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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 Lord our God, as our lawmakers take up the duties of this day, give them Your wisdom and guidance. Remind them that You already know their needs, motives, hopes, and fears. Lord, keep them from being awed by difficulties and frightened by problems, as You provide them with wisdom in their decisions and harmony in their interactions. May the work they do today on Capitol Hill have eternal significance.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will 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 A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1865

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1865) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

REMEMBERING BILLY GRAHAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday we welcomed the President, the Vice President, and the family of the late Reverend Billy Graham as he lay in honor in the Capitol. This is a very rare tribute—even rarer for an American without government or military service—but it perfectly suits the remarkable man whose preaching inspired millions worldwide, who counseled Presidents and world leaders across generations, and whom an entire nation came to know as America's pastor.

Billy Graham's powerful preaching and his historic revivals brought so

many closer to God because his work was not ultimately about him. "The secret of my work," he explained, "is God. I would be nothing without him." His personal strengths and talents were mighty, but it was his kindness, his humility, and his total fidelity to faith and family that defined his life and his ministry.

I am glad that Congress could honor the great Reverend Graham in this way. Yesterday, thousands—thousands—of Americans packed the Rotunda down the hall to pay their respects. All across the country, people are giving thanks for the extraordinary contributions of this good and faithful servant.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on another matter, it has been just over 2 months since the united Republican government delivered historic tax reform to middle-class families all across the country. How is it working? We have all seen the national news. Walmart is giving raises or new benefits to more than 1 million hourly workers. Boeing is investing \$300 million in workforce development and corporate giving. Apple is bringing hundreds of billions of dollars back home. But no less important are the stories making front-page news in hometown newspapers all across our country.

Thanks to tax reform in North Lima, OH, Sheely's Furniture & Appliance is planning to issue \$1,000 bonuses to full-time workers and expand the sales floor by 4,500 square feet.

In Cushing, OH—population of 220 people—tax reform is allowing John Anfinson to give \$1,000 bonuses and 5 percent pay raises to all of his employees at the farm store that his grandfather founded in 1918, 100 years ago.

"I work every day shoulder to shoulder with everyone," Mr. Anfinson explained. "When you work every day with a group of people, you know them and their family. . . . They are the most valuable asset in any business."

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



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His customers will also likely be breathing easier. Tax reform is enabling farmers and ranchers across America to immediately expense the cost of important investments, and it is taking a big bite—a big bite—out of the death tax.

Senators heard stories just like these during last week's State work period. Just ask Senator TOOMEY what tax reform is doing in Pennsylvania. He stopped by New Hudson Facades, a manufacturer in Linwood. Tax reform enabled them to increase wages by 5 percent, and a partner company is contributing \$3,000 to every factory worker's 401(k).

How about in Montana? Senator DAINES' trip across his State took him to Pacific Steel in Great Falls, where sales are up 25 percent—sales are up 25 percent—since tax reform passed.

In West Virginia, Senator CAPITO joined a roundtable at the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce. She heard from local business leaders about "increased optimism."

In Nevada, 90 percent of the small business owners Senator HELLER recently spoke with said they plan to raise wages, increase benefits, award bonuses, hire more workers, or invest in their operations.

It is a shame our Democratic colleagues still haven't been able to extract themselves from their lockstep opposition to this historic law. If they had gotten their way, none of this good news would have happened—none of it. Only one of the Senators from Pennsylvania voted for the law that is allowing that Linwood manufacturer to expand. Only one Senator from Ohio voted for the new law that is helping those workers in North Lima. Only one Senator from Nevada voted to give small businesses the flexibility to invest more in their employees. Only one Senator from West Virginia and one Senator from Montana voted to take money out of Washington's pocket and put it back in the pockets of the middle class.

Every single Senate Democrat—every one of them—did all they could to block tax reform. Fortunately, every Republican voted to pass it. And because Congress passed tax reform and the President signed it into law, workers and small business owners are already reaping the benefits.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on Friday, I visited Wilde Lake High School in Columbia, which is located in Howard County, MD, between Washington and Baltimore. I wanted to talk to students about the tragic Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas

High School, in Parkland, FL, which left 17 students and faculty members dead. This is the deadliest high school shooting in American history. I went to Wilde Lake because one of their own teachers, Laura Wallen, was shot to death in September 2017, and her former boyfriend is now on trial for her murder.

I was extremely impressed by the passion of these students. They had a great deal of interest in the subject matter; they were extremely articulate; and they asked great questions. I found it extremely encouraging for the future of Howard County, MD, and this Nation. These students are rightfully concerned about their safety and the safety of their classmates. It has been 2 weeks since a disturbed young man invaded Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The reaction seems to be like clockwork after each shooting. There is bipartisan shock, anger, and horror. Predictably, the question comes out: Will this time be different? The answer for the Republican leaders in Congress has always been "no" as the outrage and call to act quickly falls back to NRA talking points versus reality. This time, the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the students in Maryland and across the country are not taking "no" as the final word. This time, the survivors are leading the way and are speaking out in a forceful way like we have not heard before.

Students like Ryan Deitsch, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, want to know why these students—the children—need to be the ones to speak out "just to save innocent lives," he said. He wants to know why the adults cannot be the adults and do what is necessary to protect children.

I think the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have had a clear, articulate message that this carnage needs to stop. They want to feel safe in their schools again. Armed with their cell phones and their stories, they have taken up the banner of hashtag "never again" and are changing the face of this debate to make this country safer from gun violence.

Alex Wind, another survivor from Stoneman Douglas, laid out the larger problem of why students are mobilizing:

We're marching because it's not just schools. It's movie theaters, it's concerts, it's nightclubs. This kind of stuff can't just happen. You know, we are marching for our lives, we're marching for the 17 lives we lost. And we're marching for our children's lives and our children's children and their children.

So what can we do?

There are several pieces of legislation that are ready to go. The Democrats and some Republicans have been willing and ready to act. Leader MCCONNELL could move any one of these bills right now. Let's start by

making it clear that weapons of war are not needed by civilians of any age. I have cosponsored S. 2095, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017, offered by Senator FEINSTEIN.

This legislation would, one, ban the sale, manufacture, transfer, and importation of military style assault weapons; two, ban any assault weapon that accepts a detachable ammunition magazine and has one or more military characteristics; three, ban magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, which allow shooters to quickly fire many rounds without needing to reload.

The bill also requires a background check on any future sale, trade, or gifting of an assault weapon that is covered by the bill, and it prohibits the transfer of high-capacity ammunition magazines. It also bans bump fire stocks and other devices that allow semiautomatic weapons to fire at fully automatic rates. Congress should also pass the Background Check Expansion Act, S. 2009, which I have cosponsored and has been offered by Senator MURPHY.

This bill would expand Federal background check requirements to include the sale or transfer of all firearms by private sellers, just as licensed dealers are required to conduct checks for sales under the existing Brady Law. The bill requires background checks for the sales or transfers of all firearms from one private party to another even if either party is not a federally licensed dealer. This requirement extends to all unlicensed sellers whether they do business online, at gun shows, or out of their homes.

According to a recent poll, a record 97 percent of those surveyed said that they support requiring background checks for gun buyers—97 percent. Why can't we get this done? It is not a heavy lift. Americans are with us on this. We need to recognize that saving children's lives is more important than the National Rifle Association.

Congress also should ease restrictions on gun violence research and prevention efforts by removing onerous restrictions on the Centers for Disease Control research. We can improve States' sharing of information with Federal databases that screen gun buyers.

At a townhall last week, Senator RUBIO, when questioned by an audience of students and parents from Stoneman Douglas, said that "the problems we are facing here today cannot be solved by gun laws alone." With that, I agree, but these gun laws will make a difference. Yes, there is no single solution, but we should be united in our willingness to do what we can to save lives.

I agree with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that we must devote more resources to mental health priorities to identify young people who may be about to cause harm to themselves or others.

Let's attack this problem from multiple directions. We cannot raise our hands in the air and give up because there is no one law that can solve the problem. Sitting on the sidelines is not an option when our children are being killed, sometimes by other children, and surrendering to the false logic that the problem is too big to address falls well short of what the American people deserve. We were sent here to our Nation's Capitol to make the tough decisions and to do the right thing.

I agree with Alex Wind that this problem we need to tackle is larger than simply school safety, but I would like to talk about that specifically for one moment.

In an effort to turn the conversation away from an assault weapons ban or closing loopholes in background checks, the President decided to latch on to this idea that we should arm teachers and educators in our schools. We do not need, as President Trump has suggested, more guns in the schools, and we do not need teachers carrying guns. We do know that teachers are hired to teach, not to be security guards.

Let's listen to our educators and say no to this proposal. The answer to keeping guns and gun violence out of our schools is not to bring more guns into the school. The students I talked to at Wilde Lake High School in Columbia, MD, understood that adding more guns would not help the situation and could lead to more problems in the schools themselves. They certainly want to see their buildings more secure, but we can do that through infrastructure improvements, technology, and school resource officers.

Why are these things happening in the United States with such alarming frequency and not elsewhere around the world? Gun-related deaths unfold in tragic circumstances across this country daily, with more than 1,800 people killed by guns this year alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a not-for-profit group. Mass shootings often shine the spotlight on the United States and its position as a global outlier.

The number of firearms available to American civilians is estimated to be around 310 million, according to the 2009 National Institute of Justice report.

According to the Small Arms Survey, the exact number of civilian-owned firearms is impossible to pinpoint because of a variety of factors, including arms that go unregistered due to illegal trade and global conflict. Estimates indicate that Americans own nearly half of the 650 million civilian-owned guns in the world today, which is nearly one gun for every man, woman, and child in the United States. Our Nation is well armed. India is home to the second-largest civilian firearm stockpile, estimated at 46 million.

Americans own the most guns per person in the world, with about 4 in 10

saying they either own a gun or live in a home where there is a gun, according to the 2017 Pew Center study. Forty-eight percent of Americans said they grew up in a house with guns. According to the survey, a majority—66 percent—of U.S. gun owners own multiple firearms. The No. 2 country in the world for the largest number of guns per capita is Yemen—a country that is in the throes of a 3-year-old civil war. They trail significantly behind us. They have 54 guns per 100 in Yemen; we have 88 guns per 100 in the United States.

When it comes to gun massacres, the United States is an anomaly. There are more public mass shootings in America than in any other country in the world. The United States makes up less than 5 percent of the world's population but holds 31 percent of global mass shooters. In Australia, for example, four mass shootings occurred between 1987 and 1996. After those instances, public opinion turned against gun violence, and Parliament passed stricter gun safety laws. Australia hasn't had a mass shooting since.

Gun safety laws work. The public demands that we take action to make our communities safer.

Gun homicide rates are about 25 times higher in the United States than in other developed countries. The United States has one of the highest rates of death by firearms in the developed world, according to World Health Organization data. The calculations based on OECD data from 2010 show that Americans are 51 times more likely to be killed by gunfire than people in the UK.

Most American gun owners say that a major reason they own a gun is for personal protection, according to the Pew study. However, the majority of firearms-related deaths are attributable to self-harm. Gun-related suicides are eight times higher in the United States than in other high-income nations.

Thinking of Stoneman Douglas High School, we all wonder out loud, what drove this young man to kill indiscriminantly? There is no one single reason, but that is no excuse for Congress and lawmakers in all of our States to remain frozen and fail to act to try to stop a future shooting from happening. If anything, it should be the impetus for us to move forward on many fronts and to take many actions to support our children and support our communities so more lives are not lost in such a violent way.

We cannot allow the story of this shooting to end like all the others in recent history. We should have taken action after three students were killed and five wounded in December 1997 at a high school in West Paducah, KY. We should have taken action after two students opened fire on April 20, 1999, in Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding 26 others. We should have taken action after a gunman fa-

tally shot 32 people in a dorm and classrooms at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, on April 16, 2007.

Columbine, Virginia Tech—for a period, these names became a code for some of the worst killings in our history. Nearly 5 years later, it happened again. Three students were killed and two wounded in a shooting on February 27, 2012, that started in a school cafeteria in Chardon, OH, as students waited for buses to other schools. Then there was Sandy Hook. I know we all remember a 20-year-old gunman, in December of 2012, killing 20 first grade children and 6 educators inside Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT—elementary school students. These were first graders, for goodness' sake, young children who should clearly have moved us to action. But no. The killings continued because the Republican leadership has been unwilling to budge from the NRA-approved message.

We have had bipartisan support for some of this legislation, as we do today, but too many are so afraid of the NRA response that they lose sight of the fact that children are being killed right before our eyes.

On September 8, 2016, a 14-year-old girl died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after shooting and killing another female student at Alpine High School in West Texas.

Just 20 days later, on September 28, a 6-year-old boy was fatally shot on the playground of Townville Elementary School in South Carolina by a 14-year-old boy who had just killed his father. Another child and a teacher were struck by bullets but survived.

I know some of you are thinking: I haven't heard about these shootings. That is a problem in and of itself. School shootings have become so commonplace and so much a part of our lives that children dying in our schools may not make it into the paper. We might miss it. We cannot let this become commonplace. It cannot be the new norm.

Another incident you may not have heard of happened last April. A gunman opened fire in the special education classroom of his estranged wife at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino, CA, killing her and an 8-year-old boy and wounding another child.

In September of last year, in Rockford, WA, a 15-year-old boy was killed at Freeman High School and three female students were wounded when authorities say another 15-year-old boy opened fire with a handgun.

In December of last year, two students at Aztec High School in New Mexico were killed by a gunman disguised as a student.

Barely a month ago, in January, 2 students were killed and 14 wounded by gunfire when a student opened fire before classes began at Marshall County High School in West Kentucky. A 15-year-old—a 15-year-old—is being charged for this crime.

This time, the survivors are speaking out in a forceful way like we have not

heard before. I think the students speaking out have had a clear, articulate message that this carnage needs to stop. I am not sure I know any lawmaker or American who would disagree with the idea that our students need to be safe in their schools. It means that we need to act—really act this time.

Setting aside the outrageous idea of arming teachers, it has been heartening to see the President move in the direction of legislative solutions, such as expanding background checks and banning bump stocks. The devil is always in the details, and we will see how far the President is willing to stray from the NRA and whether the Republican leadership will back the President or remain on the sidelines of protecting the American people and especially our children.

On that Valentine's Day, February 14, when I heard about the shooting in Parkland, FL, my immediate reaction was horror, pain, and outrage. How could we allow this to happen yet again? Schools should be a safe harbor for our children, not a place of killing and terror. I was in my office thinking about how tragic this is, not only for those who were killed but for all the children who were there. I am as frustrated as the people across this country. I want to pass commonsense gun safety legislation. Why shouldn't we get these military-style weapons off the streets?

It is hard to know what will motivate the congressional leadership to bring up this issue, what will jar them to action. I want action. We may not solve the problem entirely, but we need to try. We need to do something.

A new CNN poll released just this Sunday finds that 70 percent of Americans now back tougher gun laws. This is a huge jump from 52 percent after the tragic, horrific October shootings in Las Vegas. This number includes 49 percent of Republicans, which I think is encouraging. Saving lives should not be a partisan issue. Commonsense gun safety legislation should not be a partisan issue.

Public opinion polls may not be perfect, but they are generally helpful to show trends. Americans are getting it. It is time that we do. This trend toward protecting the American people, and especially our children, is moving in the right direction. The American people are letting their voices be heard on this issue.

Thoughts and prayers might console the grieving for a moment, but action speaks louder and will have a lasting impact. From my hometown of Baltimore to the many towns across America that have had their names in the headlines because of gun-related tragedies or mass shootings, people are calling upon Congress to act.

I don't care what the reasons are for a change of heart, but let's get bills on the floor. What we are proposing are logical next steps to address the deadly problem that has been festering in this country for too long. Too many young

lives have been lost. Will this time be different?

