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No. 165

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of our joy, in this season of gratitude, thank You for Your sustaining power and unsurpassed greatness.

Lord, we borrow our heartbeats from You each day. Search the hearts of our lawmakers, guiding them with Your wisdom and empowering them with Your might. In all their labors, may they work for Your glory. Help them to stand true to what they believe, maintaining a clear conscience in all they think, do, and say. May they acknowledge You in every area of their lives, knowing that You will direct their path. Supply all their needs from Your glorious riches.

We pray in Your gracious 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been a busy and exciting week as we have welcomed new Members, assembled our leadership teams for the

115th Congress, and gotten to work on important issues.

Today we will have an opportunity to take up a bill that is particularly important for Gulf Coast States like Louisiana. Senator CASSIDY has been a leader on this issue, and I appreciate the work he has done to bring this measure up for a vote.

Sometime this session we will also take up an extension of the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly. This bipartisan bill will provide the basis for any sanctions that may be reimposed on Iran, which is critical, given the belligerent behavior exhibited by Tehran since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. I expect we will pass it on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis here as well.

Discussions are also ongoing on how to fund the government and for how long, as I noted yesterday. I will have more to say on that issue as more details are available.

So we all have some work to do. Let's get together to finish up the business of this Congress as we begin looking forward to the next.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY TO HEAL WOUNDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, two days ago I came to the Senate floor and called upon the President-elect to rise to the dignity of his office. I called upon Mr. Trump to take responsibility for his rhetoric and his actions and to work to heal the wounds that he created.

I am disappointed to say that our President-elect has chosen to do none of those things to this point. Meanwhile, vile acts of hate and intimidat-

tion continue to occur all across America.

On Tuesday, I said that the Southern Poverty Law Center had reported 315 hate crimes since the election. As of Wednesday, that number jumped to 437. That is a 40-percent increase in 2 days. That is startling.

Here are just a few examples of the instances that have been reported. In Michigan, a Latino family awoke to find that someone had used boxes to form a wall blocking their driveway. The perpetrators left behind vulgar graffiti that denigrated Mexican Americans and praised Donald Trump for "taking back America."

In Tennessee, two men returned home to find a threatening homophobic note. Using gay slurs, the message told the men to go back where they came from. A folding knife with a picture of Donald Trump on the handle was stabbed through the paper.

At a high school in Missouri, a 15-year-old African-American student was burned with a hot glue gun and told he didn't belong in America. Another African-American student at the same school was told by a White student: "Are you ready to get back on the boat now that Trump is President?"

This morning the Washington Post editorial board related this story of a student at Baylor:

The morning after Donald Trump's election as president, a student at Baylor University had a nasty, hate-filled encounter on her way to class. A native of Zambia, she was called the n-word by another student, who shoved her off the sidewalk and said he was "just trying to make America great again," the signature slogan of Mr. Trump's campaign. What is perhaps most appalling about the incident is that it was not isolated.

As I said, I picked just a few examples. There are hundreds of these same kinds of things happening, as we speak, across the country. These are sickening acts of hate, prejudice, and just simple meanness, and they need to be stopped.

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



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The Washington Post editorial board called on Donald Trump to do everything he can to bring these acts to an end. They said:

Mr. Trump should pay heed. These hateful acts are the work of . . . his supporters, but they have been emboldened by the ugly rhetoric of his presidential campaign. It is his responsibility—not, as his campaign manager has foolishly suggested, President Obama’s or Hillary Clinton’s—to do as much as he can to discourage such actions. Granted, his appointment of media mogul Stephen K. Bannon to a top White House job makes that all the more difficult. So does his mild response when asked about the threats and slurs on Sunday’s “60 Minutes” interview.

He didn’t say much when he was pressed to do so.

Mr. Trump promised in his victory speech to be a president for all Americans. His wife has said she wants to make fighting hate and bullying her main priority as first lady. They need not wait until Inauguration Day to start living up to those promises.

I have several pages of hate-filled, awful incidents that have been reported. There is only one person that can bring a stop to this quickly, and that is the President-elect. Our Nation is looking at Donald Trump. For the sake of the American people, I hope he will.

I ask unanimous consent that these pages be printed in the RECORD.

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

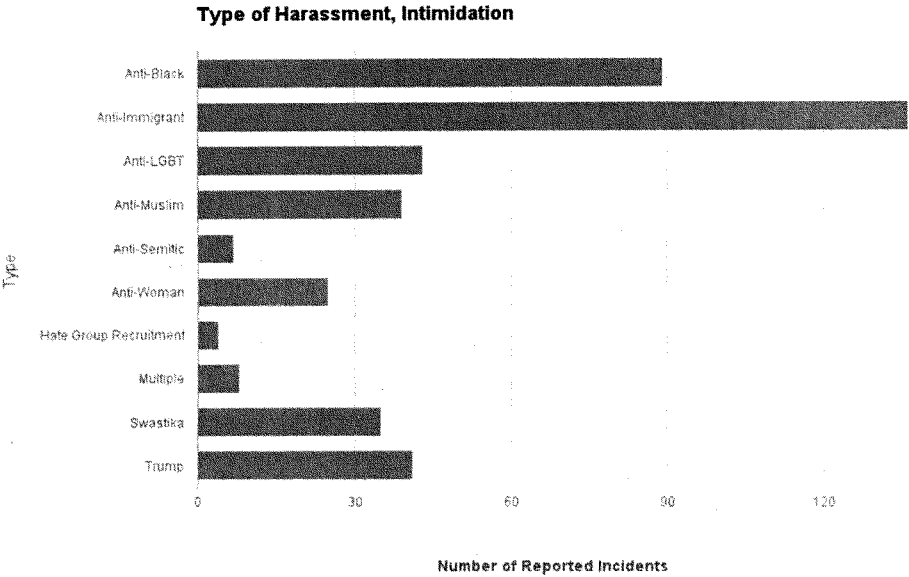
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER HATE WATCH—UPDATE: MORE THAN 400 INCIDENTS OF HATEFUL HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION SINCE THE ELECTION

November 15, 2016

Between Wednesday, November 9, the day after the presidential election, and the morning of Monday, November 14, the Southern Poverty Law Center collected 437 reports of hateful intimidation and harassment.

The following reports were collected through news reports, social media, and direct submissions via SPLC’s #ReportHate page. These incidents, aside from news reports, are largely anecdotal. The SPLC did follow up with a majority of user submissions in an effort to confirm reports. As we reported earlier, many incidents involved direct references to the Trump campaign and its slogans.

Here’s the overview:



Most of the reports involved anti-immigrant incidents (136), followed by anti-black (89) and anti-LGBT (43). Some reports (8) included multiple categories like anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant. The “Trump” category (41) refers to incidents where there was no clear defined target, like the pro-Trump vandalism of a “unity” sign in Connecticut. We also collected 20 reports of anti-Trump intimidation and harassment.

Here are some examples from around the country:

In Oregon:

A Muslim woman was riding the Max to Beaverton in the early afternoon and a group of teenagers went to the corner of the car where she was sitting and got up in her face yelling at her that she was a terrorist, that our new president was going to deport her, that she can’t wear her hijab anymore. They got increasingly menacing, and my friend went over and made them get off the train. When they were leaving through the door they tried to spit on her.

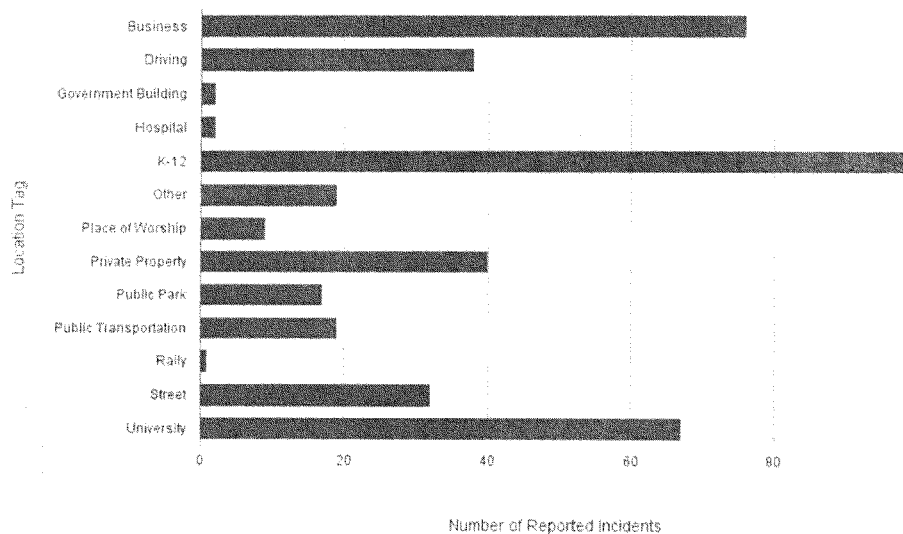
A gay man in North Carolina:

My boyfriend and I were walking down the sidewalk in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was 9:30 PM, and we were holding hands and walking to a restaurant for dinner. A white car passed us and a white male in the back passenger-side seat leaned out the window and yelled, “F* * * f* * *!” at us.

