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No. 203

## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, judge the nations with Your righteousness and justice, and keep our lawmakers on the path of truth. May they strive to maintain a clear conscience in whatever they do for You and humanity. Lord, give them the wisdom to refuse to deviate from integrity, coveting Heaven's approval in their labors for Your Kingdom. May they also remember that they are representing Your divine purposes for our Nation and world.

Lord, thank You that Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who come to You with reverence. May Your glory endure forever.

We pray in Your merciful 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. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment and the House agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I recently heard from an 81-year-old Iowan who is battling cancer. She told me that one test cost more than \$12,700. That is almost an entire year's income for that lady. On top of that, her medication is more than \$4,700 a month. She is on Humana and Medicare, but that is not enough for her to still afford her medical bills.

Too many Americans share this Iowan's story. That is why we must pass the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act, to finally help Americans afford the critical medications they need.

The bill I just named is a bipartisan bill sponsored by this Senator and Democratic Senator WYDEN. It got

voted out of committee 19 to 9 back in July.

We have the good fortune that the House of Representatives understands that the pricing of prescription drugs is a major problem. They passed a bill last week. I applaud them for taking up this issue. It so happens that the bill they passed probably can't get anywhere near 60 votes in the U.S. Senate, so I hope we will have an opportunity to sit down with Speaker PELOSI and other House Members to see what we can work out to do something about the high cost of prescription drugs for the citizens of this country. Every Member of this body hears from their constituents that they don't like the fantastic increase in prices of drugs that occurs on a regular basis.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DOUG CONNOLLY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to our longtime Democratic Policy Communications Committee staff member, Doug Connolly, who will be retiring at the end of the month with an impressive 33 years of working for the committee and working for the Senate. I am pleased to have Doug with me today on the floor.

For a moment, think back to 1986. A couple of top songs that year were "Stuck With You" by Huey Lewis and the News and "Manic Monday" by the Bangles. The top movie that year was "Top Gun," and the average price of a movie ticket was \$3.71. I don't know if we remember those, but it has been a while.

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



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In Washington, the Senate voted to allow its proceedings to be televised on C-SPAN that year. A young graduate of the University of Michigan and veteran of Paul Simon's first Senate campaign began working for what was then called the Democratic Policy Committee.

A lot of things have changed since then. We are all a little bit older, and C-SPAN has broadcast more than a few hours of Senate floor proceedings. However, one thing hasn't changed: Doug is still as dedicated to public service as he was on his first day of work 33 years ago. I have been personally so impressed by Doug's work ethic, though not surprised. After all, he grew up in a hard-working auto family in Rochester, MI.

Over the years, Doug's work ethic has benefited a number of folks you have heard of, including Senator Robert Byrd, Senator Tom Daschle, Senator Byron Dorgan, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, and Senator Harry Reid, whose website he designed.

Doug's computer skills are legendary and haven't just benefited the Democratic caucus. They have benefited the Nation as a whole. Doug actually wrote the computer program that the Senate Library and the Senate Historian rely on to keep track of votes. That is important information for the American public to know.

Thanks to Doug, we know that since Doug has worked in the Senate, there have been 11,114 votes cast. Only Senator LEAHY, Senator GRASSLEY, and Senator MCCONNELL have been around long enough to have cast all of them.

When Doug isn't crunching numbers, he is a voracious reader and a devoted father and husband. He is extremely proud of his children. His son Nick is getting his doctoral degree in mathematics at the University of Iowa. His daughter Caitlin earned her degree in anthropology from St. Mary's College in Maryland and is an intern with the Smithsonian Institution.

Doug's wife Brenda has him slightly beat on career longevity. She has worked in the House of Representatives for 34 years, and every day Doug walks over to the House side so that they can have lunch together. Pretty soon, however, their lunch dates might be on a beach. Doug is retiring this month, and he hopes to be spending a lot of time scuba diving in the Caribbean.

Doug, thank you so much for your hard work, your creativity, and your 33 years of public service. The committee has been incredibly lucky to have you, and all of us will miss working with you. I think it is fitting that after more than three decades of spending so much time reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, now your name will be in it. We all wish you and your family much happiness in your next chapter.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 382.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 465.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 466.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen Spencer Marston, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Karen Spencer Marston, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat

Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 480.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 481.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jodi W.

Dishman, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jodi W. Dishman, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 490.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John M. Gallagher, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John M. Gallagher, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 536.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bernard Maurice Jones II, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bernard Maurice Jones II, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 354.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Kay Vyskocil, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mary Kay Vyskocil, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 383.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kea Whetzal Riggs, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kea Whetzal Riggs, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 234.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert J. Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert J. Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 349.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lewis J. Liman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lewis J. Liman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 356.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gary Richard Brown, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 357.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3057 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

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

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

DAMON PAUL NELSON AND MATTHEW YOUNG  
POLLARD INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018, 2019, AND 2020

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has worked over the past 3 years to build a

critical piece of legislation. The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 supports vital important programs and takes bold steps to defend this country.

Last year, the Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously passed our bill with a vote of 15 to 0. "Unanimous" is not a word you hear very much in Washington today, but it speaks to the importance of the issues and the comprehensiveness of this bill. This success is also thanks to the efforts of Vice Chairman WARNER.

In June we partnered with our colleagues on the Armed Services to simultaneously push forward both bills. The NDAA and the IAA combination passed with a vote of 86 to 8.

Likewise, the House Intelligence Committee bill captured an overwhelming vote in the full House when it passed in July by a vote of 397 to 31.

After many months of work and negotiations, we have before us a bipartisan, comprehensive bill that improves our defenses today and will give the intelligence community the resources it needs to defend us in the years to come.

For example, it deters Russian and other foreign influence in our elections and facilitates information sharing between Federal, State, and local election officials. It protects the Nation's supply chain from counterintelligence threats from countries such as Russia and China. In order to accomplish these goals, the bill increases scrutiny of Russian activities in our country. We require Russian diplomats to notify the State Department of their travel inside the United States. We counter Russian propaganda, and we require threat assessments on Russian financial activities.

To accomplish these missions, we need highly talented counterintelligence officers. We must verify that they are worthy of these positions of extreme trust, and we must compensate them fairly for the sacrifices they make. So our bill improves the security clearance process—and large credit goes to the vice chairman—by reducing backlogs, improving clearance information sharing, and holding the executive branch responsible for the modernizing the clearance process.

Our bill supports the intelligence community personnel by enhancing pay scales for certain cyber security positions, increasing recruitment efforts, and creating a pathway to give new parents the time they need to support their growing families. We ask our Nation's defenders to miss soccer games and family dinners. We can give them space and security to support new moms, new dads, and new babies.

Lastly, the bill continues a long and vital history of accountability for our most sensitive intelligence programs. My colleagues and I on the committee have happily accepted the privilege and the weighty responsibility of monitoring the intelligence programs on behalf of all 85 of our colleagues. We have

done so with reasoned debate and bipartisan agreement, and we have done so knowing that even though new threats keep us up at night, they are oftentimes being met by heroic men and women who allow the rest of us in this country to sleep soundly.

It is noteworthy that the last intelligence authorization bill was enacted on May 5, 2017. We cannot afford to go this long again without the authorities that our intelligence agencies need to do their work. We must be credible, dependable, and yearly check on intelligence activities.

One final note, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 is named for two of our colleagues whom we lost recently. Matthew Pollard and Damon Nelson worked for the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, respectively. Their families lost them too soon, and we are poorer for the loss of their friendship and their expertise. We are proud to pass this bill in their honor and look forward to its swift enactment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, let me acknowledge my friend and colleague and the chairman of my committee, RICHARD BURR, for his great work. I am going to talk about him in a moment. I do hope the RECORD captured the nice things he said about me. Usually, he characterizes me in a different way, but I am grateful for his comments today.

I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which includes the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Congressional passage of the Intelligence Authorization Act provides support for our Nation's critical intelligence programs and ensures that the hard-working men and women in the intelligence community have the authorities and resources they need to defend our Nation. It also improves the oversight of our Nation's 17 intelligence agencies, which operate around the globe.

Before I get into the specifics, I want to note that this important bill is the product of bipartisan work made possible by Chairman BURR's leadership. It was thanks to the chairman's leadership that the IAA was unanimously passed by the committee in May and included as part of the Senate's National Defense Authorization Act in June.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my friends on the Senate Armed Services Committee, especially the Senators from Oklahoma and Rhode Island, Senator INHOFE and Ranking Member REED. Robust intelligence supports our soldiers and military operations. So I thank them for allowing the IAA to be considered along with the Defense authorization bill.

As vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am proud of several provisions within the IAA, particularly those aimed at tackling the technological threats from China, bolstering intelligence security against foreign malign influence, and enhancing whistleblower processes to protect the brave individuals who come forward to report waste, fraud, abuse, and other malfeasance.

Beyond these provisions, I want to highlight a few others that I believe will have a real impact on our Nation's security and the individuals serving in the IC.

First, as the chairman has already mentioned, there is paid parental leave. The National Defense Authorization Act includes a landmark provision that grants 12 weeks of paid parental leave for government employees. This builds upon the original bipartisan provision included in the Senate-passed IAA, which gave 12 weeks of paid parental leave to IC personnel, including adoptive and foster parents. This important provision will help to recruit and retain top talent across the government, including within the IC.

Frankly, this is a vital step forward for families across the Nation, and I am glad that our committee helped to lay the groundwork for this milestone achievement.

Next, deterring foreign interference in our elections. The IAA includes a number of provisions that are particularly important as we enter a Presidential election year. These include measures to deter foreign interference, including increased sharing of information between State, local, and Federal officials. It also creates an independent Social Media Data and Threat Analysis Center to counter foreign propaganda. Additionally, it includes provisions to counter the use of "deepfakes" and other emerging technologies by our adversaries.

Next, there are security clearance reforms. Additionally, the IAA includes several provisions to modernize the government's outdated security clearance process. The bill advances reforms that will make the system simpler and more transparent. It will capitalize on advanced technology and reflect the demand of today's mobile workforce. It calls for specific plans to reduce the background investigation and adjudication backlogs and to improve information sharing, so that only the folks who deserve a clearance can have one. These provisions are critically important to the government and our industry partners in maintaining a trusted and agile workforce.

The next provision is the creation of a public-private talent exchange. Finally, I want to highlight a provision that creates this IC public-private talent exchange. This exchange will allow employees to move between the public and private sectors more readily, broadening the expertise perspective of

our workforce, because, frankly, solving the complex problems facing our government today requires robust partnership with industry.

The IAA also contains provisions on the security risks posed by climate change, 5G, and hostile foreign intelligence services, to name just a few.

Before I conclude, I thank my friend the chairman, RICHARD BURR, as well as the hard-working bipartisan staff of the Intelligence Committee, without whose work this achievement certainly would not have been possible. I am proud of the work we have done. I am proud of the fact that this may be the only major authorization bill that, in a committee, received unanimous support, and I hope it bodes well for future cooperation going forward.

Before I yield the floor, let me acknowledge a great member of our committee, the Senator from Maine, who was absolutely central to the successful conclusion of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 397, I voted no. It was my intention to vote yea; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

I yield the floor.

#### 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 clerk will report 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 conference report to accompany S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Kevin Cramer, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, John Thune, James Lankford, James E. Risch, Deb Fischer, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Steve Daines.

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

Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany S. 1790, an original bill to au-

thorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 398 Leg.]

