her exemplary career, and wish her well as she concludes her service in the State legislature.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER HICKOX

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Heather Hickox, the Baker County Teacher of the Year from Baker County Pre-K/Kindergarten Center in Macclenny, FL.

Heather was named Teacher of the Year after exhibiting great use of strategies to meet all learning styles. In her classroom, mathematical concepts are taught well beyond what is expected to be seen at her students' grade level. She is also known for showing excellent orientation to her lessons through clearly posted objectives and activation of background knowledge.

According to Heather, every student is important and deserves the chance to achieve their goals. She believes it is the job of teachers to support and encourage students on their journey, to help them find their passions, and to give them the tools they need to be successful.

Heather received her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education in 2010 from the University of North Florida, graduating summa cum laude and on

the president's list. She began her teaching career at Baker County Pre-K/Kindergarten Center and has been there for 6 years.

I extend my best wishes to Heather for all the hard work and dedication she has for her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON JENKINS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Brandon Jenkins, the Brevard County Teacher of the Year from Heritage High School in Palm Bay, FL.

Brandon received this important recognition based on his teaching philosophy and practice, leadership, professional development, and encouragement of parental engagement in the learning process. After Brandon was named Teacher of the Year, he said it felt like proof his hard work was not in vain. It has always been a dream of his to touch the lives of students, as his life was touched many years ago.

Under Brandon's leadership, Heritage has seen its band membership grow from 15 to 130 students. The band's ratings have improved from previously receiving poor ratings at competitions to becoming a superior-rated concert band for the past 3 years.

Brandon earned his bachelor of science degree in music education from Winston-Salem State University and master of music degree in wind conducting from Messiah College. He became the band director at Heritage High School and has been a Brevard County Public School teacher for 5 years.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brandon for all his hard work and dedication he has given to his students. I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ASA JERNIGAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Asa Jernigan, the Nassau County Teacher of the Year from Fernandina Beach Middle School in Fernandina Beach, FL.

Asa's dedication to both his students and profession led to him being named Teacher of the Year. For 34 years, Asa has taught at both the middle and high school levels. His bands have earned the accolades with 26 consecutive years of superior ratings, as well as having numerous students selected for All-District and All-State Bands. Many of his former students have become professional musicians who perform around the world.

Asa shares his passion and expertise of music to colleagues across the district and State. Asa works on various different efforts, such as supervising new band directors, articulating with the Fernandina Beach High School band program, and serving on the Florida Bandmasters Association small schools and mentoring committees.

Asa received his bachelor of music education from Troy University and was a member of the Sound of the South marching band. He currently is the band director at Fernandina Beach Middle School, where he has worked for a total of 17 years.

I would like to recognize Asa for all his hard work and dedication to his students and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-4653. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "N,N-Dimethyl 9-Decenamide; N,N-Dimethyldodecanamide; N,N-Dimethyltetradecanamide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9974-70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4654. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Fresh Cherimoya Fruit From Chile Into the United States" (RIN0579-AE13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4655. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report (NGRER) for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4656. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Bradley A. Heithold, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4657. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Modification to Support for Non-Federal Development and Testing of Material for Chemical Agent Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4658. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting proposed legislation relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4659. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List and Removal of Certain Persons from the Entity List; Correction of License Requirements" (RIN0694-AH51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4660. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mortgage Servicing Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AA75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4661. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Jefferson Parish, LA, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4662. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Cameron County, TX, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4663. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (DeSoto County, MS, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4664. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Vernon Parish, LA, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4665. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4666. A communication from the Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Annual Performance Plan and Report"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4667. A communication from the Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection

Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection 2018 Annual Performance Plan and Report"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4668. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4669. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4670. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Mint, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4671. A communication from the Executive Director, Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2017 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4672. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2017 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4673. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as an emergency requirement all funding so designated by the Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, for the accounts referenced in section 7058(d); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4674. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, for the enclosed list of accounts; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4675. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Essential Reliability Services and the Evolving Bulk-Power System—Primary Frequency Response" (RIN1902-AF20) (Docket No. RM16-6-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4676. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fifth Biennial Report to Congress: Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Waters off the Coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4677. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Chicago and Granite City Areas to Attainment of the 2008 Lead Standard" (FRL No. 9975-93-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4678. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Cement Kilns, Revisions to Portland Cement Manufacturing Plant and Natural Gas Compression Station Regulations, and Removal of Nitrogen Oxides Reduction and Trading Program Replaced by Other Programs and Regulations" (FRL No. 9975-82-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4679. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9975-72-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4680. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Stationary Emissions Monitoring" (FRL No. 9976-17-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4681. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; KY: Removal of Reliance on Reformulated Gasoline in the Kentucky Portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton Area" (FRL No. 9976-20-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4682. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Approval of Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements and Single Source Order" (FRL No. 9975-79-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4683. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Standard" (FRL No. 9976-30-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4684. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator Units" (FRL No. 9976-31-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4685. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9976-08-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4686. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9975-66-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4687. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9975-65-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4688. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Nebraska Air Quality Implementation Plans; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide and the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Final Rule" (FRL No. 9976-09-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4689. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Delaware; State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2008 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9975-85-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4690. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Infrastructure and Interstate Transport for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard and Revised Statutes" (FRL No. 9975-60-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4691. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Automobile and Light-Duty Truck Assembly Coatings" (FRL No. 9975-86-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4692. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9975-88-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4693. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Colorado; Control of Emissions from Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9975-39-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4694. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Navajo Nation, California; Correcting Amendments" (FRL No. 9975-96-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4695. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Revisions to East Helena Lead SIP" (FRL No. 9975-63-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4696. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Agency's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2018 through 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4697. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notification of the President's intent to suspend the application of duty-free treatment to all African Growth and Opportunity-eligible goods in the apparel sector for the Republic of Rwanda; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4698. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Expiration Dates for Two Body System Listings" (RIN0960-A118) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4699. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “Requirements for Submissions Requesting Exclusions from the Remedies Instituted in Presidential Proclamations Adjusting Imports of Steel into the United States and Adjusting Imports of Aluminum into the United States; and the filing of Objections to Submitted Exclusion Requests for Steel and Aluminum” (RIN0694-AH55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4700. 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 “Modifications to Rev. Proc. 2015-36 and Rev. Proc. 2017-41” (Rev. Proc. 2018-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4701. 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 “Allocation of Controlled Group Research Credit” (RIN 1545-BL76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4702. 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 “Transitional Guidance Under 162(f) and 6050X with Respect to Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts” (Notice 2018-23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4703. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Annual Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4705. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Education, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4706. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4707. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2016 Report to Congress on the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children

with Serious Emotional Disturbances”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4708. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Grant Program for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4709. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4710. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-274, “Ann Hughes Hargrove Park Designation Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4711. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-275, “Dining with Dogs Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4712. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-276, “Boris Nemtsov Plaza Designation Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4713. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-277, “Disability Services Reform Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4714. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-278, “Fair Elections Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4715. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-279, “Workforce Development System Transparency Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4716. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-280, “Adult Career Pathways Task Force Expansion Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4717. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-281, “Health Care Provider Facility Expansion Program Establishment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4718. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-282, “School Health Innovations Grant Program Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4719. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s fiscal year 2017 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4720. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4721. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4722. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4723. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion Director, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4724. A communication from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunities and Diversity Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4725. A communication from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4726. A communication from the Acting Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4727. A communication from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4728. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Legislation Intergovernmental and Public Affairs, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4729. A communication from the Acting Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau's fiscal year 2017 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) and a report entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program status report for fiscal year (FY) 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4730. A communication from the Chief Human Resources Officer, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Service's fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4731. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation" (RIN1601-AA80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4732. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2018; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4733. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the seventh annual report relative to the Department of Justice's activities regarding pre-1980 racially motivated homicides, as required by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007 and Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4734. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the seventh annual report relative to the Department of Justice's activities regarding pre-1980 racially motivated homicides, as required by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007 and Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4735. A communication from the Chief of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime" (WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, and CC Docket No. 01-92) (FCC 18-13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4736. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Monetary Threshold for Reporting Rail Equipment Accidents/Incidents for Calendar Year 2018" (RIN2130-ZA16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4737. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 74, 76 and 78 of the Commission's Rules regarding Maintenance of Copies of FCC Rules" (MB Docket No. 17-231) (FCC 18-16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4738. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Temporary Measures to Reduce Overfishing of Golden Tilefish" (RIN0648-BH15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4739. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0713)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4740. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9074)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4741. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0109)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4742. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9519)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4743. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0826)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4744. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5019)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4745. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4746. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0527)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4747. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0774)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4748. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9067)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4749. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0766)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4750. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0900)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4751. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1079)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4752. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited

Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1184)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4753. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turbofan Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4754. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1166)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4755. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0909)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4756. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airspace” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4757. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1021)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4758. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1025)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4759. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; AgustaWestland S.p.A. Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0111)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4760. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9435)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4761. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0103)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4762. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A., Turboshift Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0084)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4763. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Berlin, NH” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0848)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4764. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class E Airspace; Centerville, MD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0822)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4765. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Moundsville, WV” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0848)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4766. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Selinsgrove, PA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0839)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4767. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hanford, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0856)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4768. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Rangely, CO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0972)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4769. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greenville, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0801)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4770. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (86) Amdt. No. 3788” ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4771. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (38); Amdt. No. 3787” ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4772. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 538” ((RIN2120-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4773. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rotorcraft Pilot Compartment View” ((RIN2120-AK91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-190. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to taxation of pension disbursements; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 1404. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona (Rept. No. 115-222).