A Latina woman in Texas reported:

I was walking my baby at my neighborhood park and a truck drove by with a male driving and a female passenger. The female yelled “white power” at us as they drove by and then sped away.

Location of Incident



Venues of harassment included K-12 schools (99), businesses (76), and universities (67). Common also was vandalism and leafleting on private property (40) and epithets and slurs hurled from moving vehicles (38).

At an elementary school in Texas:

My 13 yo half Filipino daughter was approached by a child she didn't know as she waited to board her bus after school. The

young man stated "You're Asian, right? When they see your eyes you are going to be deported" and he walked away. I reported this to my district Superintendent.

From a news report in Georgia:

A Gwinnett County high school teacher said she was left a note in class Friday telling her that her Muslim headscarf "isn't allowed anymore." "Why don't you tie it

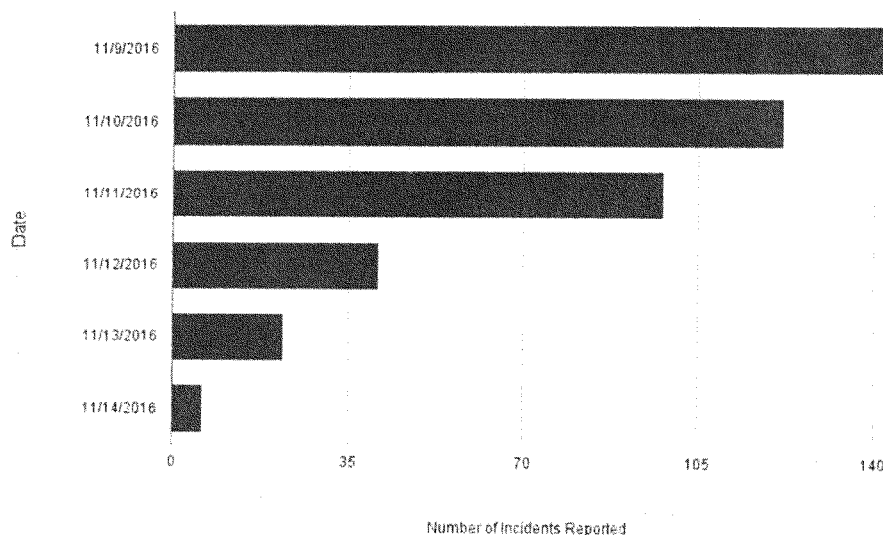
around your neck & hang yourself with it . . .," the note said, signed "America!"

Vandalism involving swastikas (35) was also frequently reported. In California:

A swastika was spray painted on a billboard for the movie "Almost Christmas," which shows an African American cast.

It appears that incidents are subsiding, although earlier incidents are still being reported:

Date of Incident



Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one on the floor. So I ask the Chair to tell us the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMERICAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3110, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. 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. MCCAIN. 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 Senator from Arizona.

REMEMBERING SERGEI MAGNITSKY AND BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, 7 years ago, in a squalid cell inside the prison that once held the political opponents of the Czars and the Soviets, Sergei Magnitsky was murdered for defying the tyranny of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Many Americans are not familiar with the life of this Russian patriot, but it was one life dedicated to and ultimately sacrificed for principles that we all hold dear.

Sergei Magnitsky was an unlikely hero in the cause of freedom. He didn't spend his life as a human rights activist or as an outspoken critic of the Russian Government. He was an ordinary man, but he became an extraordinary champion of justice, fairness, and the rule of law—principles that have lost their meaning in Putin's Russia.

Magnitsky was a tax attorney working for an international company that had invested in Russia. He blew the whistle on tax fraud and large-scale theft by Russian Government officials who had looted more than \$230 million from the Russian state, but the Russian Government blamed the crime on Magnitsky and his company.

He was thrown into one of Russia's harshest prisons without trial. Russian officials pressured Magnitsky to deny what he had uncovered, to lie and recant. He refused. He was sickened by what his government had done, and he refused to surrender principle to power. For his refusal, he was beaten and tortured. He was denied medical care. After 358 days in prison, he died in excruciating pain on November 16, 2009. He was 37 years old. Even after his death, Russian courts convicted him of tax evasion in a show trial.

Sergei Magnitsky's torture and murder is an extreme example of a problem that is unfortunately all too common and widespread in Russia today—the flagrant violations of the rule of law and basic human rights committed by the Russian Government and its allies.

Today I also remember my friend Boris Nemtsov, a true Russian patriot who committed his life to fighting against Putin's tyranny and corruption, and fighting for freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

In 2015, Boris was murdered on a bridge in the shadow of the Kremlin in one of the most secure parts of the Russian capital—another victim of the culture of impunity that Vladimir Putin has created in Russia, where individuals are routinely persecuted and attacked for their beliefs, including by the Russian Government, and no one, no one, is ever held responsible.

It has been said that in a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. My friend Boris Nemtsov was a revolutionary and, without a doubt, Sergei Magnitsky was a revolutionary. He told the truth, and he gave his life for it.

That is why, when the circumstances of Magnitsky's death became known to the world, Congress acted to protect those still under attack for the crime of telling the truth in Putin's Russia.

In December 2012, Congress passed and the President signed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which gives the Federal Government the ability to ban entry to and

freeze the American assets of anyone “responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” committed against whistleblowers or human rights activists in Russia.

This important piece of legislation is a fitting tribute to Sergei Magnitsky, and it is a foundation on which we must continue to build. We must fully implement the Magnitsky Act by expanding its reach to more individuals who fit the criteria in the law, and we must pass the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act, which will provide new tools to hold perpetrators of corruption and human rights abuses accountable for their actions around the world.

The Senate has already passed this legislation, and I hope the House and Senate will soon have an opportunity to send Global Magnitsky to the President's desk when we consider the conference report on the Defense authorization bill.

Our message must be clear. If you violate the human rights and civil liberties of others, the United States will hold you accountable. By living up to that principle, we honor the life and memory of Sergei Magnitsky. Our Nation and free people everywhere must continue to draw strength from his example and, with that strength, renew our commitment to stand by those who carry on the fight for freedom around the world.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business on a matter related to privacy protection, to be succeeded by Senator RON WYDEN and, if he arrives during the time of our remarks, by Senator DAINES.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 3475 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am here to speak about the American Energy and Conservation Act, which we will be voting on today. I thank once more my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016.

Yesterday, the senior Senator from Florida made some statements, and I would like to address some of those.

The senior Senator from Florida suggested that developing America's energy resources off our coast is incompatible or somehow conflicts with Department of Defense activities.

Let's be honest. Let's just be honest. There have been oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico for almost 80 years. Through all of this activity, industry and the United States military have been able to coexist. As for future production off the Atlantic, I personally sat with representatives from the Department of Defense to discuss this issue. Their analysis showed that in President Obama's original Atlantic Draft Proposed Program, less than 2 percent of the acreage was recommended to not have oil and gas development because of operation conflicts.

Now, here sometimes it is “he said, she said” or “she said, he said.” This is objective. This is the DOD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment regarding the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program from October 30, 2015. That is where that 2 percent number comes from. The American people deserve honesty. We should not mislead them. The senior Senator from Florida can vote as he wishes, but, again, Department of Defense operations are not an excuse.

Secondly, the senior Senator from Florida suggested that he is looking forward to working with the new administration. Although he did not support President Trump, he is looking forward to working with the new administration on behalf of the American people. Again, let's be honest. If there is one thing that came out of this last election, it is that Americans want better jobs with better benefits. The last 8 years have been hard on working families. That is why they are desperate for these better paying jobs. It is fitting in that regard that we are voting on the American Energy and Conservation Act. This has been studied and is said to incentivize the creation of 280,000 new jobs by 2035. This legislation is expected to trigger \$194 billion in new capital investment in our economy, creating \$51 billion in cumulative government revenue for our Federal Government and for States.

Now, let's be honest. If you are going to work with the new President, let's work on programs that will create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs for Americans who need those jobs, as well as revenue to address debt, deficit, and other issues in our State and Federal Government.

Now, let's also be honest. If America does not develop our natural resources, the vacuum will be filled with the likes of Iran, Venezuela, Russia, and Cuba—Cuba, which would like to drill off their coastline. Now, the choice is either to create good-paying jobs in the United States—off States like Virginia and North Carolina—or to forfeit these jobs abroad.

By the way, the senior Senator from Florida gave the reason why Senators

from mid-Atlantic States should vote for this. He spoke specifically about the billions of dollars in revenue that would come to States. He complains about it. If I were from Virginia and North Carolina or a Middle Atlantic State, I would say: My gosh, I get hundreds of thousands of new high-paying jobs and billions of dollars to address our States' needs? I would be all about this.

Now, there are different ideas about the future of energy in the United States, and this legislation does not discriminate. It includes language introduced by two Democrats and two Republicans—Senators HELLER, HEINRICH, RISCH, and TESTER—that streamlines the process for developing renewable energy on public lands and establishes the first-ever revenue-sharing paradigm for renewables.

For those who say we need to do something for carbon-free energy as well, this bill does so. The change would incentivize the production of 27,000 megawatts of carbon-free energy that the Bureau of Land Management estimates could be provided for these projects.