#### YEAS—76

Alexander	Grassley	Roberts
Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Barrasso	Hawley	Rosen
Blackburn	Heinrich	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rubio
Blunt	Hoeven	Schatz
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Brown	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Jones	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Shelby
Cardin	King	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Sullivan
Cornyn	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	McSally	Thune
Cotton	Menendez	Tillis
Cramer	Moran	Udall
Crapo	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Ernst	Peters	Wicker
Feinstein	Portman	Young
Fischer	Reed	
Gardner	Risch	

#### NAYS—6

Braun	Enzi	Lee
Carper	Gillibrand	Paul

#### NOT VOTING—18

Bennet	Harris	Perdue
Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sasse
Daines	Klobuchar	Toomey
Duckworth	Markey	Warren
Graham	Merkley	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 6.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume legislative session on the conference report to accompany S. 1790.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are here today to pass the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act. It has just passed the procedural vote so we are ready for the vote that is going to take place tomorrow.

It is the 59th year in a row that we will be passing the NDAA, and that is because it is the most important bill Congress will be doing all year and one that fulfills our constitutional responsibilities, and that is to defend America.

There is a document nobody reads anymore that is called the Constitution. If you read that document, it tells you what we are supposed to be doing here, which is providing for the common defense or, simply put, defending America and all who call it home.

This conference report does exactly that. It is a testament to the good work we can accomplish when we work together, and I am talking about Democrats and Republicans of both parties in the House and Senate. The bill has been a long time coming. We started working on it last January, 11 months ago, holding hearings with military leaders about what resources they needed around the world. We started drafting it not long after, and in May we passed the bill out of our committee. We passed the bill out of committee by a 25-to-2 vote. That doesn't happen very often on big bills.

In June, we debated on the floor and incorporated more than 90 bipartisan amendments before it passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 86 to 8. Then we started the conference where we have been working day in and day out since September. This year, we had twice the number of Big 4 meetings. Now, Big 4 meetings are with a Democrat and Republican from both the House and Senate getting together to iron out some of these problems, and there were a lot of problems with this bill. Anytime we have 90 bipartisan amendments we are considering while putting the bill together, that is a big deal. We had twice the number of Big 4 meetings and more than twice the number of staff-level meetings that we normally have working our way through over 1,500 provisions within the bill.

I say this to remind everyone that our committee and staff have been working on this bill tirelessly for nearly a full year, and now we are going to pass it. If I had to break it down, I would say this year's NDAA has two big overarching principles. First, it resources and aligns priorities to implement the blueprint for the National

Defense Strategy Commission. This is it, the publication here, and this was put together by Democrats and Republicans a few years ago, laying out exactly what we have to have to adequately defend America.

We follow this blueprint. We are still following it today, and it is working. This bipartisan document outlines the challenges we need to be prepared to meet, namely, strategic competition with China and Russia. This is something—and I don't say this critically of the previous administration, but President Obama's priorities were not the same as the priorities we normally had. It was not defending America. There were other projects he was concerned with, and as a result of this, if you take the last 5 years from 2010 to 2015, the amount of money going to the military from President Obama's budget was reduced in that 5-year period by 25 percent. Keep in mind, while that was reduced by 25 percent, China was increasing their spending by 83 percent. That has never happened before.

Accordingly, the conference report funds the military at \$738 billion, in line with the bipartisan agreement I just described. So we are sticking with that. It is a good thing when you get a chance to get everyone together. There is always partisanship and all that, but when you get an outline like this, it is something that has worked and worked well.

In addition, the NDAA authorizes \$5.3 billion in emergency disaster recovery to help military installations. Occasionally, we have natural disasters. We had them in Nebraska, Florida, and North Carolina that inflicted great damage on our military bases in those areas.

The Space Force is the President's big deal. It will help protect space and ensure America's dominance in this warfighting domain for years to come. It is interesting also. There are those who are criticizing it, and I had some reluctance at first because we are doing a good job in space. We have been doing a pretty good job in space for quite a while, but it is not all in one area. There is a psychological component. Our chief problems out there are China and Russia. China and Russia have their own space dominance in this Space Force, and just the fact that we don't have one is something that made people believe we didn't have an interest in the Space Force, and we are going to dominate Space Force. This is the first time we will have a new branch in government in over 70 years. The Space Force will help us protect space and ensure American dominance in the warfighting domain for years to come.

To implement the national defense strategy, the NDAA reframes its priorities. It accelerates investment in efforts to modernize our Armed Forces, including creating hypersonic weapons, 5G, cyber, long-range missiles, and areas where we are at risk.

I mention the hypersonic weapons. That is the state of the art and what

we are doing right now. Prior to the last administration, we were ahead in hypersonic weapons. At the end of that administration years later, China and Russia were ahead. Now we are catching up. We are going to pass them. This bill is going to be a way to do this.

The NDAA has strong support for nuclear modernization, preserving all three legs of the triad to maintain maximum deterrence against our adversaries. Our triad has been controversial for a long time, but it has worked, and there are some who would like to drop it down to just two forces as opposed to three, but we want to make sure we have the best. We want to make sure we can win in a nuclear battle.

It also provides needed reforms to the way the Department of Defense does business. An efficient, effective Pentagon will help America retain and, in some cases, regain the competitive edge. We don't have the competitive edge around the world.

I talk to people around the country. They always assume that America has the best of everything, and there was a time when we did. I think ever since World War II we were in that situation, but we have lost some of that edge, and this is what we are going to do; we are going to regain it.

The legislation also keeps President Trump's promise to continue rebuilding the military. The legislation invests its equipment, resources, and training needed to restore American readiness. These investments mean we will have a larger Army, larger Navy, a more agile Air Force and a more lethal Marine Corps—a force that is ready to deter or, if necessary, defeat any threats that might come our way.

That is something a lot of people think is extreme, but we are used to that. We learned our lesson in World War II. We have gone through several conflicts since that time, and we are not going to allow that to happen again. We are going to keep all of these forces strong. That is what the bill does to rebuild our military and realign to be able to compete with Russia and China.

You go through and see the changing scenes all around the world. You go to the South China Sea and see China building islands out there. It is as if they are preparing for World War III, and some of our allies in that part of the world are wondering what we are doing. They don't see us out there, but we are. Now this bill puts us back in the running.

I said this bill does two main things. The second part is the bill really looks out for our servicemembers and their families. To tell the story of what we do in that area is really to tell the story of two courageous military spouses. Those two military spouses are Janna Driver and Jane Horton.

I have had the honor of knowing both of these women who represent hundreds of thousands of military spouses around the country. About 1 year ago,



Janna Driver reached out to me because she had housing. This all started with privatizing housing. We privatized housing and everything went right for a few years and things started dropping down. People got greedy. We had 14 contractors that were busy doing this.

Janna Driver was from Tinker Air Force Base. I had the honor of knowing her well because she came to me and reached out to me to share the horrible conditions she and her family were facing in their housing at Tinker Air Force Base.

Let's back up a little. Privatized housing was something that was working, but things started slipping. Right now, we have done a lot of work with that. She told me about the mold in her unit, and she couldn't get a contractor to fix it. We are talking about 1 of the 14 contractors that got the awards. We started looking into the problem and learned it was bigger than we thought. When Janna Driver came to me, we thought it was just at Tinker Air Force Base, but after that we found other places in Oklahoma. We have five major military establishments in Oklahoma, and we found they were all having some of these problems. Then I found out this was all over the Nation. So this was a serious problem she called to our attention.

We got to work, holding hearings and inspecting homes and demanding answers. As a result, the NDAA includes a landmark overhaul of the military privatized housing system. The legislation gives military families the tools to demand accountability, and re-engages military leadership. It is only natural that a lot of the military leadership would say: Well, we privatized it. Now it is their problem, not our problem. They kind of stepped aside. Well, they are back in the fight again to make sure contractors live up to their end of the bargain and give military families high-quality housing. That was my experience with Janna Driver.

Then there was Jane Horton. I mentioned there were two heroes I learned to love over the years. In an event in Collinsville, OK, a little bit north of Tulsa, we had a townhall meeting over there, and I was getting ready to go to Afghanistan. This happened about 7 years ago. Jane Horton was there, the wife of someone who was in the military. As I was getting ready, and I mentioned I was going to go to Afghanistan, she told me her husband Chris was deployed there. I promised her I would visit with him while I was there in about a week's time. I never got that chance because Oklahoma Army National Guard SPC Chris Horton was killed on September 9, 2011. He was only 26 years old.

After everything Jane Horton went through after losing her husband, she was then penalized by what we refer to as the "widow's tax"—a dollar-for-dollar offset of benefits as a Gold Star spouse. She came to me, and we started working on it together to repeal it.

Years after we restarted the process, this year's NDAA repeals the widow's tax in a fiscally responsible way. It does it over a period of time that is going to be doable.

That is a fraction of the benefits it has for military families. The conference report provides a 3.1-percent pay raise for all troops. It is the largest pay raise we have had in a decade. The bill also improves access to childcare on military installations.

It helps spouses transfer their professional licenses. Here is a problem people don't realize we have, and it is that the military member is going to be moved around every 2 or 3 years. When that happens, the spouse will go with the military member, but that spouse may be a trained professional and working as a second worker in the household. The problem is, there are a lot of States where nurses, for example, if the spouse is a nurse, they have to wait for 1 or 2 years' residency before they can actually practice in the State.

Those are little things that nobody really thought of, and it is kind of discriminatory against our military. So that problem is not going to exist anymore.

The bill continues critical reforms to fight sexual assault—we hear a lot about sexual assault—and misconduct and works to improve the military healthcare system. This bill does a lot.

I have heard people say—there are people around, people who are actually in this body who don't really think we have a real obligation to spend so much time and money on our military. In fact, I have heard people say so many times: Well, wait a minute. The United States spends more money than China and Russia put together. That is true, but you have to realize why that is.

We were just talking about housing. You know, China and Russia are communist countries. They don't care about helping people with housing. They don't care about healthcare for their people. All they do is give them an AK-47 to go out and kill people. The vast majority of what we spend on our military is spent on our people; other countries don't do that. They say you recruit a servicemember, but you retain a family by making our NDAA dedicated not only to the warfighter but also to their families.

Lastly, there are a few other provisions outside of the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee, and they are worth highlighting in this bill. This has been happening now for 59 years. One of the reasons is that this is a bill that everybody knows is going to pass. I had doubts this year that it definitely was going to pass, but it did. A lot of people have difficulty getting something passed during the regular session but wait until the Defense authorization bill comes up, and then they will put it on there as an amendment. We have a lot of examples.

There is the MARAD authorization. That is the maritime authorization. Senator WICKER from Mississippi put

that in. He is the chairman of the Commerce Committee. Then we had the intelligence reauthorization. Senator BURR is the chairman of that committee. We have that as a part of this bill. Sanctions designed to punish Syria, Russia, North Korea, China, and all those countries, that would really be in the Foreign Relations Committee. Senator RISC is the chairman of that committee. It is in this bill.

So the result is this is a good bill, and now we are going to pass it. This is the 59th year in a row we have passed the NDAA. It is one of the few authorization bills that passes year after year, and that is because everyone knows how important it is. It usually doesn't get bogged down in partisan fighting.

This year, the process of getting to our final conference report was certainly tougher than most years. The first bill that came out of the House, there wasn't one Republican who voted for it on the floor, and they ended up supporting it. That is the way it happened this year. There were some moments we weren't sure we were going to be able to get one. It took a few months of hard-fought negotiations, but the end result is getting a bill that we are proud of.

I thank Congressman SMITH and Congressman THORNBERRY from the House and, most importantly, Senator REED. Senator REED is my counterpart. I am the chairman of the committee, and he is the ranking member of the committee. We worked together, and I am talking about hours and hours. My wife and I have been married now 60 years tomorrow. I saw more of Senator REED during this time than I saw my own wife. We had a lot of time together working on things. We worked together on the controversial things, and they worked. We were successful.

I also thank the members of the Armed Services Committee who put in good work to make sure the bill supports the military community and keeps America safe. I want to thank President Trump for his leadership in support of the legislation, especially the Space Force. I look forward to him signing this into law immediately.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Armed Services Committee staff, especially the staff directors John Bonsell, for the majority; Liz King, for the minority; and my personal staff, who have worked countless hours to bring this bill to the floor today. Also under them, from the majority, we have 33 members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and I think 15 members from the minority. That is a total of 48 members.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD all 48 names of those heroes who participated.