H.R. 1500. A bill to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-223).

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 Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2636. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a community action opioid response grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2637. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve the quality, health outcomes, and value of maternity care under the Medicaid and CHIP programs by developing maternity care quality measures and supporting maternity care quality collaboratives; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2638. A bill to require the Secretary of State to seek to negotiate the elimination of all foreign subsidies for international postal shipments to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2639. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to establish privacy protections for customers of online edge providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2640. A bill to require operators that provide online and similar services to educational agencies, institutions, or programs to protect the privacy and security of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2641. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the requirement to purchase domestic commodities or products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2642. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish a pilot program for Jobs Plus Recovery programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 2643. A bill to clarify the effect of certain final rules and determinations of the

Environmental Protection Agency relating to greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty vehicles; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 453. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 9 through April 13, 2018, as "National Assistant Principals Week"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 454. A resolution relative to the death of Zell Bryan Miller, the former Governor and Senator of the State of Georgia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr.

MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 455. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Senator from the State of Hawaii; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 456. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 109

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 130

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 130, a bill to require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives.

S. 372

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

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from

New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 448, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 1006

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1250

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1250, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes.

S. 1386

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1386, a bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling

practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1518, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1935

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1935, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Indian tribal governments in the same manner as State governments for certain Federal tax purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

S. 2236

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to require covered discrimination and covered harassment awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights for covered discrimination and covered harassment complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2430

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2430, a bill to provide a permanent appropriation of funds for the payment of death gratuities and related benefits for survivors

of deceased members of the uniformed services in event of any period of lapsed appropriations.

S. 2471

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2471, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the compassionate release process of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

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

S. 2584

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2584, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2635

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2635, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the offenses relating to fentanyl, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 355

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

S. RES. 407

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 407, a resolution recognizing the critical work of human rights defenders in promoting human rights, the rule of law, democracy, and good governance.

S. RES. 424

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 424, a resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2640. A bill to require operators that provide online and similar services to educational agencies, institutions, or programs to protect the privacy and security of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, later today the CEO of Facebook will come before the U.S. Senate to discuss Facebook's leak of the data of an estimated 87 million users.

As someone who personally spent over a decade in the technology business and cloud computing, I know how important tech jobs are. I know how important internet connectivity is and how important social media is to our growing economy.

But I am also the father of four children, and I know the importance of ensuring that as technology continues to rapidly evolve, our children's security and privacy must be protected. In fact, recently in Montana we had a breach of our children's data at Kalispell Middle School. That is why today I am reintroducing the SAFE KIDS Act.

This bill prohibits websites and programs that are designed for students ranging from pre-K to the 12th grade from selling or disclosing our children's personal information. It takes the control of our students' data away from operators and places it back where it should be, in the hands of parents and the students themselves. This is a smart, timely, and important bill.

Our children's information shouldn't be used and abused, and I encourage and ask my colleagues to join me in support of the SAFE KIDS Act.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2642. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish a pilot program for Jobs Plus Recovery programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the opioid and addiction epidemic continues to devastate communities across our country today. One of the greatest challenges for the 21 million Americans currently impacted by substance use disorder is to obtain and maintain employment while sustaining recovery. For the benefit of our Nation, we must work to implement interventions to improve employment rates among this chronically unemployed and underemployed population in treatment and recovery.

Research demonstrates that alignment of job training and treatment services improves employment attainment, employee earnings, and substance use disorder treatment outcomes, including lower rates of relapse.

By holding a job, an individual establishes a legal source of income, structured use of time, and improved self-esteem, which in term may reduce substance use and boost our economy.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the major source of Federal support for workforce development. WIOA programs provide education and training services to prepare individuals for work and to help them improve their prospects in the labor market through job search assistance, career counseling, occupational skill training, classroom training, or on-the-job training; however, no dedicated funding currently exists to integrate workforce training into recovery and treatment services to enable individuals to secure and maintain stable employment. Participants enrolled in WIOA—beyond core service—achieve an adult entered employment rate overall of 82%, which rises to 87% for on-the-job training and apprenticeship.