Mr. President, in honor of the victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD.

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

Alyssa Alhadeff, 14; Scott Beigel, 35; Martin Duque Anguiano, 14; Nicholas Dworet, 17; Aaron Feis, 37; Jaime Guttenberg, 14; Chris Hixon, 49; Luke Hoyer, 15; Cara Loughran, 14; Gina Montalto, 14; Joaquin Oliver, 17; Alaina Petty, 14; Meadow Pollack, 18; Helena Ramsay, 17; Alex Schachter, 14; Carmen Schentrup, 16; Peter Wang, 15.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, to all the victims of gun violence who have preceded them, let's make the answer a resounding yes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this morning, I would like to start off speaking about a very important day in the history of my State, a day that inspires pride in the hearts of all those who were born in Texas. I am here to commemorate Texas Independence Day, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

On March 2, 1836, Texas adopted its Declaration of Independence from Mexico. It is worth reading, and I would recommend it to anyone. This happened in the context of a struggle that is perhaps best remembered by the Battle of the Alamo, which laid some of the groundwork for Texans' eventual victory.

On February 24 of that year, with his position under siege, an important figure named William Barret Travis wrote a letter, which I would like to read. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Texas Army, and during the battle, his fellow soldiers were outnumbered nearly 10 to 1 by the forces of the Mexican dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Here in the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats have had the honor of reading the fabled Travis letter since 1961, when then-Texas Senator John Tower started that tradition. The letter was addressed "To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World." Travis wrote:

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own

honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.

Signed, "William Barret Travis."

What a letter it is. It is a reminder for all of us that the 189 defenders of the Alamo lost their lives, but they did not die in vain. In fact, Texans wouldn't be around today if it weren't for them.

The Battle of the Alamo bought precious time for the Texas revolutionaries, allowing General Sam Houston to maneuver his army into a position for the decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. I would just note that I am honored to occupy the same Senate seat first occupied by Sam Houston when he became a U.S. Senator after Texas became annexed to the United States in 1845.

With that victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas became a sovereign nation—the Republic of Texas—for 9 years. For 9 years, it thrived as a separate nation, and then in 1845 it was annexed to the United States as the 28th State.

Many Texas patriots who fought in the revolution went on to serve in the U.S. Congress—Sam Houston being one of them. Every single day, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve 28 million Texans—a chance I wouldn't have had without the sacrifices made by the brave men like William Barrett Travis 182 years ago.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on another matter, we have come a long way since the days of the Texas revolution, but Texas remains a place of optimism, fortitude, and dedication to worthy causes. It is also a bustling State, full of entrepreneurs, investors, and risk-takers who have created jobs and opportunities for the people who live there. I would like to mention briefly two iconic companies that are showing their devotion to Texas in a much different but important manner.

In Tyler, they are spreading the good news of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the law we passed in December, which overhauled our Tax Code. For those not familiar with where Tyler is, it is out in East Texas. We sometimes refer to that as "behind the pine curtain." The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act effects have been far-reaching. They have positively affected communities all across the country for the past 2 months, and Tyler is no exception.

The first company I would like to mention is Greenberg Turkeys, a family-owned operation that sells the famous Thanksgiving bird to around 200,000 customers each holiday season. Four generations of the Greenberg family have worked in the company since the 1940s, and its turkeys have been featured on Oprah Winfrey's website as one of her favorite things—twice, in fact. As a result of the tax reforms we have passed, the company plans to refurbish its plant and give hourly employees a raise. Sam Greenberg, the president, said:

This is a really good deal for businesses. It pays to treat people right, and so we want to share this with our workers.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

The second Tyler company I want to mention briefly is Don's TV & Appliance. The staff there has more than 150 years of combined experience. It buys products direct from manufacturers at the lowest possible cost in order to provide customers with prices that are competitive with national chain stores. Recently, the owner, Don Thedford, and his son Donnie announced they would give their employees raises in 2018, which they were not able to do for the past several years, and they would not have been able to do it but for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Thanks to those reforms, Don has been able to help out his employees to provide them more take-home pay, and I am sure they appreciate the extra money in their paycheck each pay period. They can use these savings to invest, to pay for their children's education, prepare for their retirement, or whatever they find best.

So I just wanted to say to Don and other small employers who are making sure their employees see the benefit of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reforms: Thank you for paying the savings forward. I can't wait to continue to hear more stories like these two in the months ahead.

FIX NICS BILL

Mr. President, on a final note, I would like to bring up one last topic we have been discussing a lot this last week; that is, ways we can prevent mass shootings from happening in the future. Of course, the most recent one occurred at Parkland, FL, at Stoneman Douglas High School.

Last fall, my State saw another in-sidious shooting at Sutherland Springs near San Antonio, TX. Twenty-six people lost their lives that day worshipping in a small Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, and 20 more were wounded, including a 6-year-old boy named Ryland Ward, who was shot five times. We are ecstatic Ryland survived and is now out of the hospital and has gone home.

What we all learned in the aftermath of that event is that sometimes these horrific crimes are perpetrated by individuals who never should have been able to purchase firearms in the first place. That is because, under current law, convicted felons, like the gunman at Sutherland Springs, are prohibited from legally purchasing firearms. The problem was that his convictions were not uploaded in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, what is commonly referred to as the NICS system operated by the FBI.

I have introduced a bill that has already passed the House that would address this problem and, I believe, would save lives in the future. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation cosponsored by the junior Senator from Connecticut. Senator MURPHY, along with his colleague Senator BLUMENTHAL,

come from the State that saw the horrific killings at Sandy Hook. We added 10 new cosponsors just this week, bringing the total number to 50 cosponsors for this legislation. In my experience, it is rare to see a piece of legislation enjoy such broad, bipartisan support—50 cosponsors.

I have been saying all week that we need to pass this bill now. We should not wait, we should not go home emptyhanded, and we should not have to face the grieving families who lost a child or a loved one as a result of a future shooting that might have been averted had we acted. America is tired of the government's response to these catastrophes which rip families apart, take lives, and pit people against each other. The response of their government has been largely either silence or bickering with no outcome, no result.

There are other proposals we can consider as we continue to grapple with the questions posed in Parkland—questions about failures of local law enforcement, social media platforms, and the FBI. Yesterday, the President hosted an amazing meeting of 17 Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis and brainstormed about other things we might be able to do, but right now—right now—fix NICS is our best and only option to act in response. It is supported by the President, the majority and minority leaders are cosponsors, and it is supported by gun groups like the NRA and Everytown for Gun Safety, which are at opposite ends of the ideological spectrum when it comes to the Second Amendment. As I said, this bill has 50 cosponsors in the Senate and is ready for action, having already passed the House of Representatives.

I pledged to myself, after my wife and I visited Sutherland Springs a week after the terrible shooting there and attended a church service led by the pastor who lost his 14-year-old daughter in that shooting just 1 week before—it was a gut-wrenching, emotional service, but it was inspiring in its own way. I pledged then that I would never face another grieving family with empty hands, saying we could have done something that might have saved your child's life or your loved one's life by fixing the broken background check system. I pledged I would never face them again, saying we didn't try our best to save lives in the future by passing commonsense, bipartisan legislation like the Fix NICS bill.

As I said, there are other things we might do, but, as we all know, the threshold for actually passing legislation is 60 votes. What I don't want us to do is to end up like we did on the DACA debate, where we started with a neutral bill—a shell which really did nothing—and all of the various proposals failed to get 60 votes, so we ended up emptyhanded on the DACA issue. I don't want that to happen again, and I am not going to go home and tell my constituents in Texas I didn't do my very best to make sure we

did something and something meaningful that would save lives in the future. Fix NICS is the best way to do that and do that now.

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

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

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the tragedy in Parkland and the responsibilities of the Senate to try to make our communities safer. I am going to talk very personally about my own experience in confronting gun violence as a mayor of an urban area, Richmond, VA, and as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I will start by saying, I am a gun owner. I am a Second Amendment supporter. When I was an attorney in private practice, I was the lawyer who worked with an effort to amend the Virginia constitution to guarantee Virginians the right to hunt and fish. The Second Amendment and private gun ownership is an important part of our framework. I support it, but I obviously believe that we can do things consistent with the Constitution that will make our Nation safer, and I ask my colleagues to join in that effort.

When I was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1994, Richmond, at that time, was only on one top 10 list that I am aware of. It is not the one you want to be on. We had the second highest homicide rate in the United States. We were not a high-crime area generally, if you looked at all crime, but in homicides and aggravated assaults—assaults committed with weapons—we were unusually high. The weapons of choice in these homicides and aggravated assaults were guns.

I remember very early in my time at the city council getting called to a neighborhood, Gilpin Court, which is a public housing community in my city council district. There had been a gun crime that killed an entire family of five—adults and little children.

Over the course of my 8 years of working in local government, I went to too many crime scenes and funerals and wakes. In some ways, the things that were the most memorable were the meetings in church basements of the families of homicide victims. We embarked upon a set of strategies to make our communities safer. Amidst all the bloodshed and the tears, we actually found strategies—some dealing with reductions in guns, some dealing with law enforcement strategies, some dealing with police and community relations. We found strategies that, over the course of about 8 years, reduced the

homicide rate in Richmond by 60 percent and the aggravated assault rate by an equivalent number.

Out of the pain, what we learned is you can actually take concrete steps that will make your community safer and that will reduce gun violence. You will not eliminate it. That is beyond our power as humble people to do, but you can reduce it. If you know you can, then you must. You have a responsibility to do what you can.

I was elected Governor of Virginia in 2005, and I will never forget April 16, 2007. I had just embarked on a trade mission. I had landed in Japan with a delegation to recruit business to my State. I had gone to the hotel, and I got a call after midnight from my chief of staff, who said: There is a shooting under way at Virginia Tech.

I said: Book me on the next flight home. I have been here for just a few hours on what was going to be a 2-week trade mission, but let me fly back home.

I flew back to what, at the time, was the worst shooting in the history of the United States. In April of 2007, 32 people were gunned down on the campus of Virginia Tech by a deranged youngster who had been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous and was thus prohibited from having a weapon. But because of glitches and flaws in the background check system, he had been able to purchase multiple weapons, and he committed that horrible crime.

I empaneled a commission. I told them: Let the lawyers and lawsuits be damned. I want to know everything that went wrong, and I want to make public everything that went wrong and everything we can do to fix it. Over the course of a number of months, they produced a report with hundreds of recommendations.

The recommendations were about campus safety. The recommendations were about mental health, but there were also recommendations about fixes to our State and Federal gun laws to reduce the risk of this happening. I was able to make some changes on my own as an executive. I took other changes to my legislature that they rejected.

Again, out of the painful situation—and it is a funny thing to say about your own State, about my State of Virginia, about a place I love like Virginia Tech—I always hoped it would be the worst. I had always hoped that would have been the worst shooting in the history of the United States, but the Pulse nightclub shooting and the Las Vegas shooting now have claimed more victims. Other shootings, like those in Newtown and now Parkland—if the number of victims aren't the same, the tragedy is nevertheless of equal magnitude.

We learn through pain that you can make changes and improve. When I fixed a piece of the background check system flaw, it made us safer. It reduced the risk of gun violence and gun deaths.

My experience as mayor and Governor were painful, but I learned a les-

son in both, which is you can take steps, including steps dealing with the rules about firearms that will make your communities safer. That is a powerful thing. You can take steps that will make communities safer.

I dealt with three lies—three falsehoods—over the course of these efforts as mayor and Governor, as I tried to help us take steps to make us safer.

The first lie was it is not about guns. It is about mental health; it is about other things. But that is just false. Equally false would be if we said that it is only about guns. That would be false as well. To say it is not about guns is a lie perpetrated by an organization headquartered in Virginia, the National Rifle Association. It turned out to be false.

The key to reducing the homicide rate in Virginia ultimately was that we embraced strategies to reduce the gun carry rate. That is a phrase that law enforcement professionals use for the percentage of time where people, in normal interactions with the police, are found to be carrying a weapon. In Virginia, the gun carry rate was unusually high, and that meant when something broke bad or there was an argument, there would often be an aggravated assault or homicide committed with a weapon. We undertook strategies that drove down the gun carry rate. That didn't make bad people good people, but it made it more likely that when things broke bad, there wouldn't be an aggravated assault or a homicide.

So it was about the guns. That is the first lie or falsehood that gets perpetrated: It is not about guns. It is not only about guns, but it is definitely about guns.

A second lie or falsehood perpetrated by the same organization is that they would always say: You can't improve. They would say: That will not solve every problem. You can't solve every bit of gun violence if you do this. They would say this over and over again with any shooting. They would point out the number of things that wouldn't have stopped it, as if not being able to eliminate gun violence means that you shouldn't do anything to try to reduce gun violence. That is just a lie or a falsehood. I have learned from my experiences that if you take steps, you can make communities safer.

The third lie or falsehood we had to confront repeatedly from the National Rifle Association was that gun safety rules violate the Second Amendment. That is just flatout wrong. In fact, the Second Amendment is the only amendment whose text even uses the word regulation. The need for a well-regulated militia gives individuals the right to bear arms.

What does the term "well-regulated" mean? It is not a reference to the length of somebody's beard or the kind of hat they should wear. There is an understanding that firearms are dangerous, and if individuals are to have the right to have them, there also must need to be some appropriate level of

regulation. We are familiar with this in the rest of the Constitution.

I am passionate about the First Amendment. There should be freedom of the press, but you can't just libel or slander without consequence. The Framers, Madison and others, who put these amendments together, understood that the amendments to the Constitution included some limitations because we have to live together, not just as individuals who are free agents, but we have to live together in society.

Those three lies—it is not about guns; we can't do anything about it; and the gun rules violate the Second Amendment—are wrong.

I came to the Senate after the shooting in Sandy Hook. The first meaningful debate we had after I came here was whether we would do something to respond to this horrible carnage of kids in an elementary school.

The Presiding Officer was not in the Senate. I know you followed this as a citizen. I remember standing here in this Chamber in April 2013, casting a vote on a bill that I thought would have been a very good bill to do background record checks. We were surrounded in the Chamber by Sandy Hook families. Many of them were sitting next to Virginia Tech families who had come to be in solidarity with them. There was a feeling of despair, with them around, that was like the great cloud of witnesses referred to in the letter of Paul to the Hebrews. We fell short. They were praying for us to succeed, and we fell short. In the aftermath of that horrible tragedy, this body did precisely nothing.

Well, now we have experienced yet another horrible tragedy. There have been others since Sandy Hook, but it is my deep hope that after this horrible shooting in Parkland, something may be different in this body. The reason I think this one might be different is that these students are standing up and challenging us. The children of our Nation are asking adults to be adults. They are asking us to look in the mirror. They posed the question starkly: What is more important to you, your children or campaign contributions from an interest group?

I think the advocacy of the children of Parkland who suffer, not only their advocacy but the advocacy of students all over the United States—I have held meetings with Moms Demand Action in Richmond and Northern Virginia in the last couple of days, and many students were in these meetings. The advocacy of students and their challenge to us may show us a way.

I will conclude with a story that gives me hope and that suggests there may be some resonance to this moment. Sometimes there is a movement, but there isn't a moment. Sometimes the movement needs a moment to achieve a victory.

Fifty-five years ago, in the spring of 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King was trying to desegregate public accommodations in Birmingham, AL, with the

Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He had been going from community to community. In some places, they were able to desegregate public accommodations relatively easily. Other places were tough but none tougher than Birmingham. At drug stores and department stores, Dr. King and others would have adults go sit in—African Americans and their allies—and be arrested. Yet wave after wave of arrests notwithstanding, including the arrest of Dr. King, the city leaders would not back down. They would not shed the discrimination that violated the equality provisions of the Constitution.