Additionally, we bring offshore wind into the mix, by creating the first-ever revenue sharing for offshore wind, incentivizing the development of 4,233 gigawatts of carbon-free generation that, again, the Bureau of Land Management estimates will be available for development off our coast. Now, some say they don't want to look at development off their coastline. This would be 50 miles out—at least in the case of the oil rigs, 50 miles out. Your sight line stops somewhere around 25 miles, at most. So this would not be seen by anyone who is otherwise enjoying the beach.

This legislation makes investment and conservation projects across the country. We included another bipartisan provision that provides an estimated \$807 million for projects that increase access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. This provision was included in Senator MURKOWSKI's Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, which 24 Senators have cosponsored. The legislation makes investments in a variety of important programs—important to Western States—including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

The bill also restores the traditional 50-percent onshore oil and gas State and Federal share for production on public lands, which the Obama administration had reduced since 2010 to pay for spending elsewhere. Again, all of this is of particular importance to Western States.

The American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016 is supported by over 50 important stakeholder groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, the Western Energy Alliance, and the Consumer Energy Alliance.

There is one more thing. It has been suggested by implication by the senior Senator from Florida that we are trying to open up acreage off the coast of Florida—that we are trying to open up acreage in general. We don't open up any acreage at all offshore in this bill. All this does is say that if a new President—President Trump—decides to have Outer Continental Shelf drilling, there would be a certain model of revenue sharing. But we absolutely do not open up new acreage. Again, that sometimes seems to be implied. We need to be honest with the American people.

All energy-producing States deserve to share the revenue derived from energy developed both onshore and offshore. Responsible revenue sharing allows States hosting energy production to mitigate for the historic and prospective infrastructure demands of energy production. It just makes sense. They need more roads. It helps those States build the roads and allows States to make the strategic investment needed to ensure for future generations the resiliency of the infrastructure and for vital natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support proceeding to the legislation so the Senate's voice can be heard on this important topic.

Let's be honest with the American people. This is about creating great jobs. It is about sharing revenue with States. It is not about opening up new acreage. It is thoroughly compatible with the Department of Defense's mission to protect our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Americans are concerned that we are overspending. We are overspending by more than half a trillion dollars a year. That is more than \$500 billion a year. Now, \$500 billion sounds a lot more than half a trillion.

As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, one of the most important things that we focus on is oversight on what exactly the Federal Government spends its money on. This critical oversight has been missing. It is critical that we follow the money because, as we say in the budget world, you can lie about the numbers, but the numbers never lie.

Now, Congress evidently doesn't have the time to allocate to see how the money is spent because it takes us so much time to allocate the money to be spent. In fact, in the last 40 years we have only had four times that the budget process has been finished by October 1. The budget process for this year, which started October 1, still is not finished. We are under a continuing resolution for that. So that would leave it up to the administration. Any administration, any business is supposed to efficiently manage its area of responsibility. That hasn't been happening.

Just to give an example of some responsibility, I had one young man come to me and say: You know, the job that I do in the Federal Government doesn't make any difference. Nobody ever uses what I produce. He said: I probably shouldn't tell you this because I will lose my job.

I said: Well, I will do everything I can to see that you get promoted for doing what you are supposed to be doing.

I want to give one small example of what I am talking about on oversight. Last October, a little known Federal agency called the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hired a big-time public relations agency to ask reporters for help "refining their agency messaging." This PR firm asked the reporters to "keep the conversation confidential" and not to "report anything discussed in the interview." Naturally, that caught my attention.

I immediately reached out to the Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget to get more information on the individual agency's contract and other such "messaging" activities conducted by the executive branch entities.

Simply put, agency spending on advertising, public relations, and media relations is largely a black hole, according to the recent Congressional Research Service report. No one really knows how much these agencies spend on trying to influence the American public about what a great job the government is doing. Well, I can tell you that America is not buying it. It is hard to tell how much is spent and where the money is going, according to the CRS, which reports that agencies tend to have great discretion over how such funds are spent. Well, why do they have all that discretion?

To my surprise, President Obama's Director of the Office of Management and Budget not only did not know how much the government spends on public relations and advertising activities, but he also didn't seem to care. That is because they don't want the oversight responsibility. Remember that President Obama's administration was supposed to be the "most transparent administration" in history. As Congress and the American people have now learned, it has been anything but.

But the bigger question was now raised: How much do Federal agencies spend on public relations and advertising? As Lewis Carroll famously wrote in *Alice in Wonderland*, "How far down does the rabbit hole go?" The reason this is so important is that Federal law prohibits the use of appropriated Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

It was this pursuit of fiscal transparency that resulted in my request to the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to investigate how much the Federal Government actually spends annually on advertising and public relations. What we found is a cautionary

tale of how little Congress and, possibly, the administration actually understand about what the Federal Government spends its money on.

It turns out this administration spends \$1.5 billion annually on public relations and advertising. President Obama added hundreds of PR staffers between 2009 and 2011 to the thousands who already worked in these agencies, which cost hardworking taxpayers more than \$500 million a year in employee expense. These employees have an average salary of \$90,000. This contrasts with the average household income in America at almost \$54,000.

This information is crucial for policymakers because America's overspending problem has created a mammoth national debt of more than \$19 trillion, on its way to almost \$29 trillion in a few short years. We hardly have any years where overspending in that year doesn't exceed half a trillion dollars—\$500 billion.

GAO notes that these salary and advertising figures do not include the \$100 million spent on private PR consultants to bolster the government's PR efforts. The government also spends more than \$800 million on contracts with outside advertising firms in 2015 alone to promote the administration's policies, which when you total these numbers equals almost \$1.5 billion. That is with a "b." This is real money we are talking about. The question is, What do hardworking taxpayers get for this money? Some of it probably is essential advertising signs, military recruitment, et cetera, but is all of it essential and really needed? If they are doing a good job, will people not know?

Certain agencies spend much more of their budgets on public relations and advertising than others. In fact, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau spent a higher percentage of its total budget on public relations and advertising than any other agency. I called it an agency. It is really not an agency of the Federal Government. We don't have any oversight. We don't have any review of the agency's budget or Director. That money comes from the Federal Reserve before their money goes to the Federal Government so it truly comes out of the money that can be spent on projects, but it is taken out so there can be no oversight over that agency.

We got an inspector general appointed to that agency, and he came back to say that we don't have the right to take a look at anything there. How can that be a government agency? Recently, the Court said it is not.

Why am I concentrating on \$1.5 billion? Remember the old saying: A billion here, a billion there, and pretty quickly it runs into real money?

Next year I look forward to holding additional hearings on this oversight issue and others in order to help American families understand where their taxes are being spent and what they are getting for their money. If American taxpayers see waste out there, I

hope they are calling my office or other offices to let them know about it. Evidently, we are going to have to have it come from the bottom up because it is not coming from the top down.

It is time for the Federal Government to become more efficient, effective, and accountable. If government programs are not delivering results, they should be improved, and if they are not needed, they should be eliminated. Americans who work every day to provide for their families and pay their taxes understand it is time for the Federal Government to live within its means, just like they do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, we are going to vote on a very important piece of legislation later on this afternoon. This is a bill that is going to move revenues from 46 States to 4 States. This is no small thing. Let me just tell you a little bit about what this bill will do.

The revenue generated from oil and gas drilling on Federal lands offshore is one of the largest nontax revenue streams for the Federal Government. These oil and gas resources on public lands offshore belong to all of the American people. They are public resources that belong as much to someone living in Massachusetts, Kansas, or California as they do to someone in Louisiana or in Texas. These are resources that should help every American, not just a select few.

The revenue generated from these public resources goes to the Federal Treasury to help pay for Medicare, Medicaid, education, our Defense Department. It helps to pay for everything, including reducing our Federal deficit. However, in 2006, the four Gulf States—Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas—succeeded in passing a law that is going to direct an ever-increasing share of these offshore drilling revenues away from the Federal Treasury to just those four States. By redirecting this revenue, that 2006 law is going to take money that should benefit taxpayers in all 50 States and send it instead to just 4 States.

How much money are we talking about? In that 2006 law, over the next 60 years, it is projected to send \$190 billion away from the Treasury, away from the 46 other States, other than the 4 that are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. That is the problem. Those are the numbers from the Department of the Interior—\$190 billion. Now the Gulf States are coming back for more. The legislation we will vote on today would divert an additional \$5.4 billion over the next 40 years away from 46 States and to the 4 Gulf States. That is on top of the \$190 billion, which they are already going to get.

If you come from one of these four States, you should absolutely vote for this bill today. You should put out a press release today touting your support for this legislation. If you can pass

legislation to take an additional \$5 billion directly from the pockets of the taxpayers in the other 46 States and send it to your States, that will be one of your greatest legislative victories of your career.

If you come from the other 46 States, there is no reason in the world that you should support this legislation to take even more money from your taxpayers and send it to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi. That is all we are talking about—a massive wealth transfer from 46 States to those 4 States.

At a time when my friends on the other side of the aisle are saying we need to cut spending to crucial programs that help our seniors, help low-income Americans, and help students, we simply can't afford to divert \$190 billion away from our national priorities and to the Gulf States. We certainly can't afford to divert \$5 billion more as the legislation before us today would do.