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

From my staff from the Senate Armed Services Committee: John Wason, Tom Goffus, Stephanie Barna, Greg Lilly, Rick



Berger, Marta Hernandez, Jennie Wright, Adam Barker, Augusta Binns-Berkey, Al Edwards, Jackie Kerber, Sean O'Keefe, Tony Pankuch, Brad Patout, Jason Potter, J.R. Riordan, Katie Sutton, Eric Trager, Dustin Walker, Otis Winkler, Gwyneth Woolwine, Katie Magnus, Arthur Tellis, Leah Brewer, Debbie Chiarello, Gary Howard, Tyler Wilkinson, John Bryant, Patty-Jane Geller, Baher Iskander, Keri-Lyn Michalke, Jackie Modesett, Soleil Sykes.

And from the minority: Jody Bennett, Carolyn Chuhta, Jon Clark, Jonathan Epstein, Jorie Feldman, Creighton Greene, Ozge Guzelsu, Gary Leeling, Kirk McConnell, Maggie McNamara, Bill Monahan, Mike Noblet, John Quirk, Arun Seraphin, Fiona Tomlin.

Mr. INHOFE. From my personal staff, we had Luke Holland, Andrew Forbes, Dan Hillenbrand, Jake Hinch, Don Archer, Kyle Stewart, Bryan Brody, Esther Salters, Devin Barrett, Leacy Burke, Wendi Price, Laurie Fitch, Whitney Folluo, Mark Powers, Brandon Ellis, and Charlotte Mitchell.

And the floor staff, they are always back there. They work on all the bills, but they dropped everything to make this a reality: Laura Dove, Robert Duncan, Chris Tuck, Megan Mercer, Tony Hanagan, Katherine Foster, Brian Canfield, and Abigail Baker.

Now, let's vote on this conference report, and let's have the vote be so overwhelming that there isn't a military family in America who could doubt our commitment to them. Let's use our vote to send a message as well to Russia and China that we are revitalizing American power so we can win the competition for influence that will shape the kind of world our children and grandchildren are going to live in.

Kay and I have 20 kids and grandkids. They are the ones I am concerned about, as well as your kids and grandkids. We are not going to win with a strong military alone, but we will lose without one. That is what this NDAA will do: revitalize American military power so we can achieve our vision of a safe, prosperous, and free world. That is what this is all about. That is what we are going to do.

Merry Christmas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULIVAN). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the National Defense Authorization Act. I want to begin by thanking the chairman of the Armed Services Committee and also his ranking member, Senator JACK REED. I think Senator INHOFE and Senator REED have both shown tremendous leadership on behalf of our men and women in uniform, working together in a bipartisan way.

The Presiding Officer, as a member of our military still today, can certainly vouch for the importance of this legislation. The way they worked together and got this done, I think, is exactly the way people would want the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee to work on behalf of our military. So I thank the good

Senator from Oklahoma and his ranking member. It is really an outstanding effort.

This is a very important piece of legislation. Of course, it is something that we need to get done on behalf of our military, the finest men and women in uniform in the world. This is an incredibly important support. I thank not only the chairman and the ranking member, but I also thank all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for their diligence and for their efforts to reach a conference agreement on this National Defense Authorization Act. This is a critical piece of legislation that supports our Armed Forces.

This year, the conference agreed to \$738 billion in overall funding authorization. I am a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee, so I work on the other side of the equation to make sure that those authorizations are funded. Obviously, this includes numerous provisions and investments that build readiness, modernize our force, and preserve our status as the world's preeminent military power.

In addition to providing a 3.1-percent pay raise for our men and women in uniform—the largest increase in nearly a decade—the agreement also includes important provisions to support our servicemembers and veterans. I am proud to have worked on some of those and backed, of course, not only those provisions but other provisions that make this very good legislation for our men and women in uniform.

Similar to legislation I helped introduce earlier this year, the NDAA extends TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility to all guardsmen and reservists, including those who also are Federal employees. That is effective beginning January 1, 2030. That is something that I know members of our Guard and Reserve felt was very important.

It also includes the Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act, which repeals the current military widow's tax to ensure that surviving military spouses receive their full survivor benefits.

Another bipartisan bill that I wrote together with the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. JEANNE SHAHEEN, the Air Traffic Controller Hiring Reform Act of 2019, is included in this legislation as well. It enables the FAA to prioritize the hiring of veterans and graduates of FAA-Certified Collegiate Training Initiative schools, like the University of North Dakota John D. Odegard School of Aviation and Aerospace, and it removes the current 10-percent hiring pool limitation. That is very important for our universities that provide training in air traffic control, and it is very important for the FAA and for the safety of aviation in our country, making sure that we have qualified air traffic controllers out there managing air traffic in the national airspace.

The NDAA also includes several more important measures that I was pleased to cosponsor, one that helps ensure

that the children of National Guard and Reserve members have access to additional support services in school, as well as another provision that corrects the disparity in the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to protect veterans' benefits in the event they file for bankruptcy.

There are many other important priorities in this legislation that go to my particular State, whether it is the MQ-9 program that our National Guard runs out of Hector Field in Fargo or whether it is the Global Hawk's mission at the Grand Forks Air Force Base or the B-52 and ICBM mission at Minot Air Force Base. All of these installations and our Guard, of course, play an incredibly important part in terms of the overall defense of our country, as well as so many other aspects.

Things that we have come to rely on, whether it is flood, fire, hurricane, or anything else, who do you turn to first? It is always the National Guard. They are always there, and they are always ready. Of course, they do an amazing job when we send them overseas or in any military capacity, but they do such an amazing job for us in so many other situations. Like I said, in any kind of disaster, fire, flood, or emergency, they are there for us.

The NDAA legislation also includes an amendment that I sponsored that requires the Air Force and the National Nuclear Security Administration to regularly report on their progress in developing the new ICBM and replacing its warhead. This measure will foster interagency cooperation and in turn help ensure the replacement for the Minuteman III is on schedule.

Not only do we need to authorize these programs, but, as I said, we also need to provide the funding for them as well, which we do through Defense appropriations. As the Presiding Officer knows, we will be taking up that legislation soon, as well. That is the other side of the coin, that we need to make sure we get done this week, in a timely way, for the full year so that our military knows they have not only the authorization but the funding to move forward with these programs.

There is no question that we have the finest military in the world and that we have the finest men and women who put everything on the line for us to serve in that military. We need to make sure we not only get these programs authorized, but that we fully appropriate the funding for those programs to support our tremendous men and women in uniform. There is no way for us to say thank you enough for all they do, but it is very important that we get our job done here and provide this very important support for them.

With that, I thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, at

11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, all postcloture time be considered expired on the conference report to accompany S. 1790 and that the Senate vote on the pending motion to waive the budget act, if applicable, prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### DEBBIE SMITH ACT OF 2019

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have long maintained that rape victims shouldn't have to wait years for justice, and that is why I supported the original version of the Debbie Smith Act when the Senate Judiciary Committee originated it more than 15 years ago. I am delighted that we last week reached a compromise enabling Congress to send another 5-year reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act to the President's desk this year.

Congress has generously funded the program authorized by this statute at roughly \$100 million annually since its inception. Unfortunately, however, we have seen repeated media reports that a backlog of untested sexual assault evidence persists in many States, and the Justice Department, which administers this formula grant program, has not done enough to tackle persistent issues with the program's implementation.

These reports concerned me, and at a 2016 meeting of the Judiciary Committee, I began voicing questions about whether rape victims were truly the top priority under our DNA Capacity and Backlog Enhancement Program. I also questioned whether additional oversight was needed. I insisted at this time that transparency requirements be added to the Justice for All Act reauthorization prior to its passage by the full Senate. These changes, which I later offered as a floor amendment and which the Senate accepted by voice vote in 2016, ensure that the Justice Department collects and reports more data about how Federal grant funds are being spent.

In 2017, I also called on a government watchdog agency to assess the progress we have made in reducing backlogs of untested DNA evidence in sexual assault kits since the enactment of the Debbie Smith Act grant program. Last year, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I also convened an oversight hearing to review Congress' billion-dollar investment in the DNA backlog program, which makes Federal resources available each year for crime laboratories across the country to analyze untested DNA evidence collected

from crime scenes and convicted offenders.

The Government Accountability Office, or GAO, testified at last year's congressional hearing that we still don't know with certainty that this program is working. GAO explained—and this year reconfirmed in the final report prepared by GAO at my request—that the Justice Department has yet to articulate measurable program-wide goals for the grant program authorized by the Debbie Smith Act, making it difficult to assess and verify State grantees' performance. GAO raised similar concerns in a 2013 report on this national program. GAO also suggested the need for the Justice Department to implement additional steps to prevent lobbying-related conflicts of interest.

This year, I developed additional proposed reforms in response to the issues that GAO and others raised. I want to thank Penny Nance of Concerned Women for America, who testified at my invitation at last year's Judiciary Committee hearing, for suggesting certain changes to ensure that the analysis of sexual assault evidence is accorded a higher priority by grantees. This statutory reform is essential, because most States impose a statutory deadline by which crimes of sexual violence must be prosecuted. Changes suggested by her organization, for which I have advocated since 2016, were incorporated into the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization bill by the Senate sponsor, Senator CORNYN, with my support. The House of Representatives also accepted these changes this year.

Additional reforms I proposed to the program this year, based on GAO's findings and suggestions, cleared the Judiciary Committee as an amendment to the Debbie Smith Act during our committee's consideration of the 2019 reauthorization. The full Senate later approved the reauthorization, including these reforms, by voice vote, but the House of Representatives declined to accept all of them. If enacted, the changes opposed by the House would require both that the Justice Department articulate measurable, program-wide goals and that the National Institute of Justice take additional steps to prevent lobbying-related conflicts of interest. They would not resolve every issue with the DNA backlog program, but I believe their enactment would substantially strengthen the program.

Because the House of Representatives dropped the GAO-backed reforms that the Senate approved by voice vote, I imposed a hold on the other Chamber's reauthorization measure this month. I then called on the Attorney General to implement my proposed reforms through administrative action. I thank the Attorney General for almost immediately agreeing to do so. Rather than indefinitely hold up the extension of the Debbie Smith Act, I lifted my hold on the bill last week, and I will continue to conduct oversight to ensure that these reforms are implemented as promised by the executive branch.

At this time, I want to thank Senator CORNYN for his efforts to advance the 2019 reauthorization, which I cosponsored, and for cosigning my December 2019 letter to the Attorney General.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter and Attorney General's response be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am hopeful that this bipartisan measure can be approved today by voice vote and sent to President Trump's desk this week for signature.

#### BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, today's 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge presents an opportunity to honor the heroism of the Allied forces who fought in this last major German offensive in Western Europe during World War II. More than 650,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, and other countries fought in this battle to defeat Nazi Germany. These soldiers bravely fought for 38 days from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, and their victory made possible the final defeat and surrender of Germany in May 1945.

More than 40 Senate colleagues joined in cosponsoring S. Con Res. 23, which my West Virginia colleague, Mr. MANCHIN, and I introduced and the Senate passed last week to remember the significance of this historic battle.

The Battle of the Bulge was an attempt by the Germans to split the Allied forces and pressure them to seek a negotiated peace. These troops, located in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, were greatly outnumbered by the German Army as they faced harsh weather conditions and treacherous and unknown terrain.

It is difficult to comprehend the massive losses incurred from this one battle—including 89,000 American casualties. Nineteen thousand American soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice, with another 47,500 wounded and more than 23,000 captured or missing in action. Other nations suffered great losses as well. Belgium lost more than 74,000 civilians, in addition to many more who suffered through other atrocities that come with war. They persevered through this dark time and rebuilt their lives the best way they could after the war ended.