As this was going on, children in the Birmingham schools started to come to Dr. King and say: We want to march too.

Dr. King and his lieutenants really struggled with this. They were parents. They didn't want their kids to be arrested. They didn't want their kids to face guard dogs attacking them. They didn't want their kids to face firehoses directed at them. They had a natural parental reaction: We are going to do this; we want to protect you.

But the children kept coming and saying: We want to march too.

Finally, they said: Isn't this about us? As much as it is about adults, isn't this about us, your children? And if it is about your children, why can't we march?

Dr. King, after a lot of prayer and discussion, finally said: It is about you.

Mr. President, you know this, and for our pages especially, it was those children advocating—and they marched, and they did have firehoses turned on them, and they did have guard dogs released on them. The photos of those children braving that ugly face of discrimination landed on the front pages of papers all over the United States and all over the world, and it was transformative of the civil rights movement.

Adults in the United States knew there was discrimination, but they had become complacent to it or indifferent to it or had even said: I think it is wrong, but it will probably never change. But their children demanded of them: Adults, just be adults. Adults, you say you care about children; prove to us you care about children. And when the adults of America were confronted with the example of their own young people, they had to shake themselves out of their complacency and indifference and shoulder the burden that adults must shoulder.

That is what these students at Parkland are saying to us now. That is what these students all over the country are saying to us now. They are saying: This is about our future. This is about your children. And they are asking us whether children matter more or political contributions matter more.

I urge my colleagues, finally, let's not produce another goose egg in this body. Let's not come together after a horrible tragedy—when there are

meaningful steps, such as background record checks, that we can put on the table to make us safer—and fail them yet again.

I ask my colleagues and especially the majority leader to enable us to have this debate on the floor so that we can take meaningful steps of the kind that we know will make our communities safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

YEMEN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, there should be no issue of more importance to Members of Congress than the issue of war and peace and when it is appropriate to send the young people of our country into harm's way, knowing that some of them will not return home alive.

It goes without saying that every armed conflict the United States of America is engaged in must be consistent with the Constitution of the United States and be lawful.

Let's make no mistake about it—article I, section 8 of the Constitution states in no uncertain terms that "Congress shall have the power to . . . declare war." The Founding Fathers gave the power to declare war to Congress because Congress is that body most accountable to the people.

For far too long, Congress—under Democratic and Republican administrations—has abdicated its constitutional role in authorizing war. The time is long overdue for Congress to reassert its constitutional authority. If you think that a military intervention makes sense, then let's have that debate on the floors of the Senate and the House and cast a vote. But that is not what we have been seeing for a number of years.

What Senator LEE and Senator MURPHY and I are doing with privileged resolution S.J. Res. 54 is demanding that Congress once again take its constitutional responsibility for war and peace seriously. I thank Senators DURBIN, WARREN, and BOOKER for coming on board that resolution. I hope this bipartisan resolution will gain more and more support in the coming days.

Many Americans are unaware that the people of Yemen are suffering today in a devastating civil war, with Saudi Arabia and their allies on one side and Houthi rebels on the other.

In November of last year, the United Nations emergency relief coordinator said that Yemen was on the brink of "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades." So far, at least 10,000 civilians have died, 3 million have been displaced, and over 40,000 have been wounded in this war. Fifteen million people lack access to clean water and sanitation. More than 20 million people in Yemen—over two-thirds of that country's population—need some kind of humanitarian support, with nearly 10 million in acute need of assistance. More than 1 million suspected cholera cases have been re-

ported—1 million cholera cases have been reported—representing potentially the worst cholera outbreak in world history.

Many Americans probably are not aware that U.S. forces have been actively engaged in support of the Saudis in this terrible war, providing intelligence and aerial refueling of planes whose bombs have killed thousands of people and made this crisis far worse.

We believe—and I speak for Senator LEE and Senator MURPHY—that as Congress has not declared war or authorized military force in this conflict, U.S. involvement in Yemen is unconstitutional and unauthorized, and U.S. military support of the Saudi coalition must end. Without congressional authorization, our engagement in this war should be restricted to providing desperately needed humanitarian aid and diplomatic efforts to put an end to this terrible conflict. That is why yesterday we introduced a joint resolution pursuant to the 1973 War Powers Resolution calling for an end to U.S. support for the Saudi war in Yemen.

The War Powers Resolution defines the introduction of U.S. Armed Forces to include "the assignment of members of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities." That is from the War Powers Resolution. Assisting with targeting intelligence and refueling warplanes as they bomb those targets clearly meets this definition.

This is not a partisan issue. Support for the Saudi intervention in Yemen began under a Democratic President and has continued under a Republican one. Senator LEE is a conservative Republican. I am a progressive Independent who caucuses with the Democrats.

In November of last year—and it is important that Members of the Senate hear this—the U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 366 to 30, passed a nonbinding resolution stating that U.S. involvement in the Yemen civil war is unauthorized. Every Member of the Democratic leadership voted for this. Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI voted for it. Minority Whip STENY HOYER voted for it. The ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL, voted for it, as did the Republican chairman of that committee, ED ROYCE.

Here is the bottom line: If the President or Members of Congress believe that support for this war is in the U.S. interest and that we should be involved in it, then let them come to the floor of the House and Senate, make their case, and then let's have a vote.

I believe we have become far too comfortable with the United States engaging in military interventions all over the world. We have now been in

Afghanistan for nearly 17 years—the longest war in American history. Our troops are now in Syria under what I believe are questionable authorities, and the administration has indicated that it may broaden that military mission even more.

The time is long overdue for Congress to reassert its constitutional role in determining when and where our country goes to war. I am very proud to be working with Senators LEE, MURPHY, and others on this vitally important issue.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the mass murder in Florida this month, and I rise to ask a simple question that millions of Americans in every part of this country are asking at their kitchen tables right now: Is Congress finally going to do anything meaningful about gun violence? When will enough be enough? What will it take for this body to move beyond the same talking points that we hear after every mass shooting and actually do something to prevent more deaths? Will Congress finally see what the vast majority of Americans see—gun owners and non-gun owners alike—that America's gun problem isn't going away unless Congress musters up the courage to take it head-on, or will Congress continue to give the lipservice of thoughts and prayers and then do absolutely nothing?

We have to act because once again there was a massacre on American soil. Once again it was inside a school. Once again American children were gunned down. We keep living through a nightmare of gun violence that repeats itself in schools, movie theaters, churches, nightclubs, concerts, and every single day on the streets of cities in every State around this country—Sandy Hook, Aurora, Charleston, San Bernardino, Orlando, Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs, and most recently, Parkland, FL.

We can help stop this. We have the power to help stop this. The question is whether Congress has the political will to do it, whether this institution will finally put families first, our children first, and stand up to the gun manufacturers and the NRA.

I urge every Member of Congress to reflect on why they first ran for office. We are here as public servants to serve the people who sent us here, not to serve the gun industry's profits, not to serve the organizations and companies and lobbyists who demand political retribution when we do the morally right thing. Does Congress have the will to act? Does Congress have the basic courage this country needs? I am sorry to say, I don't know, but we can put it to the test.

There has been a lot of talk—more than normal even—about our need to act in this Chamber. So I will say this to my colleagues: Let's make this time

different. Let's listen to the children from Stoneman Douglas High School. Let's seize this moment. Let's take action.

I implore my colleagues to listen to what the country is saying about gun violence today, listen to the families, listen to the survivors from Parkland and tune out all the other noise. I did. It is possible.

Ten years ago, I had an A rating from the NRA, just like many of my colleagues today, but then I met the mother of Nyasia Pryear-Yard. Then I met her classmates. Nyasia was an honor student from Brooklyn. She was dancing with her friends, having fun, loving life. She was killed by a stray bullet in her community. Now I have an F rating from the NRA.

I don't understand how, after meeting with all of these families, after meeting with all of these children whose lives have been destroyed and torn apart by gun violence—I don't understand how any public servant would not vow to do what is necessary to make sure it never happens again.

It is what we do after a terrorist attack, rightfully so. It is what we do as a country. We come together. We say never again, and we do whatever it takes to protect our country. We have to have the very same sense of urgency now.

Plain and simple, it is a lie to say we have to choose between protecting law-abiding gun owners' rights and protecting our children from being murdered by assault rifles. It is a false choice to say we cannot end gun violence without violating people's constitutional rights. It is time for Members of Congress to stand up for what is right for America and do what is right for our communities, and say no to the NRA.

I commend one of our colleagues in the House of Representatives—a Republican from Florida and an Army veteran—who is seeing this crisis differently now too. He wrote:

I know that my community, our schools, and public gathering places, are not made safer by any person having access to the best killing tool the Army could put in my hands. I cannot support the primary weapon I used to defend our people, being used to kill children I swore to defend.

That is what leadership looks like.

I implore my colleagues in the Senate to see our gun violence problem differently. See it with your heart. See it for what it is. It is a matter of national security, of public health, of public safety that will never go away unless Congress does its job.

So, once and for all, let's pass laws that actually are meaningful, that actually can do something, not just something simple so we can say we did something and move on. I strongly agree with my colleagues that we need to improve the mental health system. Let's make those investments, but it should not stop there.

We have to address the fact that we have weapons of war on our streets

today. We have to address the fact that it is so easy for people to buy a gun—people who should never have that privilege. Let's vote to ban semiautomatic assault rifles.

Congress has already banned fully automatic weapons. Congress has already recognized that some weapons have no place in the civilian world, and a weapon of war that was designed for military use, that can fire up to 100 rounds in 1 minute or 100 rounds if you just add a bump stock, a weapon that can completely outgun a police officer has no place in the civilian world.

Will my colleagues vote with me to ban semiautomatic assault rifles?

Then, let's vote to ban the high-capacity magazines that go with them. They are made for wars; they are not made to be in our schools, not in our cities. High-capacity magazines let killers fire dozens of rounds without having to frequently stop and reload. They are designed to let someone fire bullets at as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Let's vote to ban high-capacity magazines, and let's vote to pass universal background checks. That is something that is so commonsense, so obvious. Too many people who should not get their hands on these weapons are easily able to get them, and there are so many loopholes that allow people to buy semiautomatic assault rifles online, where there are no background checks. They allow people to buy semiautomatic assault rifles at gun shows, where there are no background checks.

It simply doesn't make sense that every person who buys a firearm doesn't go through a basic background check system. Do you know who agrees with that? Ninety-seven percent of the American people. I can't think of any other issue where there is such near-universal agreement across our entire population.

So let's do what our constituents are demanding from us—not what the NRA is demanding from us—and vote to pass universal background checks. When we do it, let's make sure the effort is actually sincere. If we are only voting on universal background checks, when it is tied to the issue of concealed carry reciprocity, then that is not a sincere attempt to fix our broken background check system. If Congress is saying we will only pass universal background checks if we pass a new law that says a stranger from one State has to be allowed into my State or your State when he has a gun hidden under his jacket, that is an insult to 97 percent of the American people who want Congress to pass universal background checks now.

Then, let's finally vote to overturn the outrageous law that has banned the Centers for Disease Control from even studying the issue of gun deaths. The CDC can study any other cause of death—heart disease, cancer, car crashes, plane crashes—unless it involves a gun. Don't you think it is strange that when we debate this issue, the two

things related to gun violence that Congress has actually banned in recent years are research—research on gun violence—and a ban on the ATF from using computers to keep records? Let's vote to allow the CDC to conduct research on gun violence so we can finally have the information and the data we need to fight gun violence as effectively as possible.

Let's also pass a law that finally makes gun trafficking a Federal crime. Over and over again, law enforcement officers keep finding illegally obtained guns being used in crimes. Numerous NYPD officers have been killed by guns that were illegally obtained by criminals, and there is literally no Federal law to stop someone from loading his truck with guns in Georgia, driving up I-95, and selling them in a parking lot in the Bronx directly to criminals and gang members.

I have a bill that would make this illegal. It is called the Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard Gun Trafficking and Crime Prevention Act. It is bipartisan, because both parties agree that gun trafficking is a source of gun violence in our cities.

This bill is named after Nyasia, whom I mentioned earlier, and another teenager from Chicago who was also killed by a stray bullet. Both guns in those crimes were trafficked. So let's pass this bill and finally make gun trafficking a Federal crime.

If we are not trying to solve this problem now, then we are failing as elected leaders. Congress must solve America's gun violence crisis now. It is urgent. Our country is demanding it. Americans deserve more from Congress than just banning bump stocks, just fixing NICS, which, while I strongly support both of them, will not do enough on their own. So let us not fail our country again.

I would like to ask our colleagues to immediately vote to ban semiautomatic assault rifles and bump stocks, to pass a universal background check system and close all of the loopholes, to allow the CDC to research gun violence as a cause of death, to close the gun show loophole, and to finally make gun trafficking a Federal crime.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, it was 2 weeks ago yesterday that the tragic incident in Parkland took place—one of many that have impacted our country over the last decade and beyond. That community in Parkland, FL, and the residents of the State of Florida whom I represent—and, frankly, the entire Nation—have demanded not just action but immediate action.

We know—and anyone who watches this process is well aware—that there are deep differences on how far and how much we should restrict the Second Amendment right of every American.

We know there are deep differences about whether some of those proposed restrictions work. I imagine those debates and those differences will not be easily resolved and will continue, but I also know there is widespread support and agreement that we must act now—as soon as possible—to do everything we can to prevent another tragedy like Parkland from happening anywhere else ever again. That is a consensus position. No matter where one falls on this debate, no matter how one feels about how far or how restricted restrictions on gun sales in America should be, no matter what your views are on that, I don't know of anyone who is in favor of school shootings, and I don't know anyone who is in favor of seeing another one happen. There is common ground in that regard.

What I have tried to do, over the last couple of weeks, is undertake efforts to determine what changes in Federal law not only could have prevented this attack but could prevent future ones. In that vein, I have met with State and Federal law enforcement investigators involved not just in this case but in gun laws in general. I have met with students and with teachers from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, including two teachers who were injured in the attack. I have met with school board administrators. I have met with the community at large, including an appearance last week at a nationally televised townhall. I have been in contact with several of the parents of the victims who lost their lives. I have also spoken to experts in firearm sales. I have spoken to a number of federally licensed firearm dealers who talked about some of the frustrations they have with our existing law and their inability to address people who ultimately turn out to be individuals who should not own any gun of any kind.

So based on these meetings, based on all of this input, and based on all of the other research that is out there leading up to now, the first thing I want to say is, I actually believe this attack could have and should have been prevented if current law had been fully enforced.

This killer was a well-known danger to the school district. He was a well-known danger to the Broward Sheriff's office. He was a well-known danger to his neighborhood. He was also the subject of two separate and specific warnings to law enforcement agencies: a call to the Broward Sheriff's office last November, a call to an FBI hotline in January.

In essence, we are always telling people, if you see something, say something. People saw something and people said something and other people saw it as well over a course of time. Yet somehow this deranged and violent individual was able to pass a background check and purchase not 1 but 10 separate firearms, and this deranged and violent individual was ultimately able to walk right into the school a few minutes before dismissal and take the lives of 17 innocent Floridians.

This tragedy is the result of a massive multisystemic failure—a failure involving Federal agencies, State agencies, and local authorities who all failed to both identify the threat he posed and coordinate a response to stop him before he took action. It is this failure I hope we will focus on by addressing the shortcomings and vulnerabilities in our current laws and in our current policies. We may still have a debate on the broader issues of regulating gun sales, but irrespective of that debate, we still must and should do this.

So today I wanted to come here for a few minutes and announce a comprehensive plan—not a simple bill you just vote on and move on but a series of measures I believe could prevent these attacks before they happen and that also help schools protect their students and their teachers. I believe these ideas should all enjoy bipartisan support, and, if passed, could and should help prevent the next potential mass shooting.