The proponents of this legislation argue this revenue is needed to pay for past and future infrastructure demands and to ensure the resiliency of natural resources. The Gulf States have already been getting revenue from offshore drilling in waters near their States for decades, and now most of the fines—\$20 billion from the BP oilspill—are, rightly, going to the Gulf States that were affected by this catastrophe.

We should fund coastal restoration and climate resiliency as a big issue for all States, but this legislation is not about our eroding beaches and wetlands; it is about eroding our ability to pay for our national priorities.

This legislation would go even further by trying to bribe other cash-strapped States into allowing expanded drilling off the east coast and in other areas offshore. We haven't passed a single law to improve the safety of offshore drilling following the BP oilspill, but this legislation would try to incentivize new areas to drill in and to risk ultimately a spill off one of those States' coasts.

Fishing off the east coast produces roughly \$1.75 billion in direct value for our States and more than \$4 billion in total economic activity each year. Tourism on the east coast generates hundreds of billions of dollars in additional economic activity and supports an estimated 800,000. That is what we would be putting at risk on the east coast, as this bill would do. As we learned from the BP oilspill, offshore spills don't respect State boundaries. We would have no protections whatsoever.

OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. President, I would like to take the remainder of my time and talk about what I believe is the most important task facing this Congress in the lameduck session—providing funding to combat the opioid crisis that has spread all across our country.

Last year, Senator McCONNELL of Kentucky and I called on the Surgeon

General of the United States to issue a Surgeon General's report and a call to action on prescription opioid and heroin abuse. We both believed the Federal Government needed to document and outline a national effort to address this opioid crisis.

Today, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy released a new report, "Facing Addiction in America," and I thank him and his staff for their efforts. This report should serve as a call to all Americans to change the way we address substance misuse and substance use disorders in America.

As a nation, we must approach and treat addiction like the disease it is. The physical toll addiction takes on Americans makes this a health imperative. The costs of addiction to society make this an economic imperative, and the human duty to provide care and hope for those suffering from addiction makes this a moral imperative punctuation. In order to get help for all of the families who are suffering from opioid addiction, the Federal Government needs to invest in funding treatment and recovery programs now. So far, I am sad to report that Congress has failed in this task.

When I am home in Massachusetts, I hear enormous frustration from people who don't feel adequate resources are being brought to bear on this epidemic of prescription drug, heroin, and fentanyl addiction. Countless individuals and families suffering with addiction cannot find a bed for detox. Then, when they are at their most vulnerable, they cannot find a place, a provider, or a behavioral support team for long-term treatment and recovery.

To our everlasting credit, this past May, my colleague Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN introduced legislation to infuse a one-time payment of \$600 million in emergency funding to combat this crisis. We were denied. Then, again in July, I and others argued on the Senate floor for the need to invest \$1.1 billion into opioid treatment and recovery programs over 2 years. Again, we were denied. We passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, but a vision without funding is just a hallucination. We will not save lives and stop this scourge of addiction with just words and promises.

I stand here again today to call on my colleagues and both parties to come together and pass legislation that includes immediate, massive funding to combat this ever-worsening opioid crisis. Nearly 30,000 people in the United States died from an opioid overdose in 2014. Over the last few years Massachusetts, which is mirrored in numbers across the rest of the country, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of deaths related to opioids.

In 2014, 1,400 people were estimated to have died in the State of Massachusetts from an opioid addiction. Last year the number went up to 1,700 people who were estimated to have died from an opioid addiction. In 2016, it is estimated that that number is going to

go up to 2,000 people who will die this year from opioid overdoses, heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil. Here is the interesting number. Just from last year to this year, the number of deaths that are estimated to be related to fentanyl has risen to 1,500. Out of those 2,000 people, it is estimated that 1,500 people in Massachusetts alone will die from opioid overdoses. That is a dramatic rise to 75 percent of all opioid deaths in our State in 1 year. That is up from 57 percent of the deaths last year that would be related to fentanyl in the blood system of those who had toxicology exams after they died from an opioid overdose.

Let's take those numbers and project them. If 2,000 people die in Massachusetts this year—and Massachusetts is 2 percent of the population of the United States of America—and all you did was multiply that number by 50 to get the entire country, that would mean that 100,000 people will die this year from an opioid overdose in America—100,000.

This problem is not as huge in the rest of the country as it is in Massachusetts and several other States, but we are a preview of coming attractions. We have to make sure we put in place the programs that are going to help these families deal with this issue.

Let's put that number in context for the entire country. We have 41,000 women who die each year from breast cancer. If we don't stop this, we are on pace to having as many as 100,000 people die from opioid overdoses every single year, which is the same as having two Vietnam wars worth of people dying in our country every single year. We need to declare war on this epidemic. We need to put the treatment and prevention programs in place. Thus far we have not provided the resources to the States, cities, towns, families, and community health care centers to be able to deal with this issue.

Right now in America there are more than 2.5 million people who are dependent upon opioids, but only a very small percentage of them will get the treatment they need and deserve. Our country should be providing for those families.

I believe history is going to judge this Congress on the question of how well we responded to this epidemic, on whether or not we heard the cries of these families across the country to provide them with the treatment they need. This is an epidemic that began because the pharmaceutical industry sold a bill of goods to the Food and Drug Administration and the American people that these prescription drugs were not, in fact, addictive.

Physicians across our country turned a blind eye, and, in fact, rejected mandatory training so they could correctly prescribe opioids. Now it is 20 years later, and this prescription drug epidemic that morphed into a heroin epidemic has now morphed into a fentanyl epidemic, and fentanyl is infinitely more dangerous than heroin and prescription drugs.

We have a moral responsibility here on the floor to provide massive new funding in any legislation we pass over the next 3 weeks that leaves this Chamber. We cannot, on a bipartisan basis, ignore the magnitude of this challenge. Otherwise, we are going to come back here next year and the year after and the year after, and we are ultimately going to see millions of people die from this epidemic, and history will wonder why we did not do enough to deal with it. It is the job of this Congress to begin to provide the massive funding that the States, cities, towns, and families need to deal with this issue.

I thank the Presiding Officer for my time on the floor, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the bill that is before us today. We hear a lot of nice rhetoric coming from the proponents of this legislation. We hear that the bill is about revenue sharing. We hear that the funds will be used for conservation and coastal restoration. We hear that the bill is about providing parity, and at the same time, there is a lot of rhetoric, but underneath the rhetoric and the rosy picture being painted, one thing is clear: This bill isn't about conservation or infrastructure or environmental restoration. This bill is about one thing and one thing only: another giveaway to Big Oil. It is about paving the way for oil drilling up and down the Atlantic coast. It is about expanding drilling in the gulf, even as those communities work to recover from the BP disaster. It is about turning the Arctic wilderness from a wildlife haven into an oil field.

We have seen this from the majority before—a legislative agenda focused on giving handout after handout to Big Oil no matter what the cost to our constituents. The majority party, the party of so-called fiscal conservatism, has no problem breaking out the checkbook when it is time to give billions of dollars of tax subsidies to oil companies. They see no issue with capping the oil industry's liability for the economic costs of offshore oil spills at \$134 million—for spills that we know can cost tens of billions of dollars, but their liability is limited at \$134 million. They are all too eager to lift the crude oil export ban, shipping U.S. resources and refining jobs overseas, and now we have a bill before us that is designed to make it easier to drill in the Arctic, gulf, and Atlantic. This bill doesn't just line the pockets of oil executives; it takes away revenues from the U.S. Treasury and increases the

deficit by \$7 billion in the long term—a \$7 billion debt that we are signing over to our children and grandchildren, along with a shoreline full of oil rigs. We have a responsibility in Congress to make better for future generations and not to leave them with a dirty, costly legacy based on the fuels of the past, but serving future generations doesn't help oil companies in the short term, and the majority party has made their choice clear. We have seen this before. Yet it is hard not to be surprised by the timing. We are one week past an election where my colleagues on the other side of the aisle campaigned on promises to “drain the swamp” and break the mold in Washington and free government from the powerful special interests. What is the first bill we debate on the Senate floor after that election? Another giveaway to Big Oil, one of the most powerful special interests in Washington.

Unfortunately for voters who bought into the campaign rhetoric, it is very clear who the majority party is here to serve in Washington. It is not the people who elected them; it is the same corporations and special interests that have set the public agenda for years, and that agenda doesn't come without costs.

Drilling for oil is a risk-reward proposition. All of the risk is on the backs of our shore communities, and all of the reward goes to Big Oil. For New Jersey, those risks are substantial. An oil spill in the Atlantic would devastate our tourism industry, which generates \$38 billion a year and supports nearly half a million jobs—nearly 10 percent of the State's entire workforce. An oil spill in the Atlantic would destroy one of the largest saltwater recreational fishing industries in the Nation. Just in our State, it would jeopardize over 50,000 jobs in the seafood industry. An oil spill would sink the value of \$700 billion worth of coastal properties, family homes, and small businesses.

The people I have met on the Jersey Shore are some of the most hard-working, resilient people I have ever known. These are people who, even today, are rebuilding their lives and livelihoods in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. These are the fishermen who wake up at 5 in the morning and spend the day working their fingers to the bone to provide for their families. These are the shore businesses that depend on a summer tourism season to meet their expenses throughout the year. The last thing they need is the threat of an oil spill wiping out their businesses, hard work, and ability to provide for their families.