I am pleased to introduce today with my colleagues, Senator YOUNG and Senator JONES, the Jobs Plus Recovery Act, which addresses barriers individuals in treatment face when seeking employment opportunities. The Jobs Plus Recovery Act amends WIOA to empower our primary workforce development driver to better support the needs of individuals with substance use disorders by including them in the definition of an individual with a barrier to employment. The bill also supports partnerships between substance use disorder treatment and recovery providers, education providers, and job services providers, such as the American Job Centers established in WIOA, to improve worker training, employment opportunity and retention for individuals in recovery.

Throughout my time as a public servant, I have remained committed to ensuring our Nation's workforce is as strong as possible. Virginia businesses continue to share their desperate need for more applicants with the necessary skills to thrive in their industries. I am proud to introduce this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to provide critical support services to equip workers with the training and supports necessary to gain and retain meaningful employment.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 9 THROUGH APRIL 13, 2018, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK”

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. JONES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 453

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this

preamble as “NASSP”), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 9 through April 13, 2018, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 9 through April 13, 2018, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 9 through April 13, 2018, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF ZELL BRYAN MILLER, THE FORMER GOVERNOR AND SENATOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN,

Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas Zell Bryan Miller (referred to in this preamble as “Zell Miller”) was born to Stephen Grady Miller and Birdie Bryan Miller (referred to in this preamble as “Birdie Miller”) on February 24, 1932, in Young Harris, Georgia;

Whereas Stephen Grady Miller died when Zell Miller was 17 days old;

Whereas Birdie Miller, a new mother and widow, raised Zell Miller alone in a home that she built for herself and for Zell Miller with rocks from a nearby stream in Young Harris;

Whereas Zell Miller grew up in Young Harris and graduated from Young Harris College in 1951;

Whereas Zell Miller served in the Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956 and rose to the rank of sergeant;

Whereas Zell Miller credited his success to the discipline that he learned as a Marine and the independence that he learned from Birdie Miller;

Whereas, on January 14, 1954, Zell Miller met his wife Shirley Carver, to whom Zell Miller was married for 64 years and with whom Zell Miller had 2 sons;

Whereas Zell Miller obtained a master's degree in history from the University of Georgia in 1958 and returned to Young Harris to begin a long career as an educator;

Whereas Zell Miller served as mayor of Young Harris from 1959 to 1960;

Whereas Zell Miller served as a Georgia State Senator from 1961 to 1964;

Whereas Zell Miller was a member of the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles from 1973 to 1975;

Whereas Zell Miller served as Lieutenant Governor of the State of Georgia for 16 years, and was the longest-serving lieutenant governor in the history of the State of Georgia;

Whereas, on January 14, 1991, Zell Miller was sworn in as the 79th Governor of the State of Georgia and served the State for 2 4-year terms;

Whereas, as Governor of the State of Georgia, Zell Miller—

(1) in 1992, created the Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally scholarship, known today as the “HOPE” scholarship, which has enabled more than 1,800,000 students to attend college in the State of Georgia;

(2) in 1993, launched the first pre-kindergarten program in the United States, which became a national model for early childhood development programs;

(3) in 1996, welcomed the Olympic summer games to Atlanta, Georgia;

(4) in 1998, led Georgia to be first among 50 states in academic-based student financial aid due to “HOPE” scholarships; and

(5) on leaving office in 1999, enjoyed an 85 percent approval rating, which was a record high in the State of Georgia for a governor;

Whereas from 1999 to 2000 Zell Miller returned to his roots as an educator and held teaching positions at Young Harris College, Emory University, and the University of Georgia;

Whereas Zell Miller was appointed to the Senate in 2000 to fill the vacancy created by the passing of former Senator Paul Coverdell;

Whereas Zell Miller was elected to the Senate in a special election in November 2000 to serve out the term through 2005;

Whereas, on January 4, 2005, Zell Miller gave a farewell speech on the floor of the Senate;

Whereas, in 2008, the Zell B. Miller Learning Center at the University of Georgia was dedicated in honor of Zell Miller;

Whereas, in 2011, the Zell Miller Scholarship was created by the State Legislature of Georgia;

Whereas, in 2014, the Zell and Shirley Miller Library at Young Harris College was dedicated in honor of Zell Miller and Shirley Miller;