These are ideas I outline not just because they work, but because I believe we can get the votes to pass them. Sixty votes in the Senate, a majority in the House, and the signature of a President—that is what it takes to turn an idea into a law, and these ideas I am about to outline both work and, I believe, could enjoy that widespread support.

One of the things we have learned is, our schools are woefully unprepared to prevent an attack before it occurs. Furthermore, during my visits to the site of the attack and my followup meeting with teachers at the school, I learned of various changes to school facilities and practices which could have stopped this attack or improved the response. Therefore, I will be joining later today with Senator ORRIN HATCH and others in introducing the STOP School Violence Act.

If passed, this law would provide Federal grants to do some important things that would have been really helpful in this case: strengthen school security infrastructure of the school, provide school training for everyone—administrators, teachers, even students—to be able to identify threats and to report them. Something that really would be helpful is the creation of a school threat assessment and crisis intervention team. There is a successful program in Los Angeles that does this. That is a team that is a coordination between law enforcement, other State agencies, school districts and the like where they are all talking to each other about students and former students who may pose a threat of violence and intervene before they act.

A second issue we identified is that even if law enforcement, school administrators, or family members believe an individual poses the risk of committing an act of violence, they have very few options to prevent them from purchasing any gun or taking away the guns they already have.

Therefore, I intend to present a new law—perhaps in coordination with others who are working on it now—that will lead to the creation of gun violence restraining orders, something that will give law enforcement and close family members the option of obtaining a court order to prevent gun sales or remove guns from individuals who pose a threat. To be clear, the due process in such a situation would be on the front end, not on the back end.

The third issue we uncovered is, Federal law appears to discourage school systems from reporting dangerous students to law enforcement. I don't support criminalizing all school misconduct, but a student who has threatened violence, who has exhibited violent behavior needs to be reported to law enforcement. A student who has committed a crime by issuing a threat of death using social media—a crime under Florida law—that needs to be reported, but under Broward County school policies, pursuant to something called the PROMISE Program, reporting a student, a dangerous one, to law enforcement is the sixth step—step 6—in their plan. Therefore, I intend to propose changes to the Federal Youth PROMISE Program so a school district plan under this program does not delay and does not discourage law enforcement from being alerted to dangerous and violent or hazardous behavior.

Fourth, we need to strengthen background checks. That is why I have joined with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle pushing for the immediate passage of Fix NICS—something that will require all Federal agencies and incentivize every State to fully report relevant information to the national background check database—because a background check is only as good as the information that is on it. This deranged killer was able to buy guns on 10 separate occasions because he would have passed any background check because none of this stuff that was known about him was reported to that system.

Fifth, we must begin to prosecute the purchase of guns by people prohibited from doing so. Next week, I hope to be joining a bipartisan group, led by Senators TOOMEY and COONS, in filing the “Lie and Try” bill, which will require the FBI to notify States when someone who is not allowed to buy a gun, tries to buy a gun and fails the background check, so they can be investigated, so they can be prosecuted.

In addition, we will be presenting a new law to provide more prosecutors to go after straw purchases, which is where someone buys a gun on behalf of someone else because that someone else could not pass the background check.

Now, there are some additional reforms that I am open to: the possibility of looking at age limits on semiautomatic rifles, the notion of looking at what could be done with high-capacity magazines. We will continue to explore and look at those. These reforms do

not enjoy the sort of widespread support in Congress that the other measures I have announced do, and, in order to successfully pass, these ideas will have to be crafted in a way that actually contributes to greater public safety but also do not unnecessarily or unfairly infringe on the Second Amendment right of all law-abiding adults to protect themselves and their families, to hunt, or to participate in recreational shooting.

Ultimately, there are things we can do that have widespread, bipartisan support that we can act on, that we can get passed, that will actually make a difference. These are impactful things.

I urge the Senate and the House, all of my colleagues here, do not hold hostage a piece of legislation that would work and that we all support because it doesn't have everything you want. There are things we can act on and do, and there are things we can continue to argue over, debate, and perhaps do in the future, but on the things we agree on—and they happen to be things that could have prevented this attack and will prevent future attacks—let's get those done. I have outlined those here today. There may be others, but we owe it not just to the victims and the families of Parkland but to all Americans everywhere; for this attack may have happened in Southern Florida, but there is no reason it can't happen somewhere else and, I fear, will happen somewhere else if we do not fix the deficiencies and the flaws in our policies, in our laws, and in the way they are enforced.

We have learned from this incident what is wrong with our system. Let us fix it. We have an opportunity to do so while we continue to debate and work on the issues we do not agree on. That is what I hope we will do, and that is what I commit to doing everything I can to achieve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

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

Mr. RUBIO. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Boozman	Cochran
Baldwin	Burr	Collins
Barrasso	Capito	Coons
Bennet	Carper	Corker
Blunt	Cassidy	Cornyn

Cortez Masto	Inhofe	Portman
Cotton	Isakson	Reed
Crapo	Johnson	Risch
Cruz	Jones	Roberts
Daines	Kaine	Rubio
Donnelly	Kennedy	Sasse
Enzi	King	Scott
Ernst	Lankford	Shaheen
Fischer	Leahy	Shelby
Gardner	Lee	Sullivan
Graham	Manchin	Tester
Grassley	McCaskill	Thune
Hassan	McConnell	Tillis
Hatch	Moran	Toomey
Heitkamp	Murkowski	Warner
Heller	Nelson	Whitehouse
Hirono	Paul	Wicker
Hoeven	Perdue	Young

NAYS—28

Blumenthal	Harris	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	
Gillibrand	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Flake	McCain	Rounds
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 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 Karen Gren Scholer, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, John Kennedy, Richard Burr, Mike Lee, David Perdue, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Jeff Flake, Lindsey Graham, Patrick J. Toomey, Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton.

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 Karen Gren Scholer, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 43 Ex.]

YEAS—96

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

NAYS—1

Hirono

NOT VOTING—3

Flake	McCain	Rounds
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 96, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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 Tilman Eugene Self III, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, David Perdue, John Kennedy, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, John Barrasso.

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 Tilman Eugene Self III, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 44 Ex.]

YEAS—85

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

NAYS—12

Booker	Markey	Sanders
Gillibrand	Menendez	Schatz
Harris	Merkley	Stabenow
Hirono	Peters	Warren

NOT VOTING—3

Flake	McCain	Rounds
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 12.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tilman Eugene Self III, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1:30 p.m. will be equally divided.

The Senator from Mississippi.

IRAN LEGISLATION

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this Chamber is familiar with deadlines and has a habit of running up against them. We cannot lose sight of May 12, the deadline when President Trump will make a decision about sanctions on Iran.

In January, the President waived sanctions for the last time, calling on Congress to “either fix the deal’s disastrous flaws, or the United States will withdraw.” We now have less than 3 months—a period in which bipartisan

consensus on the issue of Iran is absolutely necessary.

To reimpose sanctions would effectively signal the end of America’s participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA, an agreement better known as the Iran nuclear deal. The plan is flawed, and we cannot fix it without action.

I ask my colleagues for cooperation and collaboration so that we can act in the national interest and prevent the nefarious aims of the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism. When it comes to Iran, we must put aside our differences and work together on a bipartisan bill.

I know that the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator CORKER, has been working with Senator CARDIN on this issue. Their efforts are commendable and necessary.

Let me stress again that this effort must be bipartisan. One-sided legislation would signal division and weakness on the issue of Iran. A partisan bill would also undermine our diplomatic efforts with the P5+1 countries to improve the JCPOA through a supplemental agreement. I am confident we can do our part.

First, Congress has repeatedly demonstrated its support for countering Iran’s malign activities. Second, President Trump has laid out a clear road map for legislation that he would sign. Finally, this President has the will to walk away. He has made this promise, and I believe he will keep it.

Let me explore these three points in turn. No. 1, we have a long history of acting in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion on this issue. Last August, the President signed the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. The legislation included tough new sanctions on Iran’s ballistic missile program, on its sponsorship of terrorism, and its human rights abuses. The Senate approved it by a vote of 98 to 2, and it earned a vote of 419 to 3 in the House—bipartisan majorities. We also passed by voice vote Senator RUBIO and Senator SHAHEEN’s bill to crack down on illicit financing for Iran’s client Hezbollah. The House companion also passed by a voice vote.

We have a blueprint for what to do. The President has outlined four proposals addressing critical flaws in the nuclear deal.

One of those proposals is that Iran allow anytime, anywhere inspections. Currently, Iran is blocking international inspectors from accessing military sites, such as the Parchin facility. Inspectors also have to follow elaborate rules even to request and receive access, despite Iran’s long history of concealment and deception. If Iran has nothing to hide, then it has no reason to object to anytime, anywhere inspections.

Second, the bill would ensure that Iran never comes close to getting a nuclear weapon. The current nuclear deal attempts to keep Iran 1 year away from breakout—the point at which Iran

can rapidly develop a nuclear capability. One year is not much of an insurance policy, especially against the top state sponsor of terrorism. The bottom line is that Tehran should never come close to a nuclear weapon.

Third, the bill needs to maintain restrictions in perpetuity. The so-called sunset clauses are perhaps the most flawed part of the nuclear agreement. The way it currently reads, Iran does not need to cheat. They can simply wait us out. The conventional weapons ban sunsets in 2020. The ban on receiving ballistic missile assistance sunsets in 2023. The ban on replacing old centrifuges with advanced models sunsets in 2026. And all nuclear restrictions—on centrifuges, on enrichment facilities and levels, and on heavy water production—sunset in 2031. The sunset clauses do not stop Iran but kick the can down the road—a road ending in just over a decade.

Finally, the bill cannot overlook the connection between Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. The legislation must severely sanction the ballistic missile program. This is another no-brainer. A nuclear warhead is effective to the extent that it can be launched on a missile. Iran is not developing long-range and sophisticated ballistic missiles to deliver conventional payloads. The architects of the Iran deal, unfortunately, took great pains to keep it focused solely on nuclear. That has to end.

These four demands constitute a sensible framework for the kind of bipartisan legislation that Congress can achieve.

The final reason for my cautious optimism is that we have a President who keeps his promises. When President Trump calls May 12 the last chance, I take him seriously. I would encourage my colleagues to do the same. This President is dead serious about countering Iran's agenda. He said that he would decertify the deal last October. He followed through. That should have erased any doubts.

We should not wait until the eleventh hour to deal with this issue. It is too important. By putting aside personal or political feelings, we can absolutely achieve a bipartisan bill that fixes the Iran deal using the President's framework.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

CONGRATULATING TEAM USA AND THE MINNESOTA OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Team USA and to recognize the contributions of so many Minnesotans at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in South Korea.

I am happy to be joined here by my Senate colleague from Minnesota, Senator SMITH. Why are Senator SMITH and I here today? We are here because we had an incredible Olympics, with Minnesota really leading the way when it came to the gold medals.

Of course, our State is no stranger to the Olympics. We have sent athletes to compete in women's basketball and cycling. But it shouldn't be a surprise that it is the Winter Olympics where the bold northern State really shines. We have a couple of things going for us. The weather is kind of cold. There is snow, so people are able to practice. We also have a great athletic program at our high schools, and we have a lot of team spirit, which is especially helpful in the teams we were a part of that won the gold, including men's curling and women's hockey.

Of the 243 athletes who were on Team USA, 23 have ties to Minnesota, making it the third highest represented State. These athletes competed at the highest level and showed the world just what our State could do. If Minnesota were competing as a country, it would be tied for 12th, globally in the number of gold medals won. But we are not a country; we are a proud State. This success is something all Minnesotans can celebrate.

Mr. President, here are some examples for you. Winning a gold medal was a first for Afton native Jessie Diggins and a first for the United States. Her road to the Olympics started on the cross-country skiing trails that cover Minnesota. Jessie worked to keep spirits high in training and during the Olympic competition. She put glitter on her cheeks as a reminder of what made her fall in love with cross-country skiing as a little girl. Her relentless energy and drive were on full display. She and her teammate, Kikkan Randall, became the first Americans to bring home a gold in cross-country team history. It is no surprise that they voted Jessie to be the flag-bearer for the closing ceremony.

Jessie and Kikkan weren't the only American women to bring home gold. The women's hockey team won their first gold medal since 1998.

It is no coincidence that the "State of Hockey" sent some serious talent. The American team included six current or former Gopher College players and two current or former Minnesota Duluth players. From Warroad to Minnetonka, the Minnesotans on Team USA brought pond hockey toughness and the experience that comes from growing up on the ice. This gold medal will help inspire the next generation of hockey players in Minnesota.

I want to make a special note of our incredible goalie, Maddie Rooney. If anyone stayed up—which I did—to watch that shootout at the end, she showed such poise and such grace under pressure.

I also want to make a little note of Warroad, MN, which produced the incredible Gigi Marvin, along with many other gold medalists from the past.

While Americans were fans of hockey well before the 2018 games, these Olympics helped introduce the country to a sport already loved by so many Minnesotans—curling. I will note that Senator CORNYN of Texas sent out a tweet

saying that curling was an obscure sport. I don't think anyone thinks that anymore. They might think it is kind of an interesting sport, but it has gone from obscure to cool. A lot of that has to do with the men's curling team. Four out of five of the members of that team were from our home State of Minnesota. In that game, the match went from 1 to 4 in the morning or midnight to 3. I can't tell you how many Minnesotans were up all night watching that and celebrating the gold medal.

The success of Minnesotans has been inspiring, and I know Senator SMITH agrees. From frozen ponds to backyard hills, Minnesota helps bring the winter athlete out in everyone.

I congratulate Team USA and all Minnesota athletes who made these games such a success.

Senator SMITH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator KLOBUCHAR, for organizing this colloquy on the Olympic contributions of Minnesotans. I was proud to work with you on this resolution honoring our Olympians. While I have not yet given my first floor speech—which I plan to do in a couple of weeks—I couldn't pass up the opportunity to come down and talk about our State's amazing athletes.

As I am sure Senator KLOBUCHAR knows, as you have just heard from her, once a Minnesotan can walk, you can bet that his or her parents will try to get them on skis, skates, a sled, or maybe even on the curling rink. That early start—not to mention the fact that Minnesotans are the hardest working and most resilient people I know—helps explain why 23 of our athletes took part in this year's Winter Games. As Senator KLOBUCHAR said, that is the third most of any State in the country. And, boy, did they steal the show. Minnesotans brought home gold medals in women's hockey, women's cross-country skiing, men's curling, and a bronze medal in women's downhill skiing.

I want to talk about Afton, Minnesota's own Jessie Diggins, who carried the Olympic torch for Team USA at the closing ceremony. As Senator KLOBUCHAR said, Jessie began skiing at 4 years old and started racing against high schoolers at age 11. She earned her spot on the Olympic cross-country team and was the only woman to compete in all six women's cross-country events—and compete she did.

Along with her teammate, Kikkan Randall, Jessie won the first Olympic Gold Medal ever for the United States in cross-country skiing—and in dramatic fashion. Jessie came from behind during the final stretch of the race, inching out her competitor as they crossed the finish line.

I am amazed, but not all that surprised, by the accomplishments of my fellow Minnesotans. I am so happy to be able to join Senator KLOBUCHAR in

saying we are glad the whole world had the chance to witness what we see every day in our jobs as Senators from Minnesota—Minnesotans doing amazing things.

I yield the floor.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I know Minnesotans will look forward to Senator SMITH's actual first speech, but I think it is a tribute to our State that her first appearance on the Senate floor was about all of these Gold Medals in hockey and curling and skiing.

Thank you.

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 Terry A. Doughty, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, David Perdue, John Kennedy, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, John Barrasso.