The oil companies that would benefit from this bill don't need our help. Large oil companies—even with gas prices as low as they are—are making annual profits the likes of which the people on the Jersey Shore will not see in a lifetime. Those people have been working to make their voices heard.

I am proud there are currently 11 other Senators who have cosponsored

my bill to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic, but I am even more proud that thousands of my constituents have taken the time to email, call my office, or become citizen cosponsors of the bill. Many of them shared their thoughts on why we should ban Atlantic drilling.

Charles from Toms River wrote: “We already have shoreline concerns thanks to Superstorm Sandy. We definitely don't need another threat to our economy.”

Jeanne from New Brunswick wrote: “Tourism is a major New Jersey business. Our beaches are pristine and must be protected.”

Leopoldine from Highland Park wrote: “I would rather give up my car to save on oil consumption than give up the Jersey Shore.”

My constituents are not alone. There are 120 municipalities up and down the Atlantic coast that have opposed offshore drilling and the seismic blasting used to locate oil deposits. Over 1,200 elected officials have done the same. They have been joined by an alliance of over 12,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families. Their opposition to offshore drilling transcends political boundaries and geographic boundaries alike. It unites local chambers of commerce with environmental advocates.

We are hearing the same message, whether it is from a beach town in Georgia, a homeowners association in Delaware, or the North Carolina Council of Churches: Not on our shores. The people who elected us have spoken clearly, and we in this Chamber should be listening.

This past March, President Obama made it clear that he was listening when he fully removed the Atlantic Ocean from the 5-year oil and gas leasing plan. This was an important victory, but it was only a temporary victory.

It is clear by the Senate's consideration of the legislation before us today that lining the pockets of big oil executives is going to remain a top priority for the majority party. We must do everything in our power to stand up to the oil industry, protect our coastal communities, and fight for the people whose lives depend on a vibrant shore economy.

That is why today I am calling on President Obama to use his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. The authority was given to the President by Congress to permanently protect coastal waters from oil and gas drilling, while still allowing for important economic activities such as fishing, shipping, and developing offshore wind energy. Unlike a traditional Executive order, this designation cannot be undone by a future administration. It would ensure that the rights of our shore communities—to run their businesses, to vacation with their families, to fish in clean coastal waters—are protected for generations to come. It would continue the

administration's commitment to preserving our environment, to protecting public health, and to strengthening global economies.

It is not just the Atlantic that deserves this protection; I also hope that President Obama gives the same consideration to the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic is a fragile ecosystem depended on by subsistence hunters and diverse wildlife. Extreme cold and harsh weather conditions make an Arctic oil spill both more likely and harder to clean up.

Declaring the Atlantic and the Arctic off limits to Big Oil is a step the President can take immediately to show that we as a nation are committed to the future of our shore towns, our beaches, and our environment, and to being good stewards of the land for future generations of Americans.

Our public lands should be just that—public assets that are part of our national heritage. This Presidential action will ensure that we treat them that way instead of monetizing them to build profits for the oil industry.

To me, the decision on offshore drilling is a simple question of values. I value the generations of families who spend their vacations on the Jersey Shore. It is a birthright. I value the small businesses and fishermen who have built and sustained a thriving shore economy against all odds in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. I value having clean coastal waters, which are home to diverse and rich ecosystems. I value the commitment New Jerseyans have for a clean energy future. Drilling in the Atlantic is antithetical to any of these values. And it is because of those values that I intend to stand with the millions of Americans who have raised their voices and delivered the message to big oil: Stay off our shores.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and my constituents in the coming weeks to secure a permanent drilling ban for the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. It will be a lasting message for future generations that we are not willing to sell the future of their economy or the future of their environment for short-term profits. It is a fight worth having, and it is one I believe we can win.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, soon we will have a chance to vote on the American Energy and Conservation Act, a bill that has been championed by our colleague from Louisiana—actually, both of them, Senators CASSIDY and VITTER—and they have done a terrific job of getting us to this point where we are voting on this important piece of legislation.

This bill is about as straightforward as it can get. It incentivizes American energy production through revenue sharing agreements with the Federal Government. This is important because States like mine—especially along the gulf coast—spend an awful lot of

money investing in infrastructure to support an industry that benefits not just our States, not just the region, but the entire country. It is time to balance these costs with reasonable revenue sharing agreements such as we have struck in the past. Given that these States produce a big portion of the oil and gas our entire Nation needs to keep the lights on, it is only right that these States should benefit from some modest revenue sharing. This legislation would make sure that is possible. So I hope our colleagues will support it when we vote on it shortly.

ENERGY POLICY

This legislation is a good example of the kind of energy policy that a new Congress can put forward next year and actually have the prospect of being signed into law under a new administration, under a new President.

One of the things I think I have observed about the Obama administration is that while the President claims to be “all of the above” in terms of his outlook on energy, he really isn’t. He is into picking winners and losers. One of the reasons many people in coal-producing regions in our country felt betrayed by his policies and by the President was reflected in the outcome of the vote. In West Virginia, for example, I think Mrs. Clinton got 27 percent of the vote in a State that previously had been predominantly a Democratic State. That is because many people felt as though their very livelihood had been taken from them as a result of the regulatory overreach and, frankly, what they call—and I think appropriately so—the War on Coal.

But, as I said, “all of the above” is actually the right policy; it is just that I don’t think President Obama ever really meant it.

A lot of folks try to paint with broad strokes about energy: Either you are on the side of the environment, climate change, or you are on the side of innovation and new technologies, or you are on the side of traditional oil and gas development.

I would dare say—and this may come as a surprise to some of my colleagues—that Texas actually produces more clean energy from wind than any other State in the Nation. I know we are known as an oil and gas State, and that is true, but we really do embrace an “all of the above” strategy. As a result, I think it has really helped our economy stay ahead of the national economy, even during tough economic times for the country. So we can have literally an “all of the above” policy, including one that works well for the environment. As a matter of fact, because of fracking and horizontal drilling and the ability to produce more natural gas in the United States, we have actually seen emissions into the environment come down dramatically because more people are opting for natural gas rather than other fuel sources. So this is, frankly, a win/win proposition.

We know that, as I said, Texas is known as leading the way in oil and

gas production, and this fact was underlined and emphasized just this last week when the U.S. Geological Survey announced that one shale formation in the Permian Basin near Midland-Odesa contained the largest estimate of continuous oil that they have ever surveyed in our country. This should give us a little bit of humility when it comes to making long-term predictions. I don’t know whether it was 10, maybe 15 years ago, there was some discussion about something called peak oil. In other words, the argument was that we had basically discovered all of the oil and gas there was to discover and there wasn’t any more out there. This just shows how time and time again people underestimate the initiative and the ingenuity of our entrepreneurs and the people who work hard, including our scientists, to create new technologies to help us move forward. That is why I am optimistic about our country as long as we don’t stand in the way of those innovators and those entrepreneurs.

In Texas we have learned that the best policies sometimes are just to get the government out of the way, off our back, out of our way, with its hand out of our pocket, and frankly, let the experts do their jobs with limited bureaucratic influence. That is something the whole country can benefit from, and I am hopeful that during this new administration under President-Elect Trump, working with Republican majorities in both Houses, we can begin to untangle the stranglehold the regulatory state has imposed on so much of our economy, whether it is in the banking industry—I see the chairman of the Banking Committee here, and he knows this hot topic well. The regulations put on our small businesses, on our energy producers—all of this has stunted the sort of normal economic rebound we would see following a recession like we had in 2008.

I am looking forward to getting a lot done to help free up our Nation’s economy and in particular by promoting our Nation’s energy resources. We used to think of natural resources as a tremendous benefit and a comparative advantage one nation has over another, but I have to tell my colleagues that we have squandered those natural advantages we have had in this country by not unleashing this sleeping giant of American energy.

It is not just important to our economy, it is important to our national security and the world order. As we all know, in Europe and elsewhere, people like Vladimir Putin use energy as a weapon. When people have a sole source of energy and it is from Russia and he can turn it off and on at his whim, that creates a lot of problems for them and, frankly, keeps them from asserting themselves in the world order. But by providing export capacity like we did with lifting the export ban on oil in December and, hopefully, doing the same thing with liquefied natural gas—something we have an

abundance of, cheap, liquefied natural gas—we can provide an alternative energy supply to countries in Europe and around the world.

So we need to seize this opportunity to reform the regulatory process. We need to address the renewable fuel standard, which is not working for anybody, and we need to build on the energy renaissance occurring in States such as North Dakota and Texas and States that take a pro-growth, pro-energy outlook.

I am proud of the energy-friendly environment in my State. The Texas example proves that we can take advantage of the natural resources that God blessed us with to help consumers, to help seniors, to help people on fixed incomes, and we can do this without damaging the environment. We can actually do it and improve the environment, as we have seen in the case of natural gas production and use taking the place of other forms of energy production, and a reduction in emissions occurring consistently as well.

So it is time we take this know-how to the rest of the country.

I want to make it clear that making our energy sector stronger is so essential because it benefits everyone. No. 1, it creates jobs. It creates benefits for families who are provided for by those jobs. It helps daily commuters out on the road with affordable energy. It also helps small businesses do what they can do to keep the lights on, not to mention the jobs, as I said a moment ago, created by a healthy energy industry.