In the decades since, the citizens of Belgium and Luxembourg have generously hosted thousands of U.S. veterans as they have kept the memory of the Battle of the Bulge alive through numerous memorials and museums. Among them has been one of North Dakota's most distinguished World War II veterans, Lynn Aas of Minot.

Mr. Aas enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1942 at the age of 21 and was called into service in March 1943. He was assigned to the 193rd Glider Regiment in the 17th Airborne Division. Arriving in England in August 1944, he

mastered glider-use techniques and was deployed in France on December 24. He first went to Camp Mourmelon, followed by Charleville-Mézières, where his division was attached to George Patton's U.S. Third Army. There, he was among those ordered to defend a 30-mile defensive position along the Meuse River whose mission was to prevent the German advance in the Belgian Ardennes area.

On January 5, 1945, Private First Class Aas crossed the Belgian border and settled in a wooded area near Bastogne. Combat ensued 2 days later as the Battle of the Bulge was raging. The fighting was so intense the area became forever known as Dead Man's Ridge. As he and his unit continued to advance toward Luxembourg, they pushed enemy lines back towards the Siegfried Line.

In February, after the battle had ended and after weeks of combat in exceptionally harsh conditions, he returned to France to Camp Châlons-sur-Marne. He was reassigned to the 194th Glider Infantry after his regiment disbanded because of heavy casualties. Private First Class Aas helped prepare for the airborne operation Varsity. On March 24, he left Coulommiers and landed in Germany near Wesel to help capture Rhine bridges and secure towns to protect Allied ground forces. The following day he was wounded by shrapnel and was hospitalized in Belgium and then Paris, where he spent several weeks recovering.

Private First Class Aas returned to North Dakota following the war, earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota, and served in the State legislature for four sessions. To this day, he remains a community leader in Minot. He is one of the best examples of the thousands of World War II veterans we proudly call "the greatest generation."

For his valorous conduct in action, Mr. Aas has received prestigious distinctions, including the Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious service in Belgium, as well as the Luxembourg Medal of Honor and the honorific diploma of Citizen of Utah Beach—Sainte-Marie-du-Mont / Citoyen d'Utah Beach—Sainte-Marie-du-Mont. It was my honor in October 2017 to join French Consul General Lacroix, who made a special trip to Minot to present France's highest military recognition, the Legion of Honor, to Mr. Aas, who was then 96 years old.

Mr. President, as we remember this 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, let us once again remember and honor the heroism and sacrifices of our American soldiers, who paved the way for victory in World War II and for our freedom today.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

• Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, 90 years ago, Inter-Island Airways launched the first scheduled commercial passenger air service in Hawaii. Now known as Hawaiian Airlines, it is our State's largest and longest serving airline. Its fleet of 67 aircrafts flies between our islands and connects Hawaii to the mainland and around the world.

As a State comprised of islands, safe, reliable air service is critical to the movement of people and goods. Whether it is transporting people and cargo for leisure, medical appointments, business, cultural and sports events or carrying fresh produce, equipment, or other supplies, Hawaiian has and will continue to be a major part of our highways in the sky.

From its modest beginnings—a \$3-per-person sightseeing tour on a five-passenger plane—Hawaiian transported 11.8 million passengers and 92,000 tons of cargo last year alone. Today, Hawaiian is one of the largest employers in the State, with more than 7,300 employees across its network, including some 6,600 who live in Hawaii.

Its impact is felt beyond jobs. Every year, Hawaiian and its employees partner with and help support hundreds of nonprofit organizations. As one example, Hawaiian leads a mentorship program that promotes aviation careers and provides students with hands-on learning about all aspects of the industry.

I am particularly proud of the steps Hawaiian has taken to adopt eco-friendlier practices throughout its operations to improve fuel efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and cut waste. In 2018, despite continuing to grow, Hawaiian lowered annual jet fuel burn by 7 million gallons and reduced annual carbon output by 86,300 metric tons. It is also contributing toward climate research by collecting air samples over the Pacific Ocean. The data is used as part of an international effort to measure climate change and air quality.

On behalf of the Hawaii congressional delegation, I wish to congratulate Hawaiian Airlines on its 90th anniversary and wish them continued success in serving the travel needs of our residents and introducing Hawaii to the world.●

### TRIBUTE TO WALTER GRAFF

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Walter Graff for his many years of dedicated service and forward-looking leadership at the Appalachian Mountain Club, AMC. Walter will soon retire from his role as senior vice president, the capstone to a career at AMC that began 45 years ago as a program manager in the mountains of northern New Hampshire. He leaves a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

The Appalachian Mountain Club is a nearly century-and-a-half old organization with a mission of connecting people to the outdoors. Its staff and many supporters not only encourage people to explore the natural world through activities like hiking, paddling, cycling, and skiing. They are also at the forefront of conservation efforts that seek to protect our forests, mountains, rivers, and trails for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

When Walter Graff was hired by the AMC in July of 1974, he spent his first months on the job screening environmental films for guests at what was then called Pinkham Notch Camp. The AMC was a much smaller organization back then with a few professional positions in New Hampshire and administrative services in Boston. But Walter had big dreams and an ambitious vision for the organization. He approached the Pinkham hutmaster at the end of the summer with the hope of developing a workshop program. He got signoff, as well as an excuse to venture outdoors. What began as a couple classes on topics like equipment maintenance and snowshoeing has since blossomed into one of the largest outdoor education programs in New England.

Walter has held many titles within AMC since that summer 45 years ago. His colleagues note that his leadership has touched every facet of AMC's mission. As director of education, he was influential in launching the group's renowned outdoor skills and leadership training program. As head of the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative, he was responsible for developing a program that promotes outdoor recreation, protects natural resources, encourages responsible forestry and deepens community partnerships. To date, the program is responsible for purchasing and permanently conserving 70,000 acres of forestland and creating over 120 miles of recreational trails.

As he nears his retirement, Walter is fond of looking to the past to see how much AMC has grown and how accessible our mountains, rivers, and lakes are to people across the region. He drives through the White Mountains and sees once-empty parking lots now full of people exploring the richness of the natural world. Yet Walter is also looking to the future as he approaches his final day as an AMC employee. He knows he will remain connected to the outdoors and will continue caring for the planet.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Walter Graff for his years of service and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.●

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

## LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DECEMBER 13, 2019—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to rebalance trade in North America and to modernize our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses by opening markets in Canada and Mexico and eliminating barriers to United States goods, services, and investment.

Approving this Agreement is in our national interest. I look forward to the Congress expeditiously approving the legislation.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 13, 2019.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3. An act to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that effective December 16, 2019, pursuant to section 2 of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1975), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, and upon recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Civil Rights for a term expiring December 15, 2025: Mr. Peter N. Kirsanow of Cleveland, Ohio.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2513. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-175).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

fairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 135. A bill to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-176).

## EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

\*J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol for the term of ten years.

\*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.

## 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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 3052. A bill to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3053. A bill to provide for the regulation, inspection, and labeling of food produced using animal cell culture technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3054. A bill to establish that a State-based education loan program is excluded from certain requirements relating to a preferred lender arrangement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 3055. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit a Federal student loan borrower to elect to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based repayment and repay such loan under any other repayment plan for which the borrower is otherwise eligible; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3056. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3057. A bill to modernize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3058. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3059. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 3060. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for commercial recreation concessions on certain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3061. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 340, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and for other purposes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent

Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2259

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2259, a bill to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to make improvements.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2282, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities to apply for, receive, and administer grants and subgrants under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

S. 2599

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2627

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with civil claim awards.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2652, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide that only citizens or nationals of the United States may operate trains within the United States that originate in Mexico.

S. 2726

At the request of Mr. KING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2726, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes.

S. 2733

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2733, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 2815

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2815, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

S. 2920

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

S. 2958

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2958, a bill to provide the Food and Drug Administration with authority to conduct microbial sampling on concentrated animal feeding operations as necessary to facilitate a foodborne illness outbreak investigation, determine the root cause of an outbreak of foodborne illness, or address other public health needs.

S. 3031

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3031, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to add

membership in a significant transnational criminal organization to the list of grounds of inadmissibility and to prohibit the provision of material support or resources to such organizations.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a carbon technologies program, and for other purposes.

S. 3049

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3049, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain amendments relating to reporting requirements with respect to clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, and for other purposes.

S. 3051

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3051, a bill to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 450

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 450, a resolution recognizing the 71st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of "Human Rights Day".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3056. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3056

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 101. Great Basin Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 102. Grand Staircase-Escalante Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 103. Moab-La Sal Canyons Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 104. Henry Mountains Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 105. Glen Canyon Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 106. San Juan-Anasazi Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 107. Canyonlands Basin Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 108. San Rafael Swell Wilderness Areas.

Sec. 109. Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin Wilderness Areas.

#### TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. General provisions.

Sec. 202. Administration.

Sec. 203. State school trust land within wilderness areas.

Sec. 204. Water.

Sec. 205. Roads.

Sec. 206. Livestock.

Sec. 207. Fish and wildlife.

Sec. 208. Management of newly acquired land.

Sec. 209. Withdrawal.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Utah.

#### TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

##### SEC. 101. GREAT BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Basin region of western Utah is comprised of starkly beautiful mountain ranges that rise as islands from the desert floor;

(2) the Wah Wah Mountains in the Great Basin region are arid and austere, with massive cliff faces and leathery slopes speckled with piñon and juniper;

(3) the Pilot Range and Stansbury Mountains in the Great Basin region are high enough to draw moisture from passing clouds and support ecosystems found nowhere else on earth;

(4) from bristlecone pine, the world's oldest living organism, to newly flowered mountain meadows, mountains of the Great Basin region are islands of nature that—

(A) support remarkable biological diversity; and

(B) provide opportunities to experience the colossal silence of the Great Basin; and

(5) the Great Basin region of western Utah should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the natural conditions of the region.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Antelope Range (approximately 17,000 acres).

(2) Barn Hills (approximately 21,000 acres).

(3) Black Hills (approximately 8,700 acres).

(4) Bullgrass Knoll (approximately 16,000 acres).

(5) Burbank Hills/Tunnel Spring (approximately 94,000 acres).

(6) Conger Mountain (approximately 31,000 acres).

(7) Crater and Silver Island Mountains (approximately 121,000 acres).

(8) Crater Bench (approximately 35,000 acres).

(9) Cricket Mountains (approximately 56,000 acres).

(10) Deep Creek Mountains (approximately 128,000 acres).

(11) Drum Mountains (approximately 40,500 acres).

(12) Dugway Mountains (approximately 24,500 acres).

(13) Fish Springs Range (approximately 64,500 acres).

(14) Granite Peak (approximately 19,500 acres).

(15) Grassy Mountains (approximately 24,000 acres).

(16) Grouse Creek Mountains (approximately 15,000 acres).

(17) House Range (approximately 202,000 acres).

(18) Keg Mountain (approximately 38,500 acres).

(19) Kern Mountains (approximately 15,000 acres).

(20) King Top (approximately 111,000 acres).

(21) Little Goose Creek (approximately 1,300 acres).

(22) Middle/Granite Mountain (approximately 81,000 acres).

(23) Mount Escalante (approximately 17,500 acres).

(24) Mountain Home Range (approximately 90,000 acres).

(25) Newfoundland Mountains (approximately 23,000 acres).

(26) Ochre Mountain (approximately 13,500 acres).

(27) Oquirrh Mountains (approximately 8,900 acres).

(28) Painted Rock (approximately 26,500 acres).

(29) Paradise/Steamboat Mountains (approximately 136,000 acres).

(30) Pilot Range (approximately 44,000 acres).

(31) Red Tops (approximately 28,000 acres).

(32) Rockwell-Little Sahara (approximately 19,000 acres).