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 Terry A. Doughty, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 45 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Casey	Duckworth
Baldwin	Cassidy	Durbin
Barrasso	Cochran	Enzi
Bennet	Collins	Ernst
Blumenthal	Coons	Feinstein
Blunt	Corker	Fischer
Booker	Cornyn	Gardner
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Gillibrand
Brown	Cotton	Graham
Burr	Crapo	Grassley
Cantwell	Cruz	Harris
Capito	Daines	Hassan
Carper	Donnelly	Hatch

Heinrich	Menendez	Shaheen
Heitkamp	Moran	Shelby
Heller	Murkowski	Smith
Hoeven	Murphy	Stabenow
Inhofe	Murray	Sullivan
Isakson	Nelson	Tester
Johnson	Paul	Thune
Jones	Perdue	Tillis
Kaine	Peters	Toomey
Kennedy	Portman	Udall
King	Reed	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Risch	Warner
Lankford	Roberts	Warren
Leahy	Rubio	Whitehouse
Lee	Sanders	Wicker
Manchin	Sasse	Wyden
Markey	Schatz	Young
McCaskill	Schumer	
McConnell	Scott	

NAYS—2

Hirono

Merkley

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin
Flake

McCain
Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 2.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 287, S. 2155.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 287, S. 2155, a bill to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 287, S. 2155, a bill to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Ben Sasse, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran, John

Kennedy, David Perdue, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis, Dean Heller, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Tom Cotton, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

NO UNCONSTITUTIONAL STRIKE AGAINST NORTH KOREA ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to share my deep concern over what appears to be the Trump administration's intention to go to war with North Korea.

North Korea may have bent over backward to appear conciliatory during the recently concluded Winter Olympics in South Korea, but the Kim Jong Un regime has not stopped its dangerous activities—far from it. North Korea is a serious and ever-worsening threat to its people, to our allies and partners in the region, and to the United States, but the responsible course of action is to use all tools of American statecraft to reduce those threats.

We have an obligation to American families, servicemembers, and our allies to say, unequivocally, that we did everything in our power to curb North Korea's dangerous behavior without resorting to armed conflict. Instead, I fear that the Trump administration is beating the drums of war.

While the North Korean regime was all smiles during the Olympics, its malign behavior continued. Engineers race to perfect a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile. North Korean laborers around the world—modern-day indentured servants—sent paychecks home to the regime, helping fund its illicit military programs. Illegal ship-to-ship transfers of refined petroleum products continued. North Korea's army of cyber warriors grew ever more capable. North Korean military officers reportedly continued to assist and empower Bashar al-Assad's chemical weapons program in Syria, and the Kim regime's thugs made no efforts to scale back rampant human rights abuses.

Many smiled as the North Korean regime won a gold medal in propaganda at the Olympics. All the while, it got ever closer to its ultimate goal of perfecting a nuclear weapon that could reach the United States of America. We missed an opportunity to engage in talks with North Korea, and we did that at our own peril.

While we must continue to ratchet up pressure on North Korea, other elements of President Trump's approach threaten to make an already bad situation even worse.

First, we are all too familiar with the President's reckless rhetoric. Promising "fire and fury" does not minimize tensions. Threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea only increases the

chance of deadly miscalculation. Boasting about the size of a nuclear button only makes the United States less safe. How does Donald Trump think Kim Jong Un would react if he believed his rule were under immediate threat? Would Kim restrain himself?

Second, contradictory statements from the Trump administration cause confusion that dampens the prospect of a peaceful solution. Is the Trump administration open to talks with North Korea? We certainly should be. If we are, what are the preconditions, and should we even have any? We hear different thoughts on different days. President Trump routinely undercuts his Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, and with it, our diplomatic high ground. Confusing our allies in South Korea and Japan, whose assistance in helping resolve the North Korean crisis is indispensable, only serves to embolden Kim Jong Un, who seeks to drive a wedge between the United States and our allies. We saw this during the Olympics, and we cannot allow that effort to ever take hold.

Third, the Trump administration's recently released budget request for fiscal year 2019 would drastically cut State Department funding. Yet there is no explanation as to why the President believes that it is prudent to cut diplomatic resources, especially in the middle of a crisis. The State Department is already alarmingly understaffed to handle the significant and increasingly more potent threats from North Korea.

Just this week, we found out that the Special Representative for North Korea Policy, Ambassador Joseph Yun—the lead American negotiator with North Korea—is stepping down tomorrow. He is one of the key players in any strategy with Pyongyang. But wait—there is more. We still don't have a U.S. Ambassador to South Korea more than a year into the Trump administration. We still don't have a confirmed Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. We still don't have a special envoy for North Korean human rights issues. We still don't have a sanctions coordinator. It seems the only thing this administration has to show for its concern about North Korea is Donald Trump's Twitter account.

I sent a letter to Secretary Tillerson asking him to explain how the State Department is sufficiently staffed to execute a wide-ranging strategy of diplomatic engagement and pressure, but as I wait for his response, the talk of conflict persists and the drum beat of war grows louder.

Sadly, we have heard this before. In less than 3 weeks, we will mark the 15th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. To be clear, the current situation we face with North Korea is not the same as the one we faced in the runup to the Iraq war in 2003, but, as Mark Twain once said, while history does not repeat itself, it does tend to rhyme. We should recognize the similarities and learn the appropriate lessons regarding the use of military force.

Unlike Iraq, North Korea has nearly completed development of long-range missiles, which will be capable of creating nuclear mushroom clouds in our cities. We all agree that we need to act to ensure that this never happens, but nowhere is there a convincing argument for military strikes. There might be a military option for the North Korean nuclear threat, but there is no military solution.

According to July 2017 polls, 76 percent of Americans are worried that the United States will become engaged in a major war in the next 4 years, and 86 percent of Americans believe the military should only be used as a last resort. We should listen to the American people.

Congress must demand that the Trump administration exhaust all diplomatic and economic options in North Korea short of war. I am not the only one who thinks another Korean war would be horrific. Warnings about the consequences of conflict are coming from all corners, including from the senior-most national security and defense officials.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said that conflict on the North Korean Peninsula would be “catastrophic.”

Former Secretary of Defense Bill Perry said that a U.S. strike “could turn into a disastrous military operation” and that “a war in the Korean Peninsula that extends to Japan and that goes nuclear would be 10 times worse than the first Korean War.”

Victor Cha, who was to be nominated as U.S. Ambassador to South Korea before being removed from contention, stated that “the answer is not, as some Trump administration officials have suggested, a preventive military strike.”

Reports suggest that John Bolton, whom President Trump may be considering to replace H.R. McMaster as National Security Advisor, apparently “supports preventive war through a massive strike, if sanctions fail.” He said that the United States would have to “simultaneously destroy all known North Korean ballistic missile sites, submarine bases, and artillery, mortar, and missile installations along the North's border with South Korea.”

That doesn't include the sites we don't know about. In October, the Department of Defense stated that the “only way to locate and destroy with complete certainty all components of North Korea's nuclear weapons program is through a ground invasion.”

Reports from a war game last week indicated that approximately 10,000 Americans could be wounded in combat in just the first few days of a new Korean war. Apparently GEN Mark Milley, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, stated that the “brutality” of conflict on the Korean Peninsula would “be beyond the experience of any living soldier.”

Even before these comments, 74 percent of Americans were concerned about a “full-scale war with North Korea.”

So we must ask some fundamental questions. On what criteria will the administration judge that all non-military options have been exhausted? Who will be the arbiter of that decision? Will the administration fulfill its constitutional obligation and come to Congress to ask for support? How will the Members of Congress respond to such a request?

It is because of these questions that I am here today. It is why I introduced the No Unconstitutional Strike Against North Korea Act. This bill would prevent the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies from spending any money to carry out an attack, conventional or nuclear, on North Korea without congressional approval, because we must only use the U.S. military—the most powerful fighting force in the world—if it is absolutely necessary.

At the same time, I recognize that we must do more to stem the North Korea threat. That includes addressing actions by China, the primary enabler of three successful generations of North Korean dictators. We should seek China's partnership in this process, but we must not fear offending the Chinese Communist Party, nor fear China's reaction.

In the interest of our security and the interests of a peaceful resolution, we must, No. 1, cut off the flow of crude oil from China to North Korea—if we do not do this, then we are not going as far as we need to on a package of sanctions; No. 2, give the Kim regime a warning that we expect them to stop selling the slave labor of its people and, in fact, receiving the revenues from that slave labor in order to prop up their regime and to fund a ballistic missile and nuclear program; No. 3, eliminate North Korea's illicit drug trade; No. 4, halt the procurement of key rocket fuel chemicals; and No. 5, restrict its use of the internet to evade sanctions through theft of cryptocurrencies and the committing of other cyber crimes.

We must continue the pressure on North Korea, but it must be combined with simultaneous and direct engagement with North Korea. We have yet to use all of the sanctions that should be imposed upon the North Korean regime. We have a responsibility to ensure that we exhaust all sanctions, and that includes doing everything we can to shut down the flow of crude oil into North Korea, which props up the regime, props up the ballistic missile program, and props up their nuclear weapons program.

Talks with North Korea about these issues are not synonymous with concessions. Talks backed by targeted pressure and stronger alliances are the path pursued by countries that are strong, confident, and wise, while the drumbeat of war, on the other hand, is the sound of fear and insecurity.

We are talking today about sanctions on imported steel and aluminum that come into the United States of America, but we are looking at that as a

trade issue. If we want to do something about trade that truly endangers our country, we should be looking at the trade between North Korea and China. We should be looking at the crude oil that continues to flow into North Korea. We should not be talking about a military option until we have exhausted our diplomatic and our economic opportunities to bring North Korea to the table.

Without China's agreement on this, we will reach a debate on this floor talking about war with North Korea, but it will not be a debate that took place with the United States—the Trump administration—having exhausted all of the opportunities that a cutoff of crude oil would have and could have presented to bring North Korea to the table. It worked in 2006, it worked in 1994, and I expect, for the sake of the American people, that the President will try to make that work right now. He has not done that yet. This administration has not done that yet.

It is wrong to be hearing this talk about military possibilities and military options before we have exhausted the cutoff of oil, of slave labor, of drugs, of cryptocurrency. We have to do that first. We owe that to history so we are not judged to have rushed irrationally into a war with North Korea that could quickly spiral out of control.

Let's return to a United States of statecraft, allowing our diplomats to advance our interests using our economic tools, our economic strength, as a way of ensuring that we avoid a frivolous loss of life in our country and other countries because we did not pursue a course that would work.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 398, 399, 698, and 699.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Gregory Doud, of Kansas, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador; Jason Kearns, of Colorado, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring December 16, 2024; Dennis Shea, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador; and C.J. Mahoney, of

Kansas, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Doud, Kearns, Shea, and Mahoney nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 700 through 709 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, all en bloc.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Lee H. Harvis

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael L. Ahmann
Col. Peter G. Bailey
Col. Malinda M. Beggs
Col. Eric L. Bratu
Col. Benjamin M. Cason
Col. Mark A. Chidley
Col. Troy T. Daniels
Col. Nicholas A. Gentile, Jr.
Col. Thomas F. Grabowski
Col. Andrew W. Love
Col. Richard R. Neely
Col. Russell L. Ponder
Col. Donna M. Prigmore
Col. Robert D. Reyner
Col. James A. Roberts
Col. Raymond S. Robinson, IV
Col. James P. Ryan
Col. Darrin E. Slaten
Col. Christopher L. Smith

Col. Jeffrey S. Smith
Col. Justin B. Smith
Col. Mark A. Weber
Col. Jeffrey L. Wilkinson
Col. John P. York

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Christopher R. Alderdice
Col. Robert S. Grant
Col. Paul N. Loisel
Col. Wayne M. McCaughey
Col. David J. Mounkes

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Timothy L. Adams
Col. Mark A. Hashimoto
Col. Karl D. Pierson

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John J. DeGoes
Brig. Gen. Robert I. Miller
Brig. Gen. Lee E. Payne

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey P. Kramer

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Gordon D. Peters

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

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Brian B. Brown

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

Col. John J. Allen

IN THE ARMY

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Todd M. Lazaroski

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1235 AIR FORCE nominations (25) beginning PAUL OBI AMALIRI, and ending MEOSHIA A. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 14, 2017.

PN1502 AIR FORCE nominations (17) beginning CARL P. BHEND, and ending CHRISTOPHER M. WOLBERT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1503 AIR FORCE nominations (56) beginning STEVEN J. ACEVEDO, and ending HEATHER C. YUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1504 AIR FORCE nominations (289) beginning NATALIYA A. ABLES, and ending MICHELLE L. ZIELINSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1505 AIR FORCE nominations (67) beginning GEORGE Z. ABERETH, and ending VERANIKA ZAKHARYEVA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1506 AIR FORCE nominations (121) beginning KEVIN D. ALFORD, and ending WINNIFRED M. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1507 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning ANN E. ALEXANDER, and ending PATRICK B. PARSONS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1557 AIR FORCE nomination of David J. Caswell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1558 AIR FORCE nomination of Bruce P. Heseltine, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1559 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL T. CAIN, and ending ILDA Y. ISAZA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1560 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning KERRY L. HIRZEL, and ending JOSHUA S. TRICE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1561 AIR FORCE nomination of Miguel J. Morales, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1562 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JULIE A. BOWMAN, and ending LARRIN S. WAMPLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1599 AIR FORCE nominations (375) beginning MARC M. ADAIR, and ending JESSE B. ZYDALLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

PN1154 ARMY nomination of Devry C. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2017.

PN1508 ARMY nominations (90) beginning ANDREW A. ARNDT, and ending D013347, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1509 ARMY nomination of Tyler M. Abercrombie, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1510 ARMY nomination of Randolph S. Carpenter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1511 ARMY nomination of Angel Soto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1512 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW C. DAWSON, and ending LEE C.

NOVY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1565 ARMY nomination of Thomas A. Summers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1566 ARMY nomination of Christina M. Buchner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1567 ARMY nomination of Marcia L. Lewis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1568 ARMY nomination of Jack E. Shields, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1569 ARMY nomination of Jerzy M. Matyszczyk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1570 ARMY nominations (8) beginning ALECIA D. BIDDISON, and ending ROGER R. WOLD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1571 ARMY nominations (10) beginning JOSEPH W. BISHOP, and ending ROBERT T. UTLAUT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1572 ARMY nomination of Jennifer L. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1573 ARMY nomination of Patrick E. Mather, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1574 ARMY nominations (4) beginning LUIS G. FUCHU, and ending DEXTER C. NUNNALLY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1576 ARMY nomination of Olivia H. Ivey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1577 ARMY nomination of Han S. Kim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1578 ARMY nomination of John E. Richardson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1579 ARMY nomination of Paul A. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1580 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ROBERT T. CARTER, JR., and ending CHARLES A. PHILLIPS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1602 ARMY nomination of Kyle R. Stiefel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1603 ARMY nomination of Adam C. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1604 ARMY nomination of Mathew M. Condry, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1605 ARMY nominations (45) beginning DAVID A. AMAMOO, and ending D013799, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1606 ARMY nomination of Jason B. Yenrick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1626 ARMY nomination of David R. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1627 ARMY nomination of Pankaj A. Ksheersagar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1628 ARMY nomination of Michael P. Sargent, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1630 ARMY nomination of Nicholas E. Hurd, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1631 ARMY nomination of Michael C. Agbay, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

PN1632 ARMY nomination of Jay A. Iannacito, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1494 MARINE CORPS nomination of Lonnie M. McGhee, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1591 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL E. FEUQUAY, and ending HEATH E. RUPPERT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1607 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning SHAWN P. CHABOT, and ending RICARDO B. RIVERA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1608 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning ENRIQUE LUZ, JR., and ending JEREMY J. WILLOUGHBY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1609 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning JEFFREY A. BRYANT, and ending JOE A. SAENZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1610 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning ANDREW E. CHEATUM, and ending JOSEPH M. DAVID, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1612 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning BRIAN K. EVANS, and ending JEREMY F. ORTIZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1613 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning DANIEL H. FLICK, and ending JESSE C. TALLMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1614 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning EZRA H. BARDO, and ending MICHAEL C. MEDLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1615 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW C. PAMPUSH, and ending STEPHEN T. SUTTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1616 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning ODIN PINEDA, and ending JAMES M. ROD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN1633 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning NATALIE E. MOORE, and ending BROOKE J. SPEERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2018.