With the election that occurred on November 8, with the Republicans in the majority in both Houses and now with President-Elect Trump coming into the White House, we can make real strides in energy innovation and production. It is really a historic opportunity, if we think about it. I look forward in the future to discussing even more ideas about how we can capitalize on our Nation’s energy resources for everyone’s benefit.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

HONORING JOHNNY MICHAEL SPANN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of an Alabama patriot and American hero, Johnny Michael Spann.

Nearly 15 years ago, on November 25, 2001, while fighting on behalf of our grateful Nation, Mike made the ultimate sacrifice to our country in northern Afghanistan. Mike Spann served as a U.S. Marine officer and then later with the CIA, when he became the first U.S. combat casualty in the War on Terror in Afghanistan.

As Americans we honored the sacrifices made by those who have served and defended our Nation on Veterans Day last week. Mike Spann is one of the heroic Americans who ran towards danger, putting his life on the line to fight for our freedom. Mike Spann was dedicated to combating the tyranny,

oppression, and terror that would be inflicted on the world by the Taliban and others who share their goals. He gave his life to a noble undertaking, and our Nation will be forever indebted to him and his family for his service.

It is my honor to offer my deep appreciation and gratitude to Mike Spann for his willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect the values and freedoms that we hold dear. His life exemplified honor and courage, and he will always be remembered for his great sacrifice.

As the Director of Central Intelligence said at Mike's funeral, "May God bless Mike Spann, an American of courage, and may God bless those who love and miss him, and all who carry on the noble work that he began."

We should not forget Mike Spann and others like him.

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.

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

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in strong support of S. 3110, the American Energy and Conservation Act. I would like to thank my colleague from Louisiana for introducing it, and I would also like to thank all of the Members who are cosponsoring it with us. I certainly thank Leader MCCONNELL for scheduling a vote on it this morning.

I would like to begin by providing a little bit of context for why this legislation is necessary before I move into specifics of what it contains.

For literally centuries in Alaska, we have relied upon balanced and environmentally responsible resource development. Whether it is fish, game, our mineral resources such as copper or gold, timber, our marine mammals, or oil that was used to waterproof ocean-going vessels, resources have been extracted or harvested relatively lightly for thousands of years but more intensively harvested and extracted over the last 100 years. This resource extraction has fed us, it has housed Alaskans, and it has allowed us to sustain a life in oftentimes a very harsh but, without question, an extraordinarily beautiful environment.

In the last few years, resource extraction has become strategically and economically important to the livelihoods of all Americans. We have carefully regulated our resource extraction and protected our environment, and today millions of tourists from all over the world come to Alaska to view nature and look at the amazing landscapes that are hard to find anywhere else in the world.

Some might say that it is a contradiction to have resource extraction on the level that we have in Alaska—

providing oil resources, mineral resources—and still have this amazing place that people from around the world want to see. Our State has truly managed to balance accessing our resources while still maintaining the environment and the natural beauty that makes us who we are.

I think many here are aware that Alaska is this amazing place, but what I am about to say should not surprise or amaze people. A majority of the residents living in Alaska's Arctic, a majority of the tribal governments, a majority of Alaska's Native corporations representing Alaska's Natives who live in the Arctic, a majority of residents statewide, a supermajority of our State legislature, our Governor, and every Member of the Alaska congressional delegation wholeheartedly support oil and gas development in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

I know that the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the team that is responsible for developing a leasing program for Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf have all heard this support because, believe me, we have made sure that they have. So I am hoping that the news reports I have just heard—as I walked onto the Senate floor—from a reporter about rumors that the administration intends to put off-limits the Beaufort and Chukchi in this upcoming 5-year OCS lease plan. I hope the news reports are wrong. I hope they are nothing more than a rumor. I hope the administration will see reason and that it will allow new lease sales to proceed in the Arctic as is clearly the desire of the vast majority of Alaskans.

This is not the only step that this administration should take. When responsible resource production does begin in the Alaska OCS, the 96-year-old Federal policy of sharing resource revenues with the States hosting this development must also apply.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 established this policy for Federal onshore revenue sharing at a time when there was very little offshore production occurring in our country. That policy has not forced resource development on States that are not interested, but instead it recognizes that the development requires infrastructure that counties and State governments pay for.

Congress realized in 1920 that we need to share the revenues from resource development to help local and State governments with the impacts of these activities. This policy has nationwide benefits from the east to the west, from the north to the south. Just in the past 10 years, residents of Michigan have received \$5.7 million of shared Federal revenues. Missouri residents have received \$30.6 million. Residents of Nevada have received \$108.6 million. I have full confidence that these States and counties put those dollars to tremendous productive use and certainly do not have any interest in parting with them.

What we are considering today with the legislation that we will vote on shortly is an effort to expand Federal revenue sharing to offshore areas. It is time to do just that. This is a matter of simple fairness. At its core, it is a matter of simple fairness. Offshore production should be no different than onshore production. No other State will bear the burden of development like we will. Most will only see the end result of it. They will see the benefits that come from it—the benefits that come with affordable fuel coming out of the pump at their local gas station, for instance. But those who host the development will bear the burden of development, and in Alaska we are willing to bear that burden.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to apply only to States where responsible OCS development is supported. That is important to reinforce. We are not pushing this on those who do not want development. The legislation applies only to States where responsible OCS development will support it. So if a Senator is not interested in this development, we have respected their views and left their State out of this legislation. This is only about revenue sharing. Our bill will not open any new offshore areas to energy development. So those that would suggest that this is a Pandora's box, well that is clearly not the case. We are talking about the revenue sharing that will come to those who support the development offshore. It will not force any State to develop its resources if that State does not want to do it. Florida is a good example. Florida would see no different treatment after the passage of this bill.

What the American Energy and Conservation Act will do is to make our policies equitable so that the States that bear the burden of development are finally allowed to share in the government's rewards. This is true for both conventional energy such as oil and gas as well as the renewables that many Members of this Chamber claim to support.

In addition to allowing offshore revenue sharing for Alaska and the Middle Atlantic States, we have also incorporated a number of priorities that this Senator believes the Senate would do well to approve.

Some of these priorities are pretty important to us. We have a small funding stream to increase sportsmen's access to Federal areas for hunting, fishing, and similar activities. We have included additional funding streams for energy research and to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog at the National Park Service. This is something so many of us have talked about—how to achieve the funding necessary to reduce the backlog at the National Park Service. This will help them. It also provides a funding stream for TIGER grants at the Department of Transportation.

We fund a tribal resilience program. This is very important to us in my

State of Alaska, to ensure that our Native communities have the ability to adapt to a changing climate and to invest in critical infrastructure. If coastal erosion is impacting this, whether it is the water infrastructure in a place like Barrow, whether it is the need for an emergency evacuation route for a community such as Shismaref or Kivalina or relocation, this can help to facilitate this with our Tribal Climate Resilience Program.

We have also dedicated revenues to the PILT program, which has become a chronic funding challenge. If you vote for this bill, what you are voting for is a more rational energy policy for our country. You are also voting for sportsmen's rights, for renewable energy, for the health of our national parks, for better infrastructure, and for our native communities and their ability to be more resilient and adaptable.

On the other hand, if you vote against this bill, you are not voting to halt or even limit offshore development. What you are doing is voting to continue an unfair practice toward the coastal producing States, and you are also voting against the priorities of thousands of your constituents. Those of us who have assembled this bill have respected those who do not want development off their shores. Now we would ask those Members to respect those of us who do support development for our States. We ask you to support this legislation.

I see my colleague from Alaska. I think it is fair to say that not only is our Congressional delegation very unified on this, but the support from our State and an understanding as to why revenue sharing for Alaska and other coastal States that seek this development is critically important. I appreciate all of the good work he has done on this issue to help it advance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I commend my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI, who occupies certainly one of the most important positions in the country with regard to energy as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for her leadership on this bill and so many other bills. I am proud to be a cosponsor, with a number of other Senators, of the American Energy and Conservation Act, which will be taken up here in a few minutes.

I echo what Senator MURKOWSKI said about this bill. It is a commonsense bill. We already have revenue sharing for onshore oil and gas production, so it only makes sense—really it is only fair, as she noted very articulately—that the States closest to the impacts of OCS drilling also receive their fair share of revenues from resource extraction off their coast.

Again, as Senator MURKOWSKI mentioned, this is not going to open up development where States don't want it. It is just providing a fair share to the

communities that bear some of the impact of development in the States that do want it, like my State. That is what this is about.

I am hoping all of my colleagues will vote favorably for this very important bill. Senator MURKOWSKI also talked about how this bill does not open new areas. At the same time we certainly should not be shutting down areas that exist right now for responsible resource development in this country.

In addition to focusing on this bill, which I certainly hope we pass soon, we also—I just want to mention we are hearing indications that despite the fact that our country needs more energy and more jobs to grow the economy, the President might move to close the OCS development off the coast of my State to further oil and gas exploration and production before he leaves office. This would not only unilaterally harm Alaska's economy and kill thousands of good jobs, but it also fundamentally misunderstands what is going on in the country right now. It fundamentally misunderstands the enormous opportunity of energy for America.