(33) San Francisco Mountains (approximately 40,000 acres).

(34) Sand Ridge (approximately 73,000 acres).

(35) Sevier Plateau (approximately 30,000 acres).

(36) Simpson Mountains (approximately 43,000 acres).

(37) Snake Valley (approximately 103,000 acres).

(38) Spring Creek Canyon (approximately 5,200 acres).

(39) Stansbury Island (approximately 9,900 acres).

(40) Stansbury Mountains (approximately 25,000 acres).

(41) Thomas Range (approximately 41,000 acres).

(42) Tule Valley (approximately 159,000 acres).

(43) Wah Wah Mountains (approximately 177,000 acres).

(44) White Rock Range (approximately 5,500 acres).

##### SEC. 102. GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) GRAND STAIRCASE AREA.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the area known as the Grand Staircase rises more than 6,000 feet in a series of great cliffs and plateaus from the depths of the Grand Canyon to the forested rim of Bryce Canyon;

(B) the Grand Staircase—

(i) spans 6 major life zones, from the lower Sonoran Desert to the alpine forest; and

(ii) encompasses geologic formations that display 3,000,000,000 years of Earth's history;

(C) land managed by the Secretary lines the intricate canyon system of the Paria



River and forms a vital natural corridor connection to the deserts and forests of those national parks;

(D) land described in paragraph (2) (other than East of Bryce, the majority of Upper Kanab Creek, Moquith Mountain, Bunting Point, Canaan Mountain, Orderville Canyon, Parunuweap Canyon, and Vermillion Cliffs) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Grand Staircase in Utah should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Bryce Boot (approximately 2,800 acres).

(B) Bryce View (approximately 850 acres).

(C) Bunting Point (approximately 11,000 acres).

(D) Canaan Mountain (approximately 15,000 acres).

(E) East of Bryce (approximately 850 acres).

(F) Glass Eye Canyon (approximately 25,000 acres).

(G) Ladder Canyon (approximately 14,000 acres).

(H) Moquith Mountain (approximately 15,500 acres).

(I) Nephi Point (approximately 15,000 acres).

(J) Orderville Canyon (approximately 8,100 acres).

(K) Paria-Hackberry (approximately 196,000 acres).

(L) Paria Wilderness Expansion (approximately 4,000 acres).

(M) Parunuweap Canyon (approximately 44,500 acres).

(N) Pine Hollow (approximately 11,000 acres).

(O) Slopes of Bryce (approximately 3,700 acres).

(P) Timber Mountain (approximately 52,500 acres).

(Q) Upper Kanab Creek (approximately 51,000 acres).

(R) Vermillion Cliffs (approximately 26,000 acres).

(S) Willis Creek (approximately 21,000 acres).

(b) KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the Kaiparowits Plateau east of the Paria River is one of the most rugged and isolated wilderness regions in the United States;

(B) the Kaiparowits Plateau, a windswept land of harsh beauty, contains distant vistas and a remarkable variety of plant and animal species;

(C) ancient forests, an abundance of big game animals, and 22 species of raptors thrive undisturbed on the grassland mesa tops of the Kaiparowits Plateau;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) (other than Heaps Canyon, Little Valley, and Wide Hollow) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Kaiparowits Plateau should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Andalex Not (approximately 18,000 acres).

(B) Box Canyon (approximately 3,000 acres).

(C) Burning Hills (approximately 81,000 acres).

(D) Canaan Peak Slopes (approximately 2,500 acres).

(E) Carcass Canyon (approximately 85,000 acres).

(F) Fifty-mile Bench (approximately 13,000 acres).

(G) Fifty-mile Mountain (approximately 207,000 acres).

(H) Heaps Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(I) Horse Spring Canyon (approximately 32,000 acres).

(J) Kodachrome Headlands (approximately 8,500 acres).

(K) Little Valley Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(L) Mud Spring Canyon (approximately 66,000 acres).

(M) Nipple Bench (approximately 32,000 acres).

(N) Paradise Canyon-Wahweap (approximately 266,000 acres).

(O) Rock Cove (approximately 17,000 acres).

(P) The Blues (approximately 22,000 acres).

(Q) The Cockscomb (approximately 12,000 acres).

(R) Warm Creek (approximately 24,000 acres).

(S) Wide Hollow (approximately 7,700 acres).

(c) ESCALANTE CANYONS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) glens and coves carved in massive sandstone cliffs, spring-watered hanging gardens, and the silence of ancient Anasazi ruins are examples of the unique features that entice hikers, campers, and sightseers from around the world to Escalante Canyon;

(B) Escalante Canyon links the spruce fir forests of the 11,000-foot Aquarius Plateau with winding slickrock canyons that flow into Glen Canyon;

(C) Escalante Canyon, one of Utah's most popular natural areas, contains critical habitat for deer, elk, and wild bighorn sheep that also enhances the scenic integrity of the area;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) Escalante Canyon should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Colt Mesa (approximately 28,000 acres).

(B) Death Hollow (approximately 50,000 acres).

(C) Forty Mile Gulch (approximately 7,600 acres).

(D) Lampstand (approximately 11,500 acres).

(E) Muley Twist Flank (approximately 3,700 acres).

(F) North Escalante Canyons (approximately 182,000 acres).

(G) Pioneer Mesa (approximately 11,000 acres).

(H) Scorpion (approximately 61,000 acres).

(I) Sooner Bench (approximately 500 acres).

(J) Steep Creek (approximately 36,000 acres).

(K) Studhorse Peaks (approximately 24,000 acres).

SEC. 103. MOAB-LA SAL CANYONS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the canyons surrounding the La Sal Mountains and the town of Moab offer a variety of extraordinary landscapes;

(2) outstanding examples of natural formations and landscapes in the Moab-La Sal area include the huge sandstone fins of Behind the Rocks, the mysterious Fisher Towers, and the whitewater rapids of Westwater Canyon; and

(3) the Moab-La Sal area should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Arches Adjacent (approximately 4,100 acres).

(2) Beaver Creek (approximately 45,000 acres).

(3) Behind the Rocks (approximately 19,500 acres).

(4) Big Triangle (approximately 21,500 acres).

(5) Coyote Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).

(6) Dome Plateau (approximately 36,500 acres).

(7) Fisher Towers (approximately 18,000 acres).

(8) Goldbar Canyon (approximately 9,500 acres).

(9) Granite Creek (approximately 5,000 acres).

(10) Hunter Canyon (approximately 5,500 acres).

(11) Mary Jane Canyon (approximately 27,500 acres).

(12) Mill Creek (approximately 17,000 acres).

(13) Morning Glory (approximately 11,000 acres).

(14) Porcupine Rim (approximately 10,000 acres).

(15) Renegade Point (approximately 6,200 acres).

(16) Westwater Canyon (approximately 39,000 acres).

(17) Yellow Bird (approximately 4,600 acres).

SEC. 104. HENRY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Henry Mountain Range, the last mountain range to be discovered and named by early explorers in the contiguous United States, still retains a wild and undiscovered quality;

(2) fluted badlands that surround the flanks of 11,000-foot Mounts Ellen and Pennell contain areas of critical habitat for mule deer and for the largest herd of free-roaming buffalo in the United States;

(3) despite their relative accessibility, the Henry Mountain Range remains one of the wildest, least-known ranges in the United States; and

(4) the Henry Mountain range should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the range as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bull Mountain (approximately 16,000 acres).

(2) Bullfrog Creek (approximately 42,000 acres).

(3) Dogwater Creek (approximately 3,400 acres).

(4) Fremont Gorge (approximately 22,000 acres).

(5) Long Canyon (approximately 16,500 acres).

(6) Mount Ellen-Blue Hills (approximately 145,000 acres).

(7) Mount Hillers (approximately 20,000 acres).

(8) Mount Pennell (approximately 155,000 acres).

(9) Notom Bench (approximately 7,300 acres).

(10) Oak Creek (approximately 1,500 acres).

(11) Ragged Mountain (approximately 29,000 acres).



**SEC. 105. GLEN CANYON WILDERNESS AREAS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the side canyons of Glen Canyon, including the Dirty Devil River and the Red, White and Blue Canyons, contain some of the most remote and outstanding landscapes in southern Utah;

(2) the Dirty Devil River, once the fortress hideout of outlaw Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, has sculpted a maze of slickrock canyons through an imposing landscape of monoliths and inaccessible mesas;

(3) the Red and Blue Canyons contain colorful Chinle/Moenkopi badlands found nowhere else in the region; and

(4) the canyons of Glen Canyon in the State should be protected and managed as wilderness areas.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Cane Spring Desert (approximately 18,000 acres).

(2) Dark Canyon (approximately 138,000 acres).

(3) Dirty Devil (approximately 245,000 acres).

(4) Fiddler Butte (approximately 93,000 acres).

(5) Flat Tops (approximately 30,000 acres).

(6) Little Rockies (approximately 64,000 acres).

(7) Red Rock Plateau (approximately 210,000 acres).

(8) The Needle (approximately 11,000 acres).

(9) White Canyon (approximately 115,500 acres).

**SEC. 106. SAN JUAN-ANASAZI WILDERNESS AREAS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) more than 1,000 years ago, the Anasazi Indian culture flourished in the slickrock canyons and on the piñon-covered mesas of southeastern Utah;

(2) evidence of the ancient presence of the Anasazi pervades the Cedar Mesa area of the San Juan-Anasazi area where cliff dwellings, rock art, and ceremonial kivas embellish sandstone overhangs and isolated benchlands;

(3) the Cedar Mesa area is in need of protection from the vandalism and theft of its unique cultural resources;

(4) the Cedar Mesa wilderness areas should be created to protect both the archaeological heritage and the extraordinary wilderness, scenic, and ecological values of the United States; and

(5) the San Juan-Anasazi area should be protected and managed as a wilderness area to ensure the preservation of the unique and valuable resources of that area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Allen Canyon (approximately 6,400 acres).

(2) Arch Canyon (approximately 30,500 acres).

(3) Comb Ridge (approximately 16,000 acres).

(4) Cross Canyon (approximately 2,400 acres).

(5) East Montezuma (approximately 46,500 acres).

(6) Fish and Owl Creek Canyon (approximately 74,000 acres).

(7) Grand Gulch (approximately 161,000 acres).

(8) Hammond Canyon (approximately 4,700 acres).

(9) Monument Canyon (approximately 18,000 acres).

(10) Nokai Dome (approximately 94,000 acres).

(11) Road Canyon (approximately 64,000 acres).

(12) San Juan River (approximately 15,000 acres).

(13) The Tabernacle (approximately 7,400 acres).

(14) Tin Cup Mesa (approximately 26,000 acres).

(15) Valley of the Gods (approximately 20,000 acres).

**SEC. 107. CANYONLANDS BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Canyonlands National Park safeguards only a small portion of the extraordinary red-hued, cliff-walled canyonland region of the Colorado Plateau;

(2) areas near Canyonlands National Park contain canyons with rushing perennial streams, natural arches, bridges, and towers;

(3) the gorges of the Green and Colorado Rivers lie on adjacent land managed by the Secretary;

(4) popular overlooks in Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park have views directly into adjacent areas, including Lockhart Basin and Indian Creek; and

(5) designation of those areas as wilderness would ensure the protection of this erosional masterpiece of nature and of the rich pockets of wildlife found within its expanded boundaries.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bridger Jack Mesa (approximately 33,500 acres).

(2) Butler Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).

(3) Dead Horse Cliffs (approximately 5,300 acres).

(4) Demon's Playground (approximately 3,600 acres).

(5) Duma Point (approximately 14,500 acres).

(6) Gooseneck (approximately 9,400 acres).

(7) Hatch Point Canyons/Lockhart Basin (approximately 150,500 acres).

(8) Horseshoe Canyon (approximately 83,500 acres).

(9) Horsethief Point (approximately 15,500 acres).