IN THE NAVY

PN1246 NAVY nomination of Henry J. Kennedy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 14, 2017.

PN1302 NAVY nomination of John A. Mills, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

PN1513 NAVY nomination of Eric C. Correll, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2018.

PN1584 NAVY nomination of Jamal L. Headen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1585 NAVY nominations (44) beginning PATRICK P. ARRIGO, and ending OLIVER C. ZUFELT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1586 NAVY nomination of Jessica M. Ferraro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1587 NAVY nomination of Vijay M. Ravindra, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1589 NAVY nomination of Elisabeth S. Stephens, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

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.

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,
U.S. 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. 18-02, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$47 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.)

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-02

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 Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$29.5 million.
Other \$17.5 million.
Total \$47.0 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Two hundred ten (210) Javelin Missiles.
Thirty-seven (37) Javelin Command Launch Units (CLU) (includes two (2) CLUs to be used as spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are Basic Skill Trainers (BST); United States Government (USG) and contractor technical assistance, transportation, training and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-UBT).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.
(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: March 1, 2018.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Javelin Missiles and Command Launch Units

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy two hundred ten (210) Javelin Missiles and thirty-seven (37) Javelin Command Launch Units (CLUs) (includes two (2) Javelin CLUs to be used as spares). Also included are Basic Skill Trainers (BST); United States Government and contractor technical assistance, transportation, training and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is not to exceed \$47 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of Ukraine. The Javelin system will help Ukraine build its long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to meet its national defense requirements. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing this system into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractors will be Raytheon/Lockheed Martin Javelin Joint Venture of Orlando, Florida and Tucson, Arizona. However, these missiles are being provided from U.S. Army stocks and the CLUs will be obtained from on-hand Special Defense Acquisition Fund (SDAF)-purchased stocks. There are no known offset agreements proposed in conjunction with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government and/or contractor

representatives to travel to Ukraine temporarily in order to conduct training.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-02

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 Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget, anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and/or direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor thus decreasing its detection on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, which are a reusable Command Launch Unit (CLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The CLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides a target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The CLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The CLU's thermal sight is a second generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the CLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for target undercover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The Javelin Missile System hardware and the documentation are UNCLASSIFIED. The missile software which resides in the CLU is considered SENSITIVE. The sensitivity is primarily in the software programs which instruct the system how to operate in the presence of countermeasures. The overall hardware is also considered sensitive in that the infrared wavelengths could be useful in attempted countermeasure development.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Ukraine can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Ukraine.

REMEMBERING JOHN TUNNEY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a former Member of this Chamber, Senator John Tunney, whose seat I now hold.

Senator Tunney passed away on January 12 in Brentwood, CA, at the age of 83. His family and friends will gather on Monday to celebrate his life.

The son of a world heavyweight boxing champion, Senator Tunney was born in New York in 1934. After graduating from Yale in 1956, he went on to study law at the University of Virginia.

While attending law school, he was roommates with Senator Ted Kennedy, and the two became lifelong friends.

After graduating in 1959, he began his career in public service as a JAG lawyer in the Air Force. He was eventually stationed in California, where he settled after leaving the military.

He first ran for Congress in 1964, winning a House seat representing Riverside and Imperial Counties. After three terms in the House, when he was only 36 years old, John challenged Senator George Murphy in 1970.

It was highly contested election. Senator Murphy shared the ballot with his good friend, then-Governor Ronald Reagan, who was seeking reelection.

Despite the Governor's popularity, Senator Tunney was able to win and by a wider margin of victory than the Governor. That campaign would serve as the inspiration for Robert Redford's movie, "The Candidate."

Ever the statesmen, Senator Murphy went to Sacramento to meet with Governor Reagan immediately after the election. The two pledged to work together for the betterment of California.

That willingness to reach across the aisle allowed Senator Tunney to be an effective legislator during his career in the Senate.

A champion of civil rights and environmental causes, he passed several major bills, including the Noise Pollution Act in 1972 and an extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1975.

He also authored the landmark Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act, commonly referred to as the Tunney Act. The antitrust bill gave the Justice Department oversight of corporate mergers and acquisitions.

Senator Tunney also played a key role in keeping the United States out of the Angolan civil war, pushing to end the Pentagon's covert operations there.

As a freshman Senator, he authored more than 38 bills, a record few of us here today could claim in our first term.

That success can be attributed in part to the talented staff he hired, including future Congresswoman Jane Harman and Hadley Roff, who later served on my own staff.

Despite his successful record, Senator Tunney lost his reelection bid to S.I. Hayakawa during the anti-incumbent wave that followed Watergate.

Upon leaving office, he continued to practice law, becoming a partner at

Manatt, Phelps, Rothenberg & Tunney in Los Angeles.

He also served on the boards of several nonprofits, including Living With Wolves and UCLA's Hammer Museum.

After retiring, Senator Tunney spent most of his time in Idaho, enjoying poetry, reading, fishing, skiing, and hiking with his family.

Senator Tunney is survived by his second wife, Kathinka Osborne Tunney, his six children and stepchildren, and two grandsons.

After his defeat in 1976, Senator Tunney famously said, "When you get into public life, you've got to be prepared to take your knocks."

On behalf of all Californians, I am grateful he was willing to take those knocks and thankful for his life of public service.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOSOVO INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish briefly to note that Saturday, February 17th, marked the 10th anniversary of the independence of Kosovo. I want to congratulate the people of Kosovo on reaching their aspirations for statehood 10 years ago and to support their current aspirations to be part of a democratic, integrated, and peaceful Europe. I urge the government and people of Kosovo to use this anniversary as an occasion to strengthen their commitments to democracy and human rights, to seek reconciliation with their neighbors, and to undertake and fully implement the reforms necessary to move forward in these areas.

In 1998, the situation in Kosovo was markedly different. Still a province of Serbia, with its autonomy unilaterally revoked and its ethnic Albanian majority harshly repressed, Kosovo erupted in conflict. After years of passive resistance to Serbian rule, the people of Kosovo had enough and began to clamor for their rights. Early international efforts to restore peace were unsustainable, and with U.S. leadership, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, Alliance was compelled to intervene militarily the following year, placing Kosovo under the administration of the United Nations, UN, and opening the question of its status.

The violent chaos of 1998 and 1999—marked by horrific war crimes, massive displacement of populations, and ultimately the death of an estimated 12,000 or more people—made subsequent efforts to reach agreement on Kosovo's status a challenge, and only in February 2008 could Kosovo assert independent statehood based on a plan developed by the respected Finnish politician, Martti Ahtisaari.

This last decade has seen continued challenges as Kosovo has tried to achieve greater recognition of its independence abroad and to develop its democratic political institutions and economy at home. Perhaps the most important and positive development

has been the direct dialogue since 2012 between Serbian and Kosovo officials in Brussels, under European Union, EU, auspices. These talks have sought to normalize relations between Belgrade and Pristina and to achieve practical progress that would improve the lives and protect the rights of the people in and from Kosovo. Some agreements have been reached, but implementation has been difficult. This work continues.

As a Member of Congress, both House and Senate, I have been a witness to Kosovo's history. As a member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission for more than two decades and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since coming to this Chamber in 2007, I have visited Kosovo and participated in numerous hearings on developments there. I have met with its leaders, as well as those of Serbia and other neighbors, and engaged in critical debates on issues ranging from military intervention and peacekeeping operations to diplomatic recognition and bilateral support for the country's democratic and economic development.

As Kosovo moves into a second decade of statehood, I urge those countries that have not yet recognized its independence to do so now, particularly those in the European Union. Kosovo's independence is a reality, and full EU recognition will help pave the way to Kosovo's European integration as it continues to take the necessary steps to strengthen its democratic institutions, respect human rights, and adhere to the rule of law. Progress in these areas is desperately needed and something we should all want. Withholding recognition accomplishes nothing.

While I make this call urging Kosovo's recognition, I want also to urge Kosovo's political leaders not to wait for outside incentives, but to see progress as in Kosovo's own interest and to make this progress now. Nothing will strengthen support for Kosovo and its integration into Europe in the years to come more than its efforts to take responsibility now for doing the right thing.

In this regard, I encourage the Kosovo Government to make clear its commitment to democracy. The political turmoil in the country has raised questions about the strength of this commitment.

I hope to see steps in Kosovo to boost respect for human and property rights of members of minority communities, whether Serb, Roma, Turk, Bosniak, or any of the others who live in Kosovo. This has been one area where progress has been sadly lacking with regard to what we would expect.

I also urge the Kosovo Government to make progress on justice for past atrocities by supporting the work of the special court established for that purpose and respecting its decisions and judgements. Upholding the rule of law for crimes that individuals in Kosovo have committed will boost Kosovo as a nation and contribute to a

sustainable peace and prosperous future.

With its young and enthusiastic population, I personally have little to question about Kosovo's future being bright, but the job of Kosovo's leaders today is to erase all doubts at home and abroad through accelerated progress on the democratic and human rights values we all hold dear. By doing so, Kosovo will make an even stronger claim to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe—OSCE—NATO, and EU memberships it deserves in the years to come.

Let me conclude, by expressing my support for continued U.S. leadership in the Western Balkans, a leadership that ended a decade of regional conflict, helped bring Kosovo to where it is today, and can make a difference still. With Russian and other outside influences seeking to undermine the progress we have made, it is in our interest to engage more actively and offer a positive alternative to a difficult past. It is in our interest to see Kosovo and the entire region stable and secure, reconciled and integrated, and—above all—prosperous. Let this be a time where we not only celebrate the progress we have made in the past decade, but also commit to more rapid progress in the decade to come.

Congratulations, Kosovo, on your 10 years of independence. You can count on the continued support of your friends in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE RAVALLI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing the Ravalli County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Stephen Holton for their work to prevent an attack on the students and teachers of Darby School District.

Just last week, on the heels of 17 tragic murders in Parkland, FL, a Darby High School senior allegedly made threatening comments and social media posts directed at fellow students and faculty at Darby High School. After receiving information about the concerning threats, Sheriff Holton took action, and law enforcement arrested the student on felony charges.

While we will continue to investigate the tragedy in Florida and the performance of law enforcement in that incident, it is important that we commend students who speak up, school officials who respond, and those law enforcement officers who bravely act to keep our communities safe. The Darby students and school officials did the right thing.

Sheriff Holton and the quick response of students and school officials may have prevented a tragedy in Montana, and for that, we are very grateful.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SOUTH GEORGIA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as the senior Senator from Georgia, it is my honor to pay tribute to South Georgia on its selection as a "2018 Great American Defense Community" by the Association of Defense Communities.

Since 1941, this region of my State has been the proud home of Moody Air Force Base and some of the best airmen in the world.

I congratulate the outstanding South Georgia Military Affairs Council, which is led by local chambers of commerce in Berrien, Cook, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties, and the many community members who work to support Moody Air Force Base. They take great pride in this installation, and they understand how important the brave men and women who are based there are to our national security and to America.

The Great American Defense Communities Program honoring these special volunteers recognizes the overall support that communities and regions in the U.S. provide to service members and military families to help ensure the highest quality of life possible. Selection for this honor is based on community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and veteran and family support.

I have seen firsthand how strongly the airmen and families associated with Moody Air Force Base are supported and appreciated by the South Georgia community. It is much more than simply a place to live. For our military members serving at Moody, their community is a place to call home. It is family.

Moody Air Force Base is the home to the 23rd Wing "Flying Tigers," which consists of the 23rd Fighter Group, the Air Force's largest A-10 fighter group, the 347th Rescue Group, and the Avon Park Air Force Range, among others. From close air support to combat search and rescue, the dedicated airmen of Moody Air Force Base play a critical role in our national defense and our ability to project power around the globe.

Throughout Georgia, we are fortunate to be home to welcoming communities for the servicemembers who are stationed at military bases across our State. South Georgia is a wonderful example of this spirit of service and patriotism. I congratulate this region and Moody Air Force Base on this distinct honor.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a mes-

sage from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 535. An act to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1865. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4470. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4471. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Michael S. Rogers, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4472. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2016 Inventory of Contracted Services"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4473. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4474. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining the Office of Inspector General's Freedom of Information Act Regulations and Implementing FOIA Improvement Act of 2016" (RIN2508-AA15) received in

the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4475. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Korea Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 510) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4476. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4477. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4478. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Materials from Libya" (RIN1515-AE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4479. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4480. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Performance Report and Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Performance Plan, and Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 - 2022"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4481. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Performance Report and Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Performance Plan, and Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 - 2022"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4482. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Privacy Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4483. A communication from the Report to the Nation Delegation Director, Boy Scouts of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the organization's 2017 annual report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4484. A communication from the Senior Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, Amtrak's fiscal year 2019 General and Legislative Annual Report and fiscal year 2019 grant request; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-174. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that provides the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and regional management councils additional tools to effectively and appropriately manage our nation's important saltwater recreational fisheries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 118

Whereas, U.S. saltwater fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable, providing significant economic impact across the nation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and regional management councils set catch limits, ensure compliance with fisheries regulations, and reduce unintended catches to provide continued economic and recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, Inaccurate and inconsistent data used to make decisions concerning saltwater fishing stocks, as well as a one-size-fits-all management approach, have led to curtailed recreational fishing opportunities, frustrating recreational anglers and adversely impacting Michigan companies that manufacture recreational fisheries products. Michigan is home to several boat and fishing tackle manufacturers who sell their products nationwide. These companies employ thousands of skilled workers, having a substantial impact on Michigan's economy; and

Whereas, Improved data collection and implementing management tools more suitable for recreational fisheries will enhance public access to fish and continue to conserve our saltwater fisheries resources. Not only will recreational anglers benefit, but also thousands of fishing-related businesses that depend on reasonable angler access to healthy saltwater fisheries. The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017, S. 1520, would update federal fisheries management for recreational angling by allowing alternative management techniques, improve data collection, ensure periodic review of allocations in important mixed-use fisheries, and continue to rebuild overfished stocks, among other benefits, to anglers and the nation, now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that provides the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and regional management councils additional tools to effectively and appropriately manage our nation's important saltwater recreational fisheries, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-175. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the United States Congress and the United States Department of Interior to take the necessary administrative and legislative actions in order to provide for the updating of the various topographic and hydrographic maps of our Island; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. CON. RES. 1

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The United States Geological Survey (hereinafter, the USGS) is a scientific organization that provides unbiased information on the health of our ecosystems and the environment; the natural hazards that threat-

en us; the natural resources, based on the impact of climate change and land use; and the core science systems that allow us to provide timely, relevant, and useful information.

As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science mapping agency, the USGS collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific knowledge on the condition of the natural resources and any problems and issues related thereto. The agency's diverse scientific knowledge enables it to conduct large-scale multidisciplinary investigation, and to provide unbiased scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. Likewise, the USGS works in conjunction with other federal agencies as well as the private sector through official memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement in order to fulfill the agency's scientific mission.

The services offered by the USGS are of utmost importance for Puerto Rico. The maps drawn by this entity are used for multiple purposes, such as the identification of drainage basins and the topography, land classification, localization, and the location of water resources, properties, delimitation, etc.