Whereas, in 2016, the Miller Institute was established to preserve, promote, and continue the legacy of Zell Miller;

Whereas Zell Miller was a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees at Young Harris College and a member of the Board of Trustees at Mercer University;

Whereas, at the time of his death, Zell Miller and Shirley Miller resided in Young Harris in the same house that Birdie Miller built in the early 1930s;

Whereas Zell Miller is survived by his wife of 64 years, his 2 sons, Murphy Carver Miller and Matthew Stephen Miller, 4 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren;

Whereas the Marine Corps values of patriotism and loyalty possessed by Zell Miller guided his career in service to the State of Georgia and to the United States; and

Whereas the State of Georgia and the United States are deeply indebted to Zell Miller for his passion as an educator, lifelong dedication to public service, and commitment to improving the lives of all of the people in the State of Georgia and in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) extends deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Zell Bryan Miller; and

(B) honors the legacy and life of Zell Bryan Miller, his commitment to the people of the State of Georgia and the United States, and his service to the Senate; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Zell Bryan Miller.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. AKAKA, SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr.

CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 455

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka was first elected to Congress in 1976 and served in the House of Representatives for 13 years and in the Senate for 23 years;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka was the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka served in the United States Army during World War II;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka studied education at the University of Hawaii using benefits from the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the “G.I. Bill”) (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268) and became a teacher and principal in Hawaii schools;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka served as a member of a number of Senate committees and as the chairman of—

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs;

(2) the Committee on Indian Affairs;

(3) the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;

(4) the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services; and

(5) the Subcommittees on National Parks and Mineral Resources Development and Production of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka served as the vice-chair of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka enacted legislation to provide needed benefits to veterans, to protect working families and consumers, to improve government management and support the Federal workforce, to empower Native Hawaiians and other native peoples, to protect the environment and historic sites, to improve infrastructure, and to support exploration and research of outer space and the oceans of the earth;

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka served with great humility, faith, integrity,

and love of his family, the State of Hawaii, and the United States; and

Whereas the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka personified the spirit of aloha, and represented and epitomized the people of the State of Hawaii: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Senator from the State of Hawaii; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Roberts, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Hoeven, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, Mr. Daines, Mr. Perdue, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Hyde-Smith.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Shelby (Chairman), Mr. McConnell, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Collins, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Graham, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Rubio, Mrs. Hyde-Smith.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Blunt (Chairman), Mr. McConnell, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Hyde-Smith.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have 7 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 Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled

"Facebook, Social Media Privacy, and the Use and Abuse of Data."

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Facebook, Social Media Privacy, and Use and Abuse of Data".

COMMITTEE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Cooperative Federalism Under the Clean Air Act: State Perspectives."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Summit of the Americas: A Regional Strategy for Democratic Governance Against Corruption in the Hemisphere."

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF ZELL BRYAN MILLER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 454, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 454) relative to the death of Zell Bryan Miller, the former Governor and Senator of the State of Georgia.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 454) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. AKAKA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 455, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 455) relative to the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Senator from the State of Hawaii.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 455) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 456, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 456) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 456) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from

further consideration of S. Res. 377 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 377) recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day," and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 377) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 23, 2018, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time

for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. Finally, I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Ring nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 454 and S. Res. 455 as a further mark of respect to the late Senators Zell Miller of Georgia and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:25 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JUSTIN GEORGE MUZINICH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE SARAH BLOOM RASKIN.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

EMIN TORO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JOSEPH ROBERT GOEKE, TERM EXPIRING.

THE JUDICIARY

WENDY WILLIAMS BERGER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE JOHN E. STEELE, RETIRED.

HOLLY A. BRADY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, VICE JOSEPH S. VAN BOKKELEN, RETIRED.

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE MARK E. FULLER, RESIGNED.

BRITT CAGLE GRANT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JULIE E. CARNES, RETIRING.

JOHN M. O'CONNOR, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN, EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF OKLAHOMA, VICE JAMES H. PAYNE, RETIRED.

LANCE E. WALKER, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, VICE JOHN A. WOODCOCK, JR., RETIRED.

ALLEN COTHREL WINSOR, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ROBERT L. HINKLE, RETIRED.

PATRICK R. WYRICK, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, VICE DAVID L. RUSSELL, RETIRED.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES G. CHIAROTTI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMES F. HUGGINS II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

MITCHELL P. KREUZE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

SHERYL L. ANTHOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DENNY L. ROZENBERG

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 10, 2018:

THE JUDICIARY

CLARIA HORN BOOM, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF KENTUCKY.