(10) Indian Creek (approximately 28,500 acres).

(11) Labyrinth Canyon (approximately 83,000 acres).

(12) San Rafael River (approximately 117,000 acres).

(13) Shay Mountain (approximately 15,500 acres).

(14) Sweetwater Reef (approximately 69,500 acres).

**SEC. 108. SAN RAFAEL SWELL WILDERNESS AREAS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the San Rafael Swell towers above the desert like a castle, ringed by 1,000-foot ramparts of Navajo Sandstone;

(2) the highlands of the San Rafael Swell have been fractured by uplift and rendered hollow by erosion over countless millennia, leaving a tremendous basin punctuated by mesas, buttes, and canyons and traversed by sediment-laden desert streams;

(3) among other places, the San Rafael wilderness offers exceptional back country opportunities in the colorful Wild Horse Badlands, the monoliths of North Caineville Mesa, the rock towers of Cliff Wash, and colorful cliffs of Humbug Canyon;

(4) the mountains within these areas are among Utah's most valuable habitat for desert bighorn sheep; and

(5) the San Rafael Swell area should be protected and managed to ensure its preservation as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Cedar Mountain (approximately 15,000 acres).

(2) Devils Canyon (approximately 14,000 acres).

(3) Eagle Canyon (approximately 38,500 acres).

(4) Factory Butte (approximately 22,000 acres).

(5) Hondu Country (approximately 2,600 acres).

(6) Jones Bench (approximately 3,400 acres).

(7) Limestone Cliffs (approximately 25,500 acres).

(8) Lost Spring Wash (approximately 36,500 acres).

(9) Mexican Mountain (approximately 25,000 acres).

(10) Molen Reef (approximately 32,500 acres).

(11) Muddy Creek (approximately 92,000 acres).

(12) Mussentuchit Badlands (approximately 24,500 acres).

(13) Price River-Humbug (approximately 122,000 acres).

(14) Red Desert (approximately 36,500 acres).

(15) Rock Canyon (approximately 17,500 acres).

(16) San Rafael Knob (approximately 15,000 acres).

(17) San Rafael Reef (approximately 53,000 acres).

(18) Sids Mountain (approximately 36,500 acres).

(19) Upper Muddy Creek (approximately 18,500 acres).

(20) Wild Horse Mesa (approximately 63,000 acres).

**SEC. 109. BOOK CLIFFS AND UTAH BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin wilderness areas offer—

(A) unique big game hunting opportunities in verdant high-plateau forests;

(B) the opportunity for float trips of several days duration down the Green River in Desolation Canyon; and

(C) the opportunity for calm water canoe weekends on the White River;

(2) the long rampart of the Book Cliffs bounds the area on the south, while seldom-visited uplands, dissected by the rivers and streams, slope away to the north into the Uinta Basin;

(3) bears, bighorn sheep, cougars, elk, and mule deer flourish in the back country of the Book Cliffs; and

(4) the Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin areas should be protected and managed to ensure the protection of the areas as wilderness.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bad Land Cliffs (approximately 13,000 acres).

(2) Bourdette Draw (approximately 15,500 acres).

(3) Bull Canyon (approximately 3,100 acres).

(4) Dead Horse Pass (approximately 8,400 acres).

(5) Desbrough Canyon (approximately 14,000 acres).

(6) Desolation Canyon (approximately 32,000 acres).

- (7) Diamond Breaks (approximately 8,600 acres).
- (8) Diamond Canyon (approximately 168,000 acres).
- (9) Diamond Mountain (approximately 31,000 acres).
- (10) Dinosaur Adjacent (approximately 7,900 acres).
- (11) Goslin Mountain (approximately 3,800 acres).
- (12) Hideout Canyon (approximately 12,500 acres).
- (13) Lower Flaming Gorge (approximately 21,000 acres).
- (14) Mexico Point (approximately 1,500 acres).
- (15) Moonshine Draw (approximately 10,500 acres).
- (16) Mountain Home (approximately 7,800 acres).
- (17) O-Wi-Yu-Kuts (approximately 14,000 acres).
- (18) Red Creek Badlands (approximately 4,600 acres).
- (19) Survey Point (approximately 8,600 acres).
- (20) Turtle Canyon (approximately 9,700 acres).

## TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

### SEC. 201. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) NAMES OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Each wilderness area named in title I shall—

- (1) consist of the quantity of land referenced with respect to that named area, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Utah BLM Wilderness Proposed by H.R. 1630, 113th Congress”; and
- (2) be known by the name given to it in title I.

#### (b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—A map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

### SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.

Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, each wilderness area designated under this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

- (1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and
- (2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

### SEC. 203. STATE SCHOOL TRUST LAND WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), if State-owned land is included in an area designated by this Act as a wilderness area, the Secretary shall offer to exchange land owned by the United States in the State of approximately equal value in accordance with section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)) and section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)).

(b) MINERAL INTERESTS.—The Secretary shall not transfer any mineral interests under subsection (a) unless the State transfers to the Secretary any mineral interests in land designated by this Act as a wilderness area.

### SEC. 204. WATER.

#### (a) RESERVATION.—

##### (1) WATER FOR WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each wilderness area designated by this Act, Congress reserves a quantity of water determined by the Secretary to be sufficient for the wilderness area.

(B) PRIORITY DATE.—The priority date of a right reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary and other officers and employees of the United States shall take any steps necessary to protect the rights reserved by paragraph (1)(A), including the filing of a claim for the quantification of the rights in any present or future appropriate stream adjudication in the courts of the State—

(A) in which the United States is or may be joined; and

(B) that is conducted in accordance with section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (66 Stat. 560, chapter 651).

(b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act relinquishes or reduces any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

#### (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) SPECIFICATION OF RIGHTS.—The Federal water rights reserved by this Act are specific to the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(2) NO PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED.—Nothing in this Act related to reserved Federal water rights—

(A) shall establish a precedent with regard to any future designation of water rights; or

(B) shall affect the interpretation of any other Act or any designation made under any other Act.

### SEC. 205. ROADS.

#### (a) SETBACKS.—

(1) MEASUREMENT IN GENERAL.—A setback under this section shall be measured from the center line of the road.

(2) WILDERNESS ON 1 SIDE OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on only 1 side shall be set at—

(A) 300 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 100 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 30 feet from any other road.

(3) WILDERNESS ON BOTH SIDES OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on both sides (including cherry-stems or roads separating 2 wilderness units) shall be set at—

(A) 200 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 40 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 10 feet from any other roads.

#### (b) SETBACK EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) WELL-DEFINED TOPOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a well-defined cliff edge, stream bank, or other topographical barrier, the Secretary shall use the barrier as the wilderness boundary.

(2) FENCES.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a fence running parallel to a road, the Secretary shall use the fence as the wilderness boundary if, in the opinion of the Secretary, doing so would result in a more manageable boundary.

#### (3) DEVIATIONS FROM SETBACK AREAS.—

(A) EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES FROM WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.—In cases where there is an existing livestock development, dis-

persed camping area, borrow pit, or similar disturbance within 100 feet of a road that forms part of a wilderness boundary, the Secretary may delineate the boundary so as to exclude the disturbance from the wilderness area.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES.—The Secretary shall make a boundary adjustment under subparagraph (A) only if the Secretary determines that doing so is consistent with wilderness management goals.

(C) DEVIATIONS RESTRICTED TO MINIMUM NECESSARY.—Any deviation under this paragraph from the setbacks required under in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) shall be the minimum necessary to exclude the disturbance.

(c) DELINEATION WITHIN SETBACK AREA.—The Secretary may delineate a wilderness boundary at a location within a setback under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) if, as determined by the Secretary, the delineation would enhance wilderness management goals.

### SEC. 206. LIVESTOCK.

Within the wilderness areas designated under title I, the grazing of livestock authorized on the date of enactment of this Act shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary, as long as the regulations and procedures are consistent with—

(1) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) section 101(f) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-628; 104 Stat. 4469).

### SEC. 207. FISH AND WILDLIFE.

Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State.

### SEC. 208. MANAGEMENT OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.

Any land within the boundaries of a wilderness area designated under this Act that is acquired by the Federal Government shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and

(2) be managed in accordance with this Act and other laws applicable to wilderness areas.

### SEC. 209. WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land referred to in title I is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under public law;

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3057. A bill to modernize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there is a great deal of activity going on as we seek to conclude the negotiations on so many important issues. However, I don't want us to lose sight of the expiration of the authorization of the Older Americans Act—a very important law that makes a big difference for many of our seniors all across our country—so I rise today to introduce a reauthorization of that important law called the Modernization of the Older Americans

Act. I am pleased to sponsor this reauthorization with Senator BOB CASEY, who serves as the ranking member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, of which I am the chair.

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act has ensured that seniors receive the support they need to grow older independently and with dignity. The OAA programs provide nutritious food, transportation, assistance to caregivers, and in-home services for older adults. Our investments foster a sense of community for older adults and save taxpayers money by reducing hospitalizations and the need for long-term residential care.

I know the Presiding Officer would agree that most seniors would prefer to remain in the comfort, security, and privacy of their own homes if they possibly can. It is the programs of the Older Americans Act that help to make that possible.

As our population grows older, the demand for Older American Act services has grown as well. For example, Meals on Wheels—perhaps the best known of all the OAA programs—provided seniors with 358 million meals last year. In many States, the need is soaring. In Maine, which is the oldest State by median age in the country, there is a waiting list of 400 to 1,500 seniors, depending on the time of the year and the location within our State.

This reauthorization helps to ensure that more seniors in need of nutritious food can be served. At \$11 a day, a meal is far cheaper than a \$2,400 average cost of a daily hospital stay. Let me give an example of what I mean by that. Using Older Americans Act dollars, the Southern Maine Agency on Aging conducted a pilot study that provided seniors discharged from hospitals with 4 weeks' worth of prepared meals. The results were astounding. Hospital readmissions were reduced by 38 percent—a 387-percent return on investment. If you scaled that nationwide, the savings would be an astronomical \$51 billion annually—just ensuring that a senior who is discharged from the hospital has 4 weeks' worth of prepared meals available to him or her.

We have also included several provisions in the reauthorization to combat social isolation, which can have devastating health effects. In fact, estimates are that prolonged isolation and loneliness have an impact on health that is comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Just think of that.

My State is already on the forefront of combating this epidemic of isolation. Using Older Americans Act funding, the Maine Eastern Area Agency on Aging has partnered with the University of Maine to implement Project Generations, which brings student volunteers into the homes of local seniors for visits. Our reauthorization includes an increased focus on the detrimental effects of social isolation and would provide States with more resources to develop programs like Project Generations. What a wonderful program this

is. It not only gives some company that an older American might not have, but also it is great for those students to have the interaction with our seniors. It truly is a win-win program.

Flexibility and innovation have always been at the heart of the Older Americans Act. What may be needed in the Presiding Officer's home State may be different from what is needed in the State of Maine. Our reauthorization would help communities continue to find creative solutions to meet the needs of our seniors. For example, the Southern Maine Agency on Aging restructured its congregate meals program by hosting meals in multigenerational settings, such as hospital and college cafeterias and small local restaurants. Since then, the program has grown by 55 percent and boosted the local economy by increasing the number of diners from rural areas by 61 percent in the first 5 years.

It is much more interesting for our seniors to go out to a local restaurant for a congregate meal than in some cases going to a senior center. It may be more interesting for them to go to a college cafeteria and have that interaction with younger people. Whatever works, that is the answer. In some areas, it may work to do a college or hospital cafeteria; in another, it is a senior center; and in still others, it may be the local diner that is providing the meal.

The core of the Older Americans Act is protecting the most vulnerable of our older Americans. One critical program is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. This provides advocacy for residents in long-term care facilities, assisting with discharge and also protecting their rights.