As a matter of fact, the USGS's plans are part of the requirements of the permit process carried out by the government agencies of Puerto Rico. However, the aforementioned maps are not up to date and most of them date back to many decades. As expected, our Island and its topography have been altered in the last forty (40) or fifty (50) years; therefore, it is necessary to amend and update said maps.

The USGS keeps evolving and, in 2010, the agency made changes to its structure in order to focus on or pay special attention to natural hazards. For such reason, the importance of the accuracy in the records or documents that the agency provides must be recognized. Regarding the USGS's maps of our Island, it is essential that these maps are updated in order to avoid issues in future developments and make an orderly land planning feasible.

In view of these circumstances and through this Concurrent Resolution, this Legislative Assembly hereby requests the United States Congress and the pertinent federal agencies to provide for the updating of the various topographic and hydrographic maps of our Island.

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To request the United States Congress and the United States Department of Interior to take the necessary administrative and legislative actions in order to provide for the updating of the various topographic and hydrographic maps of our Island.

Section 2.—It is hereby provided that a certification on this Concurrent Resolution shall be issued immediately to be delivered to the United States Congress and the United States Department of the Interior.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall be translated into English to be delivered as provided in Section 2.

Section 4.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

POM-176. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico memorializing the Assembly's opposition to H.R. 4202, the "Parity in Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. CON. RES. 28

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The sport of cockfighting began in Puerto Rico in the 17th century, when it was officially established on April 5, 1770 by the decree of Spanish governor Don Miguel de

Mueas. At that time, cockfighting was already a pastime in most European countries. It was so popular that, during the reign of King Henry VIII, cockfights were held in the Palace of Whitehall, in the courtyards and interiors of churches, and even in the British Parliament. Likewise, cockfights were so popular in France that they adopted the gamecock as their national symbol.

In the United States, some presidents were fans of the sport, among them, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln who was known as “Honest Abe” due to being a good pit judge. In fact, for many years, it was acceptable and encouraged in the United States for a gentleman to raise game fowls and be an expert at the sport.

Over the years, cockfight bans began appearing all across the Nation. In 1898, the sport was banned after Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States of America, but underground cockfights continued. However, as a result of the fight put up by the third President of the Senate of Puerto Rico, the Honorable Rafael Martínez-Nadal, who was a fan of the sport and defended this Island tradition, then Governor of Puerto Rico, Robert Gore, repealed the ban and promulgated legislation which recognized cockfighting as a legitimate sport in the Island.

As a result of the above mentioned, the rule of law has recognized that the sport of cockfighting has been part of our culture and traditions. According to José S. Alegria, “the sport of cockfighting was a leveler that made a gentleman out of all those who visited the pits, regardless of their standing in society.” This sport is known as the “gentlemen’s sport,” because the people who follow the same keep their word during the competitions, without the need for a contract or a similar document for such purposes.

Although this sport has millions of fans in dozens of countries around the world, Puerto Rico is still considered “the Mecca” of cockfighting. The sport is so well established that, unlike many other sports on the Island, cockfighting does not require subsidies from the Government of Puerto Rico. Moreover, it is estimated to generate over twenty-seven thousand (27,000) direct and indirect jobs. Likewise, this sport greatly impacts Puerto Rico’s tourism because we receive visitors from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and other countries who travel to the Island to partake in the sport of cockfighting.

Since its beginnings in Puerto Rico, the sport of cockfighting has faced great challenges and has overcome them. In 2007, the Federal Government passed the Animal Welfare Act[sic], Pub. Law 110-22 which classified as a felony the transport, sale, and purchase of tools and paraphernalia relating to this activity, among other things. At that time, the territories and places where cockfighting was legal were excluded from the application of the Act.

However, HR 4202 was introduced on November 1 of this year, jeopardizing the continuity of this sport in Puerto Rico. On this occasion, the express intent of the bill is to extend the total ban against animal fighting set forth in the “Animal Welfare Act” to the United States territories. Moreover, it prohibits the purchase, sale, or transportation of accessories to be used in cockfights, and even imposes penalties of imprisonment. The congress members who introduced this measure consider these types of fights animal cruelty.

It is worth noting that the sport of cockfighting in Puerto Rico is well regulated. For instance, safety measures are taken to guarantee that participating gamecocks wear the same spurs and are of the same age, weight, and bet. Furthermore, pit judges are empowered to stop the fight if they notice either

excessive punishment or that a gamecock is not fit to continue fighting. Once the fight is over, both gamecocks are examined by specialized staff and treated accordingly for their prompt recovery. Hence, it is evident that our industry has taken measures to ensure the protection of gamecocks.

The enactment of HR 4202 shall threaten a century-old practice that is deeply rooted in our culture, history, and traditions. Moreover, said bill shall affect various components of our economy that provide services related to this sport, such as veterinarians, game fowl breeders, agricultural stores, and trophies and awards manufacturers, among others. For all of the foregoing, the Legislative Assembly is compelled to firmly and unequivocally reject the enactment of HR 4202, since it does not take into account the adverse effect that such bill shall have on Puerto Rico’s economy and culture.

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To express the firm and unequivocal repudiation and opposition of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico to HR 4202 of the United States House of Representatives that seeks to apply the “Animal Welfare Act” to United States territories and, consequently, prohibits cockfights in Puerto Rico.

Section 2.—A certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution translated into English shall be delivered to the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress and to the President of the United States of America.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-177. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana urging the President of the United States and United States Congress to instruct the Environmental Protection Agency to remove Lake and Porter counties from the Chicago Nonattainment Area; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION FOUR

Whereas, The motor vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs in Lake and Porter counties were mandated by the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, based on Lake and Porter counties’ designation as “nonattainment”, along with northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin, under the one-hour ozone standard;

Whereas, According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), cars and trucks collectively are the single greatest contributor to ground-level ozone, the major component of smog;

Whereas, The purpose of an I/M program is to reduce ground-level ozone by ensuring that the emission control systems on vehicles are working correctly;

Whereas, Generally, only vehicles registered in Lake and Porter counties are subject to the I/M programs in Lake and Porter counties;

Whereas, Lake and Porter counties in northwest Indiana are intersected by Interstate Highway 80/90 and Interstate Highway 94, two of the most heavily traveled highways in the Midwest, and Lake County is also intersected by Interstate Highway 65, another heavily traveled highway, linking major southern cities with Indianapolis and Chicago;

Whereas, The citizens of Lake and Porter counties have been burdened with the cost of the testing and remediation required under the I/M program, even though thousands of out-of-state vehicles pass through these areas on a daily basis without the burden of submitting to the I/M program;

Whereas, Lake and Porter counties are linked to the Chicago Nonattainment Area based on violations in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin;

Whereas, Under the standards promulgated in 2015 for ozone, nine monitors within the Chicago Nonattainment Area exceed the standard, but none of the monitors are located in Indiana; and

Whereas, Lake and Porter counties have the most stringent suite of control measures in the Midwest, and have consistently met EPA’s objectives; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

Section 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States; and members of the United States Congress from Indiana to instruct the Environmental Protection Agency to remove Lake and Porter counties from the Chicago Nonattainment Area, and thereby eliminate the requirements under which the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance programs in Lake and Porter counties are operated.

Section 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Joe Donnelly, the Honorable Todd Young, the Honorable Pete Visclosky, the Honorable Jackie Walorski, the Honorable Jim Banks, the Honorable Todd Rokita, the Honorable Susan Brooks, the Honorable Luke Messer, the Honorable Andre Carson, the Honorable Larry Bucshon, and the Honorable Trey Hollingsworth of the U.S. Congress; Scott Pruitt, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and Robert A. Kaplan, the Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 5 in Chicago.

POM-178. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to the 45th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

Whereas, January 22, 2018, marks the 45th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Roe v. Wade, which affirmed that every woman has a fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions and to decide whether to end or to continue pregnancy, and is an occasion deserving of acknowledgment; and

Whereas, Roe v. Wade has been the cornerstone of women’s ability to control their reproductive lives, allowing every woman in the United States the right to decide when, if, and with whom to have children, and how many children to have; and

Whereas, Women’s ability to control their reproductive lives has helped and facilitated their participation in the economic and social life of our nation; and

Whereas, Roe v. Wade has drastically reduced the maternal mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies in the United States. In the years prior to the decision, illegal abortion accounted for approximately 17 percent of all reported deaths attributable to pregnancy and childbirth, and many women were severely injured as a result of “back alley” abortion procedures; and

Whereas, Interference with a woman’s right to choose causes women to be forced into illegal and dangerous abortions, as they often were in the United States before the Roe v. Wade decision. Many women are forced to make these decisions today in countries where abortion is illegal and unsafe. Each year between 4.7 percent to 13.2

percent of maternal deaths can be attributed to unsafe abortion. Many survivors of an illegal abortion suffer serious and often permanent injuries; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* continues to protect the health and freedom of women throughout the United States; and

Whereas, The State of California stands in strong support of every woman's fundamental right, as confirmed in *Roe v. Wade*, to make her own decisions regarding her pregnancy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to express their support for a woman's fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions, as well as their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Billy J. Williams, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

Mark S. James, of Missouri, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Daniel C. Mosteller, of South Dakota, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Jesse Seroyer, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

By Mr. BURR for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Isabel Marie Keenan Patelunas, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2477. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2478. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for

advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2479. A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to address deferred maintenance at agricultural research facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2480. A bill to prohibit agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2481. A bill to increase the penalties for fentanyl trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2482. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require the Attorney General to establish a section within the Department of Justice with responsibility for the enforcement of laws against suspected operatives or agents of foreign governments, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2483. A bill to provide greater access to higher education for America's students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2484. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits for children, divorced spouses, and widows and widowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 2485. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide payment of Medal of Honor special pension under such title to the surviving spouse of a deceased Medal of Honor recipient, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2486. A bill to repeal the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 and amendments to that Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2487. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain data on conservation practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2488. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to exclude the receipt of basic allowance for housing for members of the Armed Forces in determining eligibility for certain Federal benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2489. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities for housing and buildings on adequate

farms, to establish a technical assistance program to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 419. A resolution designating the week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week" and supporting the goals and ideals of raising awareness and understanding of eating disorders; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 420. A resolution designating March 3, 2018, as "World Wildlife Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. NELSON, 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, Mr. COCHRAN, 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,

Mr. INHOFE, 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. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN,

Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS,

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. 421. A resolution condemning the horrific attack in Parkland, Florida, and expressing support and prayers for all those impacted by that tragedy; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED,

Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER,

Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY,

Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 422. A resolution designating March 2, 2018, as "Read Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO,

Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN,

Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER,

Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 423. A resolution designating February 28, 2018, as "Rare Disease Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 1539

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 1676

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide grants for access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1905

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1905, a bill to increase the number of States that may conduct Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2174

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2174, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 2271

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr.

PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2271, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 2284

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to strengthen Buy American requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2334, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide clarity with respect to, and to modernize, the licensing system for musical works under section 115 of that title, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of that title, and for other purposes.

S. 2374

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2421

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2421, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

S. 2430

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

S. 2458

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2458, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms and explosives and Federal firearms and explosives licenses and permits to known or suspected terrorists.

S.J. RES. 54

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal

of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 377, a resolution 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 419—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS "NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK" AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF EATING DISORDERS

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 419

Whereas eating disorders affect 30,000,000 individuals in the United States at some point during their lifetimes;

Whereas eating disorders are caused by a complex interaction of genetic, biological, social, behavioral, and psychological factors;

Whereas eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder, and other feeding or eating disorders;

Whereas individuals with eating disorders have some of the highest mortality rates of all mental illnesses;

Whereas there is a high prevalence of eating disorders among members of the Armed Forces on active duty and veterans;

Whereas many health professionals receive limited or no formal training about eating disorders or the identification and treatment of eating disorders;

Whereas best practices for the treatment of an eating disorder includes the involvement of the patient, the family of the patient, and a comprehensive team of professionals such as social workers, mental health counselors, primary care practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, dietitians, and other specialty providers; and

Whereas more research on eating disorders is needed to inform evidence-based treatments, promote prevention efforts, facilitate early identification, and provide insight on illness causation and the effects of eating disorders on minds and bodies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a national week to raise public awareness and

understanding of eating disorders and the millions of families in the United States affected by eating disorders;

(3) recognizes the need for treatment of individuals with eating disorders;

(4) acknowledges the need for further research on eating disorders; and

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local governments, and citizens of the United States—

(A) to support National Eating Disorders Awareness Week through programs and activities; and

(B) to promote public awareness of eating disorders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 420—DESIGNATING MARCH 3, 2018, AS “WORLD WILDLIFE DAY”

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 420

Whereas wildlife has provided numerous economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits during the course of human history and wildlife conservation will secure those gifts for future generations;

Whereas plant and animal species play an important role in the stability of diverse ecosystems around the world and the conservation of that biodiversity is critical to maintain the delicate balance of nature and keep complex ecosystems thriving;

Whereas observation of wild plants and animals in their natural habitat provides individuals with a more enriching worldview and a greater appreciation of the wonders of the natural environment;

Whereas tens of millions of individuals in the United States strongly support the conservation of wildlife, both domestically and abroad, and wish to ensure the survival of species in the wild, such as rhinoceroses, tigers, elephants, pangolins, turtles, seahorses, sharks, ginseng, mahogany, and cacti;

Whereas the trafficking of wildlife, including timber and fish, comprises the fourth largest global illegal trade after narcotics, the counterfeiting of products and currency, and human trafficking and has become a major transnational organized crime with an estimated worth of as much as \$19,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas increased demand in Asia for high-value illegal wildlife products, particularly elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns, has triggered substantial and rapid increases in poaching of those species;

Whereas the trafficking of wildlife is a primary threat to many wildlife species, including elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, pangolins, and sharks;

Whereas many different kinds of criminals, including some terrorist entities and rogue security personnel, often in collusion with corrupt government officials, are involved in wildlife poaching and the movement of ivory and rhinoceros horns across Africa;

Whereas wildlife poaching presents significant security and stability challenges for military and police forces in African nations that are often threatened by heavily armed poachers and the criminal, extremist allies of those poachers;

Whereas wildlife poaching negatively impacts local communities that rely on natural resources for economic development, including through tourism;

Whereas penal and financial deterrents can improve the ability of governments to reduce poaching and trafficking and enhance the capabilities of those governments in managing resources;

Whereas assisting institutions in developing nations, including by providing material, training, legal, and diplomatic support, can reduce illegal wildlife trade;

Whereas wildlife provides a multitude of benefits to all nations and wildlife crime has wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts;

Whereas the African Elephant Status Report 2016 issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature revealed that the elephant population of Africa has recently seen a dramatic decline, mainly due to poaching during the 10 years preceding the issuance of the report, and the continental population is now thought to be 415,428;

Whereas the estimated African elephant population decreased by approximately 93,000 between 2006 and 2015, despite the inclusion of approximately 18,000 elephants that were previously uncounted, making the actual decline closer to 111,000;

Whereas, from 2007 to 2012, the number of elephants killed in Kenya increased by more than 800 percent, from 47 to 387 elephants killed;

Whereas, between 2002 and 2013, as a result of poaching, about 65 percent of the forest elephant population was killed and that species lost 30 percent of its geographical range;

Whereas World Wildlife Fund elephant surveys conducted between 2014 and 2016 and covering 6,000,000 hectares confirmed this catastrophic trend, documenting losses of 66 percent of the remaining elephants between 2008 and 2016, placing forest elephants on track for extinction in the next decade;

Whereas fewer than 50,000 wild Asian elephants remain and poaching of these populations is on the rise, with an average of 1 elephant poached every week in Burma, driven by demand for elephant skin products;

Whereas the number of rhinoceroses killed by poachers in South Africa—

(1) dramatically increased from 13 in 2007 to 1,215 in 2014, an increase of more than 9,000 percent; and