For 8 years we watched the Obama administration delay, disrupt, and block energy development for America, certainly for Alaska but also for the whole country. It shows an incredible lack of understanding of what a great opportunity this is. Let me give some examples: making sure that we have our own energy, that we produce our energy, that we can be energy independent, that we can create jobs. These are great jobs, by the way, for our country.

Also, something that is never really acknowledged is that in Alaska and other places in the United States we have the highest standards on the environment, the highest standards of developing our natural resources offered anywhere in the world. So when the Obama administration has been delaying projects year after year—tiny cuts—Shell had to spend 7 years and \$7 billion to get permission from the Obama administration to drill one exploration well in 100 feet of water. Eventually they just said: We give up. We are leaving. What does that do to the country? It harms our energy independence. It kills jobs.

But here is something else it does. It doesn't help the environment as some claim, as the Obama administration claims. What it does is take capital to develop energy resources from America, from Alaska, the places that have the highest standards on earth, and it shifts that capital to places like Russia or Azerbaijan or Kazakhstan or Brazil. Remember when the President said: Yeah, we should drill off the coast of Brazil in thousands of feet of water. He was supportive of that, but he is not supportive of drilling off the coast of his own country. It moves the capital to these places that do not have high standards on the environment. So, overall, the global environment is neg-

atively impacted by these policies. Developing energy in America is a win-win-win for everybody, including the environment.

I certainly hope my colleagues will vote in favor of this bill that we are going to vote on in a few minutes. I certainly would urge the Obama administration not to make the short-sighted decision to kill more jobs and energy production in my State by locking up the Arctic OCS before they leave.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this Senator, who has a great stake in this legislation, is certainly not opposed to drilling off the shore, unless it happens to threaten the interests of the United States. In many places on the Atlantic coast and certainly the gulf coast, such as the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida, it is the largest testing and training area for the U.S. military in the world. Two Republican Secretaries of Defense have said: You cannot have drilling activity off the coast where this restricted military area is.

You looked at a map of what the military has suggested off of Virginia. It is the same thing. It is no oil and gas activity at all, and then no permanent oil and gas activity in a remaining portion off the State of Virginia.

In the State of Florida, of course, we have all the other considerations, the economic ones, a \$50-billion-a-year tourism industry that depends on our beaches being clean.

This Senator certainly does not have an objection to oil drilling off of the coast of Louisiana. The last time I checked, they did not have a lot of beaches. But that is what this bill does. It gives the incentives for States because they get additional Federal revenue. By the way, CBO says that is \$7 billion over a 10-year period that would otherwise go to the Federal Treasury that would go to the States. It gives them that incentive to have drilling off their coasts.

For those reasons alone, I would suggest that the right vote is to vote no on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the bill before us would incentivize offshore drilling for vast swaths of the Atlantic coast, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, putting one of our most precious natural resources and drivers of economic growth at risk in order to enrich a few big oil companies. The two Democratic leads on the relevant committees—we have just heard from one, Senator NELSON, and we will hear from another, Senator CANTWELL—are very knowledgeable about the risks to coastline communities posed by offshore drilling. They are opposed to this legislation. I agree with them.

It should be readily apparent to everyone in this Chamber why this bill is

a bad idea. Fishing and tourism on the Atlantic coasts accounts for tens of billions of dollars in annual revenue. In my home State of New York, commercial fishing accounts for tens of millions of dollars of revenue.

From the pristine beaches of Florida, from Daytona to the Outer Banks, to Virginia Beach, the Atlantic Seaboard is home to some of our most visited and beloved vacation spots. A drastic increase in offshore drilling, as this bill intends, comes with drastic risks, risks that are not imagined or even hypothetical any longer. We know that after *Deepwater Horizon* and other disasters.

When it comes to protecting our unique and nearby Atlantic Ocean habitats, we must guard against policies that can best be summed as “spill baby, spill.” It is a risk we don’t need to take. Domestic energy production has grown significantly over the past 8 years. Our dependence on foreign oil is at a 40-year low. I would also call into question the revenue sharing proposals of the bill. Over the long term, it would direct \$7 billion—billion, that is, not million—away from the Federal Treasury. States would see some of that money, but the real winners would be the big oil companies for which the market would be tilted even more in their favor.

I think it is telling that one of the first bills the Republican majority puts on the floor is a boon to special interests. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the bill.

I ask unanimous consent that our leader on our Energy Committee, the Senator from Washington, be given the time she needs, even if it delays the vote for a couple of minutes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have already spoken on this issue, but maybe to give a little bit more of a historical context.

I know my colleagues from a variety of States throughout the United States have presented a different viewpoint and have a viewpoint because of their own economic interests in their State, but the larger question here is what is in the economic interests of the United States? All of the land submerged between the territory and seas beyond our shores and the oil and gas resources they contain belong to the Nation as a whole and to the people of the United States. More than 60 years ago, a few of these coastal States tried to claim the submerged lands and their resources, but the Supreme Court rejected that, rejected the coastal States’ claims, and held that submerged lands and their resources did belong to the Nation—the whole Nation. Their response was: “National interests, national responsibilities, national concerns are involved.”

In spite of the Supreme Court’s decision, Congress voted to give away the submerged lands beneath our territories and seas to the adjacent States in 1953. That Submerged Lands Act was dubbed the “Oil Give-Away Law” by its opponents. The law gave the coastal States the submerged lands to a distance of 3 nautical miles from the coast land.

For these historical reasons, Florida, Texas, and others were included. But in the “Oil Give-Away Law,” they also gave coastal States the right to develop oil and natural gas resources beneath the submerged lands and retain all of the royalties for themselves; thus, this big discussion about whether we are going to give Federal resources away to these States and put a hole in our Federal deficit to the tune of \$7 billion. In giving away to the coastal States the first 3 nautical miles of the Continental Shelf, Congress made it clear at that time that it was retaining for the Nation as a whole the Outer Continental Shelf. So the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, enacted just 3 months after the lease giveaway, gave the Federal Government exclusive ownership and control over the minerals and wealth of the Outer Continental Shelf.

We are here because States not satisfied with the generous gifts—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—persuaded Congress to give them even more revenue in 2006—37.5 percent of the Federal Government royalties. Again, some of my colleagues may have supported this—but also added to our Federal deficit and blew a big hole into what were Federal revenues at that time.

Senator CASSIDY’s bill would compound this huge loss to the Federal Treasury. It begins by raising the \$500 million annual cap on the payment of Federal royalties to the Gulf States from \$500 million to \$835 million from 2027 through 2036 and then, in addition, \$705 million from 2037 to 2055.

But this bill doesn’t stop just there, it extends the payment of royalties to five more coastal States—Alaska, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia—and gives 37.5 percent of the Federal revenues from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to the coast of Alaska, and it gives 37.5 percent of Federal revenue from the Outer Continental Shelf to the Atlantic coast: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I get that my colleagues would like this money grab out of the Federal Treasury. I am sure many of our colleagues would write Federal legislation that would also give their States revenue. But all of these amounts, in addition to the State royalties by the coastal States for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, are in contrast, I believe, to our national interest.

This may be a great deal for the nine States and the Senators who represent

them, but it is a terrible deal for the Nation as a whole and the other 41 States that will not have the revenue. What will they do about the raid to the Federal budget of over \$7 billion that will be absent from the Federal Treasury? Are my colleagues going to raise taxes on the other side to supplant that revenue, that \$7 billion loss? Again, those revenues belong to the Nation as a whole, to our citizens, not just the nine coastal States.

President Truman said when he voted on an earlier version of the oil giveaway bill:

The vast quantities of oil and gas in the submerged ocean lands belong to the people of all States. They represent a priceless national heritage. This national wealth, like other lands owned by the United States, is held in trust for every citizen of the United States. It should be used for the welfare and security of the Nation as a whole.

I ask my colleagues, please do not blow a \$7 billion hole in the Federal Treasury and give it to a few States, when these lands and resources belong to all of us. If we want to help our coastal States in some other economic way or some way, let’s discuss that, but blowing a hole of \$7 billion in the Federal budget and then trying to make it up later on the backs of the rest of our constituents is an unfair deal for the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this proposition.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Daniel Coats, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, John McCain, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Capito	Hatch	Risch
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rounds
Cochran	Hoeven	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	Manchin	Toomey
Ernst	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—47

Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Collins	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Indiana.

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

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

BRINGING AMERICA TOGETHER

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, the United States of America has a number of defining characteristics: our diversity, our commitment to free enterprise, our ingenuity, and our creativity. American ingenuity has given us phones, automobiles, airplanes, and the Internet. Our creativity has made us the world's biggest exporter of culture, movies, television, and music ranging from Motown to Nashville and beyond.

While these characteristics are central to who we are as a nation, I believe it is our democratic system of republican government that truly defines

who we are. The American experiment began with the casting off of the British monarchy as American patriots spilled blood for the right to control their own destiny.

I am proud to be standing here today as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and one of my ancestors served with General George Washington at Valley Forge.

Our ancestors learned firsthand that freedom is not free, and it is not easy. If you survey the systems of government in place across the planet since the advent of democracy in Greece over 2,500 years ago, it is clear that democracy is the exception and not the rule.