There was a disturbing story in one of the weekend newspapers in Maine about a nursing home that was not living up to the quality standards that we need, and that is where the ombudsman program can be absolutely critical because a lot of times, the relatives of residents are very cautious about complaining. They are fearful that their loved one may have nowhere else to go. So the ombudsman program is an important quality control program.

At an Aging Committee hearing this May, the executive director of Maine's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Brenda Gallant, shared the story of a 94-year-old woman whom she was able to help transition from a nursing home back to her own home after recovering from a fractured hip. Brenda connected the woman with the resources and the technologies to make the transition a smooth one and to help her live successfully back in her own home, just where she wanted to be.

The Older Americans Act is a shining example of a Federal policy that works. Every dollar invested into the Older Americans Act generates \$3 by helping seniors stay at home through highly effective and lower cost community-based services.

I thank the dozens of stakeholders we have worked with over the past several

months. We have gotten lots of input in preparing this reauthorization, including from the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, AARP, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Advancing States, the National Alliance for Caregiving, Meals on Wheels America, and the Alzheimer's Association.

I ask unanimous consent to print these many letters of support in the RECORD.

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

AARP,  
December 16, 2019.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
Chair, Special Committee on Aging,  
U.S. Senate.

Hon. BOB CASEY,  
Ranking Member, Special Committee on Aging,  
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS AND CASEY: On behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, AARP is pleased to support the Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments, legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). We appreciate your leadership and the bipartisan work of Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray in developing this legislation, and encourage prompt reauthorization of OAA.

The Older Americans Act has a powerful legacy. Since 1965 it has provided older Americans with the support they need to live at home with independence and dignity. In 2017 alone, OAA programs provided services for over 11 million older adults. Those services include home care, congregate and home-delivered meals, case management, family caregiver support, transportation, adult day care, legal services, elder abuse prevention, and job training and employment opportunities for low-income older adults. OAA programs serve the needs of older Americans while deferring or eliminating the need for costly institutionalization.

The Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments builds on this legacy. The legislation further strengthens the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) by helping to make sure that more caregivers can get their needs assessed when they turn to the program for support, extends the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, and increases funding levels to support the needs of the growing older population. This legislation, which will promote greater responsiveness to the needs of older Americans and their caregivers, comes at a critical time. From 2019 to 2030 we expect to see the 80+ population grow by 54 percent. This age group is among the most likely to need help living independently in their homes and communities.

Again, thank you for your bipartisan leadership in advancing this important legislation. We urge prompt reauthorization so that our loved ones can continue to turn to these services for their health and economic security as they age. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

MEGAN O'REILLY,  
Vice President, Federal Health & Family  
Government Affairs.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAREGIVING,

November 15, 2019.

Re Senator Collins "Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments" bill in the 116th Congress.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
Chairman,  
Special Committee on Aging.

On behalf of the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), we are happy to support Senator Collins "Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments" bill. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the reauthorization process for the Older Americans Act. This law is one of the most under-recognized supports for family caregivers of adults, and your leadership in the goal to strengthen families and the dignity and independence of aging adults is critical to the communities we serve.

We were excited to have the opportunity to come and meet with your staff and to explore ways that family caregiving could be supported with this reauthorization. Your leadership and commitment to families is evident in the latest draft of the bill and we appreciate the opportunity to provide our input, as follows:

1. NAC recommended that the bill increase the authorized funding level for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III) from the current appropriated level of \$181.2 million to \$360 million. We recognize that OAA funding has not kept pace with inflation and the growing demands placed on families as the population ages. We remain hopeful that you will be able to support our request.

2. NAC recommended that the bill direct the Assistant Secretary (in Title II) to award a grant to or enter into a cooperative agreement with a public or private nonprofit entity to establish and operate a National Resource Center on Family Caregiving. Although the draft bill does not specifically direct the creation of the Resource Center, Section 215 of the Modernization of the Older Americans Act includes language pertaining to "(i) Activities of National Significance, which offers a potential for the creation of a Resource Center. We suggest the following modification to strengthen that section:

(i) *Activities of National Significance.*—*The Assistant Secretary [may] shall award funds authorized under this section to one or more public or private nonprofit entities with appropriate caregiving expertise for conducting activities of national significance that—*

(1) *include, with respect to such programs, program evaluation, training, technical assistance, materials, dissemination, and research; and*

(2) *promote quality and continuous improvement in the support provided to family caregivers and older relative caregivers through programs carried out under this section and section 631.*

3. We recommended extending the RAISE Family Caregivers Act of 2017, and we appreciate the current draft bill which would extend the act for five years.

4. Section 215 of the current draft bill about the National Family Caregiver Support Program addresses our recommendation to increase the use of standardized family caregiver assessment tools. The inclusion of a clear definition for caregiver assessment, identifying and disseminating best practices, and calling for a report on the status of caregiver assessment are excellent proposals to successfully expand assessment tools and access to services for family caregivers.

5. NAC's fifth recommendation was to direct the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to implement recommendation 1-g from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and

Medicine's "Families Caring for and Aging America" report: "Launch a multi-agency research program sufficiently robust to evaluate caregiver interventions in real-world health care and community settings, across diverse conditions and populations, and with respect to a broad array of outcomes." Noting that this is not in the current draft, we would offer our expertise and be happy to participate in further conversation about how such a research program might be created.

Again, thank you and we look forward to a successful reauthorization this year.

Kind regards,

C. GRACE WHITING, J.D.,  
President, CEO.

MICHAEL R. WITKE,  
B.S.W., M.P.A.,  
Senior Director, Public  
Policy and Advocacy.

WEST HEALTH INSTITUTE,  
December 2, 2019.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of the Gary and Mary West Health Institute (WHI), I am writing to thank you and your staff for your tireless efforts to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). Originally enacted in 1965, the OAA supports a range of vital home- and community-based programs, such as Meals on Wheels and other nutritional support; in-home, transportation and legal services; and elder abuse prevention and caregiver support. Protecting seniors' access to these services is critical in light of the growing population of U.S. seniors, which is projected to reach 56 million in 2020 and more than 73 million by 2030. We urge your colleagues to support reauthorization of this critical legislation before the end of the year.

Based in San Diego, WHI is an applied medical research organization and part of nonprofit and nonpartisan West Health, which also includes the Gary and Mary West Foundation and the Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center. Our organizations work together toward a shared mission dedicated to lowering the cost of healthcare to enable seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence.

One of West Health's flagship programs is the Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center in downtown San Diego. At the Senior Wellness Center, which is operated by the nonprofit Serving Seniors, low-income seniors receive coordinated care and social support services—all under one roof. Since it opened in 2010, the Center has served over 1.7 million nutritious meals and has provided more than 10,000 seniors with services they need from the Center's 30 collaborative partners, including the Gary and Mary West Senior Dental Center—a separate, onsite nonprofit dental clinic providing affordable oral care to low-income seniors.

In recent years, West Health has focused on shining a light on one of the greatest threats to successful aging: senior malnutrition. Malnutrition disproportionately affects seniors. One out of two seniors are at risk, and disease-associated malnutrition in seniors is estimated to cost \$51.3 billion annually. With our nation's rapidly growing senior population, the impact of malnutrition will be even greater if action is not taken now. Thank you for adding malnutrition to routine health screenings in your draft legislation as well as H.R. 4334.

We fully appreciate the value of OAA funded programs in enriching seniors' lives and

urge Congress to reauthorize the OAA this year at the highest possible authorization levels. On behalf of the seniors we serve, thank you for your advocacy and leadership.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY LYFORD,  
President and Chief Executive Officer.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NUTRITION AND AGING SERVICES PROGRAMS,

Washington, DC, November 16, 2019.

NANASP OLDER AMERICANS ACT DRAFT BILL  
COMMENTS

To the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Majority:

Thank you for providing an opportunity to share comments on the draft bill you released for the 2019 Older Americans Act reauthorization.

NANASP is pleased that Sen. Collins' Older Americans Act proposal includes:

Increased authorizations for funding levels. The bill includes continued increases over the next seven federal fiscal years (FY) for Older Americans Act programs, including an increase of over \$473 million total for Older Americans Act nutrition programs by FY 2026—increases that are sorely needed for programs that are stretched thin by growing demand.

An increased focus on malnutrition. The bill includes new provisions for malnutrition screening and adds reduction of malnutrition to the purposes of the nutrition program. Since more than one in two older adults is at risk for malnutrition, which increases their risk of disease and death, it is vital to detect this condition early.

Simpler transfer authority between congregate and home-delivered meals programs. The bill includes language instructing states to ensure that the transfer process for nutrition programs is simplified and clarified, maximizing efficiency and minimizing paperwork and confusion.

Creation of a nutrition program impact study. This study would assess how to measure and evaluate the discrepancy between available nutrition services and the demand for such services, which would ultimately lead to data to strengthen the case for much-needed future funding increases for nutrition programs.

Inclusion of culturally considerate and medically tailored meals in nutrition programs' offerings to the maximum extent practicable. As the older population becomes more diverse, it is important to take newly diverse preferences into consideration when providing meals. Medically tailored meals have also been shown to reduce disease burden in older adults and are important to consider offering as well.

An increased focus on social isolation. Through the first-time inclusion of social isolation screening, further coordination of services to address this issue, and creation of an advisory council on social isolation, Older Americans Act programs and services can even more effectively address the needs of socially isolated older adults.

Strengthened family caregiver provisions. Caregivers, including older relative caregivers, need support, and this bill would increase the use of caregiver assessments to analyze their needs as well as allow individual states to determine spending needs for older relative caregivers.

If you have any questions, please contact NANASP's Policy and Advocacy Director Meredith Whitmire.

BOB BLANCATO,  
Executive Director.  
MEREDITH WHITMIRE,  
Policy and Advocacy  
Director.

ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT MOVEMENT,  
November 15, 2019.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Special Committee on  
Aging.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS: On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their caregivers. In addition, thank you for working in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this important program, including the hearing held by the Senate Special Committee on Aging. We are proud to support this draft of the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization and are pleased to highlight several provisions that are critical to persons living with dementia, families, and their caregivers.

We strongly support the inclusion in the draft of language codifying existing authority to provide services to individuals living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease under the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. We are very appreciative for the inclusion of these key elements of the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act (S. 901/H.R. 1903).

There are approximately 5.8 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. The vast majority of those individuals are over the age of 65, however, approximately 200,000 Americans are under the age of 65 living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. Individuals living with younger-onset face unique challenges when it comes to family, work, and finances. They may be parenting young children at home, or still be working as the primary income provider for their families. Due to their young age, they may have more trouble receiving an accurate diagnosis, and even family and friends might question their diagnosis. The stigma associated with younger-onset Alzheimer's can have a significant impact on their well-being and quality of life.

Since 97 percent of all people living with Alzheimer's are age 65 or older, current Alzheimer's support infrastructure focuses exclusively on seniors. As a result, few supportive services are available to those with younger-onset. With other diseases—like heart disease, diabetes, and even cancer—many people living with them are middle-aged and there is a large support structure available to them. Those same support structures are not available for the individuals living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. The services provided under the OAA are particularly helpful for individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease and related dementias who need assistance with activities of daily living.

The Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act is consistent with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. The Advisory Council on Alzheimers Research, Care, and Services, which is responsible for updating and implementing the Plan, has noted that persons living with younger-onset Alzheimer's face unique challenges in accessing care. In the 2017 National Plan, the Advisory Council recommended that Congress amend the OAA to allow additional services to be provided to younger adults living with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM also deeply appreciate the bill's extension of the authorization for the RAISE Family Caregivers Act from 3 years to 8 years. We have been strong advocates for the RAISE Family Caregivers Act since it was introduced in Congress. There has been a delay in the implementation of the Act and the decision to

extend the authorization allows the Department of Health and Human Services to better develop a national strategy for education and training, long-term services and supports, and financial stability and security for caregivers.