(2) was 1,028 in 2017;

Whereas the 3 species of Asian rhinoceroses also remain under constant threat of poaching, with a greater 1-horned rhinoceros poached in Kaziranga National Park in India as recently as January 2018;

Whereas pangolins are often referred to as the most trafficked mammal in the world;

Whereas all 8 pangolin species spanning Africa and Asia are faced with extinction because pangolin scales are sought after in the practice of traditional Chinese medicine and pangolin meat is considered a delicacy;

Whereas approximately 100,000,000 sharks are killed annually, often targeted solely for their fins, and unsustainable trade is the primary cause of serious population decline in several shark species, including scalloped hammerhead sharks, great hammerhead sharks, and oceanic whitetip sharks;

Whereas the vaquita porpoise of Mexico, with fewer than 30 individual porpoises remaining, is being driven to extinction through bycatch in gillnets set for the totoaba fish, the swim bladder of which feeds a lucrative illegal trade through the United States to Asia;

Whereas tiger populations have plummeted by 95 percent over the last 100 years and African lion populations have declined by 40 percent over the last 20 years;

Whereas fewer than 4,000 tigers remain in the wild throughout all of Asia;

Whereas there are more than 7,000 tigers in farms in China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, which continues to stoke demand for illegal tiger products and contributes to 30 percent of illegal trading with respect to that animal;

Whereas the United States is developing and implementing measures to address the

criminal, financial, security, and environmental aspects of wildlife trafficking;

Whereas Congress has allocated specific resources to combat wildlife trafficking and address the threats posed by poaching and the illegal wildlife trade;

Whereas Congress recently passed the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) to strengthen the response of the United States to the global wildlife trafficking crisis;

Whereas, in December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 3 as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the wild fauna and flora around the world;

Whereas March 3, 2018, represents the fifth annual celebration of World Wildlife Day;

Whereas, in 2018, the theme of World Wildlife Day is “Big cats: predators under threat”; and

Whereas, in 2018, World Wildlife Day commemorations will raise awareness about the plight of big cats and galvanize support for the many global and national actions that are underway to save those iconic species: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2018, as “World Wildlife Day”;;

(2) supports raising awareness of the benefits that wildlife provides to people and the threats facing wildlife around the world;

(3) supports escalating the fight against wildlife crime, including wildlife trafficking;

(4) applauds the domestic and international efforts to escalate the fight against wildlife crime;

(5) commends the efforts of the United States to mobilize the entire Federal Government in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner for dramatic progress in the fight against wildlife crime; and

(6) encourages continued cooperation between the United States, international partners, local communities, nonprofit organizations, private industry, and other partner organizations in an effort to conserve and celebrate wildlife, preserving this precious resource for future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACK IN PARKLAND, FLORIDA, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THAT TRAGEDY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. NELSON, 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, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. 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, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KANE, 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. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISC, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, 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. 421

Whereas on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida;

Whereas the people of the United States mourn the 17 innocent lives that were lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in this unthinkable tragedy;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those who were wounded in the attack and continue to recover; and

Whereas the people of the United States are grateful for the quick action of first responders who cared for the injured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that took place on Wednesday, February 14, 2018;

(2) honors the memory of the victims that were killed;

(3) expresses hope for a full and speedy recovery and pledges continued support for people that were injured in the attack;

(4) offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to all of the students, teachers, administrators, and faculty of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, as well as the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy; and

(5) honors the selfless and dedicated service of—

(A) the teachers, school administrators, school support staff, medical professionals, and other individuals in the Broward County community;

(B) the emergency response teams and law enforcement officials who responded to the call of duty; and

(C) the law enforcement officials who continue to investigate the attack.

SENATE RESOLUTION 422—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2018, AS “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 422

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success and a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (commonly known as “Dr. Seuss”), as a day to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2018, as “Read Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) all authors for their success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading; and

(B) the 21st anniversary of Read Across America Day; and

(3) encourages—

(A) parents, educators, and communities to read with children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day and promote a love of reading and opportunities for all children to see themselves reflected in literature in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe Read Across America Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2018, AS “RARE DISEASE DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 423

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients, which in the United States is considered to be a population of less than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of February 2018, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare diseases account for about half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are serious and life-threatening and lack effective treatments;

Whereas, as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), important advances have been made in the research and treatment of rare diseases;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration has made great strides in gathering patient perspectives to inform the drug review process as part of the Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that originated under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144; 126 Stat. 993);

Whereas, although more than 600 drugs and biological products have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of rare diseases, millions of people in the United States have a rare disease for which there is no approved treatment;

Whereas lack of access to effective treatments and difficulty in obtaining reimbursement for life-altering, and even life-saving, treatments still remain significant challenges for people with rare diseases and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and conditions include aplastic anemia, porphyria, spina bifida, stiff person syndrome, Gaucher dis-

ease, diffuse pulmonary lymphangiomatosis, adrenoleukodystrophy, Noonan syndrome, Rett syndrome, Moebius syndrome, Castleman Disease, epidermolytic ichthyosis, and short bowel syndrome;

Whereas people with rare diseases experience challenges that include—

(1) difficulty in obtaining an accurate diagnosis;

(2) limited treatment options; and

(3) difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in rare diseases;

Whereas the rare disease community gained important new tools during the 115th Congress with the enactment of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-52; 131 Stat. 1005), which—

(1) advanced and facilitated the development and timely approval of drugs and biologics for rare diseases, including diseases affecting children;

(2) reauthorized user fees to help deliver safe and effective treatments to individuals with rare diseases;

(3) supported the utilization of real-world evidence;

(4) supported patient-focused drug development; and

(5) supported the National Evaluation System for Health Technology;

Whereas both the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have established special offices to support and facilitate rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders (referred to as “NORD” in this preamble), a nonprofit organization established in 1983 to provide services to and advocate on behalf of patients with rare diseases, remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas 2018 marks the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the establishment of NORD;

Whereas NORD sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States and partners with many other major rare disease organizations to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and observed in more than 94 countries in 2017; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2018, as “Rare Disease Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and

(3) supports a national and global commitment to improving access to and developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures for rare diseases and disorders.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have 11 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Lieutenant General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, to be general and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service/Commander, United States Cyber Command, Department of Defense, and Brent K. Park, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary (Environmental Management), both of the Department of Energy.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Semiannual monetary policy report to the Congress."

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Implementation of Positive Train Control."

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Administration's Framework for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Robert Frank Pence, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, and Trevor D. Traina, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, both of the Department of State, and Judy Lynn Shelton, of Virginia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nomination: John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Mem-

ber of the National Labor Relations Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Joel M. Carson III, of New Mexico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Colm F. Connolly, and Maryellen Noreika, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, William F. Jung, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Jonathan F. Mitchell, of Washington, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and Billy J. Williams, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, Mark S. James, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri, Daniel C. Mosteller, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota, and Jesse Seroyer, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama, all of the Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting followed by a closed briefing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining Federal Managers' Roles in Hiring."

RURAL WIRELESS ACCESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 305, S. 1621.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1621) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a methodology for the collection by the Commission of information about commercial mobile service and commercial mobile data service, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 1621) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1621

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Wireless Access Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. METHODOLOGY FOR COLLECTION OF MOBILE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "commercial mobile data service" has the meaning given the term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401);

(2) the term "commercial mobile service" has the meaning given the term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d));

(3) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(4) the term "coverage data" means, if commercial mobile service or commercial mobile data service is available, information about the service, which may include available speed tiers and performance characteristics; and

(5) the term "Universal Service program" means the universal service support mechanisms established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) and the regulations issued under that section.

(b) METHODOLOGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to establish a methodology that shall apply to the collection of coverage data by the Commission for the purposes of—

(1) the Universal Service program; or

(2) any other similar program.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The methodology established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) contain standard definitions for different speed tiers, such as the 2G, 3G, 4G, and 4G LTE tiers;

(2) ensure that coverage data is collected in a consistent and robust way;

(3) improve the validity and reliability of coverage data; and

(4) increase the efficiency of coverage data collection.

PROVIDING FOR A CONSISTENT ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR PROVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3656 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 3656) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING CERTAIN BURIAL BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS WHO ARE BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2248 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

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

A bill (S. 2248) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain burial benefits for spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2248) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2248

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF VETERANS BURIED IN TRIBAL CEMETERIES FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL BENEFITS.

Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by inserting “or a veterans’ cemetery owned by a tribal organization or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization” after “State”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “, a veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization” after “owned by a State”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) The Secretary”;

(C) by striking “a national cemetery or in a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title” and inserting “a covered cemetery”;

(D) by adding at the end the following: “(2) The term ‘covered cemetery’ means any of the following:

“(A) A national cemetery.

“(B) A veterans’ cemetery of a State for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title.

“(C) A veterans’ cemetery of a tribal organization or on land owned by or held in trust for a tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under subsection (f) of such section.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) In this section, the term ‘tribal organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 3765 of this title.”.

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2372 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

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

A bill (S. 2372) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2372) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2372

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act”.

SEC. 2. PROVISION OF OUTER BURIAL RECEPTACLES FOR REMAINS BURIED IN NATIONAL PARKS.

Section 2306(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “(A)” before “The Secretary of Veterans”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), as designated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking “The Secretary of the Army” and inserting the following:

“(B) The Secretary of the Army”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The Secretary of the Interior shall provide an outer burial receptacle for each such a grave in an open national cemetery administered by the National Park Service.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “or in the Arlington National Cemetery” and inserting “, in the Arlington National Cemetery, or in a national cemetery administered by the National Park Service”;

(B) by striking “or Secretary of the Army” and inserting “, the Secretary of the Army, or the Secretary of the Interior”;

(3) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking “or, with respect to Arlington National Cemetery, the Secretary of the Army” and inserting “or the Secretary of the Army with respect to Arlington National Cemetery or the

Secretary of the Interior with respect to a national cemetery administered by the National Park Service”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “or, with respect to Arlington National Cemetery, the Secretary of the Army” and inserting “or the Secretary of the Army with respect to Arlington National Cemetery or the Secretary of the Interior with respect to a national cemetery administered by the National Park Service”.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 419, S. Res. 420, S. Res. 421, S. Res. 422, and S. Res. 423.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 5; 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 Scholer nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:58 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 5, 2018, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

HENRY E. HUDSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2021, VICE DABNEY LANGHORNE FRIEDRICH, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM GRAHAM OTIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2021, VICE PATTI B. SARIS, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2023. (REAPPOINTMENT)

WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE CHAIR OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION, VICE PATTI B. SARIS.

LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2019, VICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, TERM EXPIRED.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to the order of 06/28/1990 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

*ANNE MARIE WHITE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT).

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 1, 2018:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

GREGORY DOUD, OF KANSAS, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

JASON KEARNS, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2024.

THE JUDICIARY

A. MARVIN QUATTLEBAUM, JR., OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DENNIS SHEA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (GENEVA OFFICE), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

C. J. MAHONEY, OF KANSAS, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (INVESTMENT, SERVICES, LABOR, ENVIRONMENT, AFRICA, CHINA, AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. LEE H. HARVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL L. AHMANN
COL. PETER G. BAILEY
COL. MALINDA M. BEGGS
COL. ERIC L. BRATU
COL. BENJAMIN M. CASON
COL. MARK A. CHIDLEY
COL. TROY T. DANIELS
COL. NICHOLAS A. GENTILE, JR.
COL. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI
COL. ANDREW W. LOVE
COL. RICHARD R. NEELY
COL. RUSSELL L. PONDER
COL. DONNA M. PRIGMORE
COL. ROBERT D. REYNER
COL. JAMES A. ROBERTS
COL. RAYMOND S. ROBINSON IV
COL. JAMES P. RYAN
COL. DARIN E. SLATEN
COL. CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH
COL. JEFFREY S. SMITH

COL. JUSTIN B. SMITH
COL. MARK A. WEBER
COL. JEFFREY L. WILKINSON
COL. JOHN P. YORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER R. ALDERDICE
COL. ROBERT S. GRANT
COL. PAUL N. LOISELLE
COL. WAYNE M. MCCAUGHEY
COL. DAVID J. MOUNKES

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. TIMOTHY L. ADAMS
COL. MARK A. HASHIMOTO
COL. KARL D. PIERSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN J. DEGOES
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT I. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. LEE E. PAYNE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY P. KRAMER

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) GORDON D. PETERS

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. BRIAN B. BROWN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN J. ALLEN

IN THE ARMY

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

To be brigadier general

COL. TODD M. LAZAROSKI

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL OBI AMALIRI AND ENDING WITH MEOSHIA A. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CARL P. BIEND AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER M. WOLBERT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN J. ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH HEATHER C. YUN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATALIYA A. ABLES AND ENDING WITH MICHELLE L. ZIELINSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE Z. ABERTH AND ENDING WITH VERANIKA ZAKHARYEVA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN D. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH WINNIFRED M. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANN E. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH PATRICK B. PARSONS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID J. CASWELL, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRUCE P. HESELTINE, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL T. CAIN AND ENDING WITH ILDA Y. ISAZA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KERRY L. HIRZEL AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA S. TRICE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MIGUEL J. MORALES, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIE A. BOWMAN AND ENDING WITH LARRIN S. WAMPLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARC M. ADAIR AND ENDING WITH JESSE B. ZYDALLIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF DEVRY C. ANDERSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW A. ARNDT AND ENDING WITH D013347, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TYLER M. ABERCROMBIE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH S. CARPENTER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANGEL SOTO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW C. DAWSON AND ENDING WITH LEE C. NOVY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 19, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. SUMMERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTINA M. BUCHNER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARCIA L. LEWIS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JACK E. SHIELDS III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JERZY M. MATYSZCZUK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALECIA D. BIDDISON AND ENDING WITH ROGER R. WOLD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH W. BISHOP AND ENDING WITH ROBERT T. UTLAUT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PATRICK E. MATHER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUIS G. FUCHU AND ENDING WITH DEXTER C. NUNNALLY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF OLIVIA H. IVEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HAN S. KIM, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN E. RICHARDSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL A. WHITE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT T. CARTER, JR. AND ENDING WITH CHARLES A. PHILLIPS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KYLE R. STIEFEL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM C. MILLER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATHEW M. CONDRI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID A. AMAMOO AND ENDING WITH D013799, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON B. YENRICK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID R. ADDAMS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PANKAJ A. KSHEERSAGAR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL P. SARGENT, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS E. HURD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL C. AGBAY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAY A. IANNACITO, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF LONNIE M. MCGHEE, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL E. FEUQUAY AND ENDING WITH HEATH E. RUPPERT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE

SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHAWN P. CHABOT AND ENDING WITH RICARDO B. RIVERA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ENRIQUE LUZ, JR. AND ENDING WITH JEREMY J. WILLOUGHBY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY A. BRYANT AND ENDING WITH JOE A. SAENZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW E. CHEATUM AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH M. DAVID, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN K. EVANS AND ENDING WITH JEREMY F. ORTIZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL H. FLICK AND ENDING WITH JESSE C. TALLMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EZRA H. BARDO AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL C. MEDLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW C. PAMPUSH AND ENDING WITH STEPHEN T. SUTTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ODIN PINEDA AND ENDING WITH JAMES M. ROD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATALIE E. MOORE AND ENDING WITH BROOKE J. SPEERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2018.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF HENRY J. KENNEDY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN A. MILLS, TO BE CAPTAIN. NAVY NOMINATION OF ERIC C. CORRELL, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMAL L. HEADEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICK P. ARRIGO AND ENDING WITH OLIVER C. ZUFELT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JESSICA M. FERRARO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF VIJAY M. RAVINDRA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ELISABETH S. STEPHENS, TO BE CAPTAIN.