For millions of Americans caring for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias the emotional, physical, and financial costs can be overwhelming. Caregivers of people with dementia report higher levels of stress, depression, and worse health outcomes than those providing care to individuals without dementia. As a result, Alzheimer's caregivers incurred \$11.8 billion in additional health costs last year. We appreciate the bill prioritizing this important program.

We also applaud the bill's strengthening of caregiver assessments. In 2018, more than 16 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.5 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$234 billion and face the challenges noted above. Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends, or other unpaid caregivers. Nearly half of all caregivers who provide help to older adults do so for someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties. Of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, 70 percent is borne by families—either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care.

These dedicated caregivers would greatly benefit from increased resources, training, and support to help them navigate the strain of caregiving and improve their health and quality of life. The proposed changes would provide these caregivers with much-needed resources through the National Family Caregiver Support Program, increase the use of caregiver assessments, and identify best practices relating to the programs. These important actions will enhance support for caregivers through skills building, increased resources and information, respite care, counseling, and other helpful benefits.

Finally, the Association and AIM appreciate your commitment to supporting individuals facing social isolation with the inclusion of a report on social isolation. Social isolation is an issue within the aging community as a whole, and particularly in the Alzheimer's and related dementias community. Studies have found that support groups can decrease social isolation and increase social support, ability to accept the diagnosis, cope with symptoms, improve quality of life, and enhance family communication (Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations, 2018). Support programs offered through the National Family Caregiver Support Program can work to decrease social isolation. We appreciate the bill's inclusion of a study on the effectiveness of these programs.

Again, thank you for your leadership in ensuring OAA's reauthorization, which will improve the quality of care for people living with Alzheimer's. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Conant, Vice President of Federal Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT EGGE,  
Chief Public Policy Officer,  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs.

THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS  
OF NORTH AMERICA,  
November 25, 2019.

Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL,  
U.S. Senate.

Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER,  
U.S. Senate.

Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER,  
HELP Committee, U.S. Senate.

Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY,  
HELP Committee, U.S. Senate.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL, LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER AND RANKING MEMBER MURRAY: The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is proud to endorse the Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments. JFNA represents 146 local Jewish Federations, 300 Network communities, and thousands of affiliated social service agencies across the continent. Our movement protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and torah (Jewish learning). Jewish social services provide support for more than one million vulnerable individuals each year, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, including approximately 100,000 older adults.

For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has been essential in developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community-based services that help older adults age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. Without these crucial services, many individuals served by OAA-funded programs in our network are at significant risk of hunger, isolation, and losing their ability to live with health and independence.

The Jewish community is disproportionately older than the general population in this country with approximately 28% of American Jews already over the age of 65, and the fastest growing demographic in the Jewish community is those over the age of 85. Jewish family service agencies, Jewish vocational service agencies and Jewish community centers are a key component of the country's Aging Services Network and, in a classic public-private partnership, provide many services funded through the OAA, including case management, transportation, congregate and home-delivered meals, adult day care, elder abuse prevention and intervention, family caregiver support, home care, legal conservatorship, and support groups.

This year's reauthorization process produced the Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments in the Senate, a bill that, if enacted, will significantly move the ball forward in how our country and its Aging Services Network treat and care for seniors. The very first substantive provision of the bill (after the authorization of appropriations) incorporates "person-centered, trauma-informed care" ("PCTI") as a new objective of the Older Americans Act. This principle, which is subsequently defined in the bill, represents a new trend in service delivery that will positively impact both clients and agencies. It incorporates a holistic approach to service provision that promotes the dignity, strength, and empowerment of trauma victims by referencing knowledge about the role of trauma in trauma victims' lives. The inclusion of the PCTI approach in this bill is indicative of the forward and necessary progress embedded in the Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments.

The Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments authorizes a technical assistance center to serve older adults experiencing the long-term and adverse consequences of trauma. This includes but is not limited to Holocaust survivors. Holocaust

survivors are specifically mentioned for the first time within the Older Americans Act in the context of providing additional outreach to older individuals “including Holocaust survivors” who are at risk of institutional placement. The bill also emphasizes cultural considerations in the provision of congregate and home-delivered meals.

This Older American Act reauthorization incorporates new support for age-friendly communities, a major new focus on social isolation in older adults, an updating of, recognition and support for multigenerational families, and assistance to family caregivers with an extension of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act. Each of these provisions and many others contained in the bill will serve our nation well. JFNA also is pleased with the lengthy reauthorization period and relatively robust funding increases for the Older Americans Act, which help safeguard support and removes uncertainty for

Collectively, this reauthorization vehicle that is very worthy of support and JFNA looks forward to its enactment.

Sincerely,

STEPHAN O. KLINE,  
*Interim Director of the Washington Office  
and Associate Vice President, Public Policy  
The Jewish Federations of North  
America.*

ADVANCING STATES,  
*December 9, 2019.*

Majority Leader MCCONNELL,  
*U.S. Senate.*

Minority Leader SCHUMER,  
*U.S. Senate.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER: On behalf of Advancing States, I am writing you in support of efforts to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). Advancing States is a non-partisan association of state government agencies that represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. We work to support visionary state leadership, the advancement of state systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community-based services for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our members administer a wide range of services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities, including overseeing OAA programs and services in every state. Together with our members, we work to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering long-term services and supports for people who are older or have a disability and for their caregivers.

We are writing to you to strongly encourage the U.S. Senate to pass a bill to reauthorize the OAA as soon as possible. Authorization for critical OAA programs, such as homedelivered meals and caregiver supports, expired September 30, 2019. We know that members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee have been working diligently to craft a bill to reauthorize the OAA. We appreciate these bipartisan efforts and strongly encourage the U.S. Senate to pass a bill to reauthorize the OAA as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Damon Terzaghi or Adam Mosey.

Sincerely,

MARTHA ROHERTY,  
*Executive Director.*

Ms. COLLINS. I urge my colleagues to take a look at this bipartisan bill.

We are overdue to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. This is our opportunity not only to reauthorize it but to make it even better and more responsive to the needs of America's older Americans.

Thank you very much.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3058. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3058

*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 “Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

To establish consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada in order to increase accountability and protect American students and taxpayer dollars.

#### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Three for-profit schools in the Caribbean have historically received nearly ¾ of all Federal funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) that goes to students enrolled at foreign graduate medical schools, despite those three schools being exempt from meeting the same eligibility requirements as the majority of graduate medical schools located outside of the United States and Canada.

(2) The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation and the Department of Education recommend that all foreign graduate medical schools should be required to meet the same eligibility requirements to participate in Federal funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

(3) The attrition rate at United States medical schools averaged 3.3 percent between 1993 and 2013, while rates at for-profit Caribbean medical schools have been known to reach 30 percent.

(4) In 2019, residency match rates for foreign trained graduates averaged 59 percent compared to 94 percent for graduates of allopathic medical schools in the United States.

(5) On average, students at for-profit medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada amass more student debt than those at medical schools in the United States.

#### SEC. 4. REPEAL GRANDFATHER PROVISIONS.

Section 102(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) in the case of a graduate medical school located outside the United States—

“(I) at least 60 percent of those enrolled in, and at least 60 percent of the graduates of, the graduate medical school outside the United States were not persons described in section 484(a)(5) in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part D of title IV; and

“(II) at least 75 percent of the individuals who were students or graduates of the graduate medical school outside the United States or Canada (both nationals of the

United States and others) taking the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates received a passing score in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part D of title IV;” and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by adding at the end the following:

“(V) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of a graduate medical school described in subclause (I) to qualify for participation in the loan programs under part D of title IV pursuant to this clause shall expire beginning on the first July 1 following the date of enactment of the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2019.”.

#### SEC. 5. LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY.

If a graduate medical school loses eligibility to participate in the loan programs under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.) due to the enactment of the amendments made by section 4, then a student enrolled at such graduate medical school on or before the date of enactment of this Act may, notwithstanding such loss of eligibility, continue to be eligible to receive a loan under such part D while attending such graduate medical school in which the student was enrolled upon the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the student continuing to meet all applicable requirements for satisfactory academic progress, until the earliest of—

(1) withdrawal by the student from the graduate medical school;

(2) completion of the program of study by the student at the graduate medical school; or

(3) the fourth June 30 after such loss of eligibility.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1257. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 457, to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue billion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1257. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 457, to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue billion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “President George H.W. Bush and First Spouse Barbara Bush Coin Act”.

#### SEC. 2. COINS HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH AND FIRST SPOUSE BARBARA BUSH.

(a) CIRCULATING \$1 COINS HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH.—Notwithstanding subsections (d), (n)(2)(E), (n)(3), (n)(4), and (n)(8) of section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to the coins to be issued under subsections (r) and (w) of such section 5112, and in accordance with the other provisions of subsection (n) of such section 5112, the Secretary of the Treasury, beginning on January 1, 2020, shall mint and issue \$1 coins that bear—



(1) the image of President George H.W. Bush; and

(2) an inscription of the year “2020”.

(b) **BULLION COINS HONORING FIRST SPOUSE BARBARA BUSH.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (5)(C) of section 5112(o) of title 31, United States Code, and in accordance with the other provisions of such section 5112(o), the Secretary of the Treasury, beginning on January 1, 2020, shall mint and issue bullion coins that bear—

(1) the image of First Spouse Barbara Bush; and

(2) an inscription of the year “2020”.

### SEC. 3. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that the minting and issuing of coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 5:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol.

### PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH AND BARBARA BUSH COIN ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 457 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 457) to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1257) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “President George H.W. Bush and First Spouse Barbara Bush Coin Act”.

### SEC. 2. COINS HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH AND FIRST SPOUSE BARBARA BUSH.

(a) **CIRCULATING \$1 COINS HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH.**—Notwithstanding subsections (d), (n)(2)(E), (n)(3), (n)(4), and (n)(8) of section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, in addition to the coins to be issued under subsections (r) and (w) of such section 5112, and in accordance with the other provisions of subsection (n) of such section 5112, the Secretary of the Treasury, beginning on January 1, 2020, shall mint and issue \$1 coins that bear—

(1) the image of President George H.W. Bush; and

(2) an inscription of the year “2020”.

(b) **BULLION COINS HONORING FIRST SPOUSE BARBARA BUSH.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (5)(C) of section 5112(o) of title 31, United States Code, and in accordance with the other provisions of such section 5112(o), the Secretary of the Treasury, beginning on January 1, 2020, shall mint and issue bullion coins that bear—

(1) the image of First Spouse Barbara Bush; and

(2) an inscription of the year “2020”.

### SEC. 3. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that the minting and issuing of coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

The bill (S. 457), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

### ARTISTIC RECOGNITION FOR TALENTED STUDENTS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2824 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2824) to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and 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 (S. 2824) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2824

*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 “Artistic Recognition for Talented Students Act” or the “ARTS Act”.

### SEC. 2. WAIVER OF FEES FOR WINNERS OF CERTAIN COMPETITIONS.

Section 708 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1) In this subsection, the term ‘covered competition’ means—

“(A) an art competition sponsored by the Congressional Institute that is open only to high school students; or

“(B) the competition established under section 3 of House Resolution 77, 113th Congress, agreed to February 26, 2013.

“(2) With respect to a work that wins a covered competition, the Register of Copyrights—

“(A) shall waive the requirement under subsection (a)(1) with respect to an application for registration of a copyright claim for that work if that application is submitted to the Copyright Office not later than the last day of the calendar year following the year in which the work claimed by the application wins the covered competition (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘covered year’); and

“(B) may waive a fee described in subparagraph (A) for an application submitted after the end of the covered year if the fee would have been waived under that subparagraph had the application been submitted before the last day of the covered year.”.

### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 17; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790 under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the conference meetings.

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

### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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 6:48 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 10 a.m.