We live in a world that in 2016 has theocracies, monarchies, and autocracies. The creation of a democracy can require revolution, but its preservation requires constant commitment and sacrifice. We must hold onto this commitment if we want to keep our democracy healthy. We have worked toward the more perfect union envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution. We have abolished slavery and expanded the franchise to make sure that Americans can vote and have an equal say in our future.

We have also welcomed new generations of Americans from every corner of the globe. Just as I am proud to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, I am also proud to be the son of an immigrant. My father served in World War II and met my mother in France. She immigrated to the United States, started a family with my father, and found opportunity working as a nurse's aide and an SEIU union steward.

My parents are part of the greatest generation—a generation of Americans who defeated Nazism in Europe, struggled to advance equality here at home during the Civil Rights Movement, and saw women move from home to the factory floor, to the company board room. Our memories can be short as we can become consumed in recent turmoil, but we cannot forget the challenges and successes of the past. We are fortunate to still have living veterans who liberated German concentration camps. Millions of Americans still remember the horrors of Jim Crow laws.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We have made progress in fits and starts, and we have done so, in significant part, due to our constitutional democracy. Every democracy is different, and our country continues to evolve, but successful democracies share two common traits: One, they have fair, vigorous, and participatory elections where citizens passionately support candidates of their choosing, and, two, when the election is over, all parties accept the outcome and facilitate a peaceful, orderly transition of power.

As long as these traits persist, we will remain a successful democracy. While I am deeply disappointed by the outcome of last week's Presidential

election, I accept it, and so do President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

I hope Americans of all political stripes can acknowledge President Obama's commitment to put President-Elect Trump in a position where he can begin working for the good of the country. I also hope that all Americans are able to appreciate Secretary Clinton's strength and resolve since the election and her acceptance of the electoral college result, once again showing that a person who receives the most votes does not necessarily win, even though she received well over 1 million more votes than President-Elect Trump nationally.

The weeks after elections generally are a time for healing. While President Obama and Secretary Clinton have done their part, we remain a very polarized country. This has been a particularly contentious, abnormal election. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

During a campaign season, we need to engage in vigorous debates about the future of our country and vigorously advocate for our preferred candidates. But when it is all said and done, and the election is over, we must come together as a country and do what is right for America. We must seek a common good, especially at a time when the country is nearly equally divided. We need to think about the dreams that unite us and not the nightmares that could tear us apart.

Michiganders from across the ideological spectrum want the same things: a job that pays a fair wage, the chance to send their children to good schools and live in safe neighborhoods, affordable, quality health care, and, after they have worked their whole life, the ability to retire with dignity. While our economy continues to grow and create jobs, too many families find themselves unable to get ahead. We need to take a step back and ask some serious questions about whether our policies are helping everyone. Are American trade deals working? Are we doing enough to support American manufacturing?

While he tapped into some of these legitimate concerns over the past 2 years, it is no secret that President-Elect Trump, unfortunately, ran a divisive campaign that stoked deep-seated fears and anxieties in many Americans. Much of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign far exceeded the acceptable norms of political discourse.

We cannot have a mainstream political dialogue that demeans women and disabled Americans or that advocates for conversion therapy for LGBT Americans. It is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never, ever be normal. We can never accept or normalize hatred. Trafficking in racism, misogyny, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never be normal.

What is now happening with the appointment of a White House Chief

Strategist with ties to the White nationalist movement is dangerous, it is unacceptable, it is certainly not normal, and it must never be normal. I am deeply alarmed that President-Elect Trump has appointed Mr. Bannon to such an important position, and I urge him to reconsider this decision.

I am proud that Michigan is a diverse State. I have heard from over 1,000 Michiganders about Mr. Bannon's appointment. Yes, some are angry, but more are scared—scared that the America that had welcomed them and welcomed my mother is at risk of disappearing. I have heard from mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, African Americans, and Latino Americans. They are asking what their place will be in President Trump's America as our American experiment enters into an unprecedented new era.

As our Nation continues to move forward, I would urge President-Elect Trump to look back and consult the namesake of the city in which he will soon be living—President George Washington. In a letter written in 1790 to the Newport Hebrew congregation, at the time the largest community of Jewish families in America, President Washington succinctly addressed their fears of religious oppression, and he wrote: "The government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens."

He added that "every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

President-Elect Trump won, and the people are afraid. It is now his job to bring our Nation together. It is his job to give bigotry no sanction and persecution no assistance. The appointment of Mr. Bannon is clearly a large step in the wrong direction. If this is indicative of how the President-elect is going to run his administration, he can expect me and my fellow Democratic colleagues to fight him every step of the way. On the other hand, if the President-elect is prepared to be a "President for all Americans" and to "bind the wounds of division," as he pledged in his victory speech just last week, I certainly hope that we can find common ground.

Whether it is making trade policy work for American manufacturers, supporting small businesses, bolstering cyber security, establishing meaningful paid and parental leave policies, or investing in infrastructure, if the President-elect is ready to roll up his sleeves and do what is right by American workers and American families, I will work with him.

We don't have Democratic bridges or Republican roads; we don't have Democratic ports and Republican railroad tracks. They are truly non-partisan. Improving our country's infrastructure is something we can come

together on and show Americans we are ready to do the people's work.

Democracy is a wonderful thing, but history shows us that it can also be fragile. We must preserve our democratic institutions and show the people of America that these institutions and their elected officials are working for all Americans. I intend to spend the next 4 years working for what is right for our country and what is right for Michigan, and I hope our President-elect joins me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

DEVASTATION FROM HURRICANE MATTHEW

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I come to the Chamber to talk about a devastating event we have experienced in North Carolina. Last month, Hurricane Matthew skirted along the Atlantic coast, and then it plowed right through North Carolina with devastating results. Matthew is the worst storm we have experienced in almost 20 years, and it is already responsible for taking some 28 lives.

Millions of people in North Carolina and across the country watched as the storm made landfall, but after a few days, many of them turned their attention back to their daily lives. I don't fault them for doing this because unless you are there and see it firsthand, it is easy to think it was just a lot of rain and a storm that came and went, but it is far worse than that. Thousands of adults and children will take years to recover from the devastation that they have experienced over the last month.

The first opportunity I had to survey the damage was just 2 days after the hurricane made landfall. I traveled across the State in a helicopter with the commissioner of agriculture, and what I saw was remarkable. In fact, it was after the rain had occurred but before the floods began almost a week later.

The next week I spent time with many of my staff working as volunteers down in one of the areas that was hit hard by the flood. We worked with the American Red Cross, the Baptist Men, and the Salvation Army, which were trying to prepare food and provide shelter for so many people who were displaced.

I was back in the area last weekend, and I had an opportunity to witness firsthand the farm damage and the damage to one of our major areas outside of Fort Bragg, an urban area that

was hit very hard. Over the course of the last 3 weeks, I have literally seen long stretches of interstate highways under water. I have seen major roads completely washed out. I have seen entire communities under water and a couple of towns that have been washed away. Some of them were washed away just 20 years ago.

I have seen farms that were under water for a period of time, and now their crops are rotting in the field. In other cases, farmers who had harvested their crops and prepared their land for the next planting season now have sand and debris on their fields.

I have heard heartbreaking stories from victims, rescue workers, and volunteers. I will share some of those stories. I also heard heartwarming stories about the responsiveness of our local, State, and Federal agencies and the kindness of neighbors and volunteers.

I wish to thank the State and local officials, FEMA, and the first responders, who are doing an excellent job under some of the most difficult circumstances.

The death and destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew is really impossible to comprehend. The 28 lives we lost are a cross section of the State. They are parents and grandparents, sons and daughters, leaders of our community and young people who had their entire lives ahead of them. One of the victims was Charles Ivey. He was a resident of Lumberton, one of the areas that was hardest hit. He was a pillar of his community. Charles served as a deacon and Sunday school director at West Lumberton Baptist Church. He was an active member of the Lumberton Lions Club, Jaycees, Robeson County Fair Board, and West Lumberton Community Watch. He was the loving father of two daughters, had four grandchildren, and leaves behind his wife Wanda.

Another victim who perished as a result of the storms was Isabelle Ralls of Godwin. She was a resilient woman who survived cancer, triple-bypass surgery, and kidney failure. She devoted her life to others, spending years as a caregiver for the Peace Corps. She was a Sunday school teacher and the church historian at Spring Hills Baptist Church. Her family and friends will always remember her as a phenomenal woman and role model who had an inspiring faith in God.

These are just a couple of stories about the victims of Hurricane Matthew. They were all people I could probably tell stories about. They were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and loving friends—28 precious lives lost in total. I hope the family and friends of the victims know that millions of North Carolinians and people across the Nation are praying for them and their recovery.

Although the loss of life alone was devastating, it is really not the total story. In fact, it will take years to recover. Hurricane Matthew was a massive storm. To give you an idea, it is what is referred to as a 1,000-year flood

event. In other words, for this area, statistically speaking, it will be another 1,000 years before they see the amount of water dumped in the same period of time. It was a 500-year flood event for a massive part of Eastern North Carolina. Thousands of people were forced out of their homes and relocated to shelters. Many are still in temporary housing and thousands of the homes are not habitable. The storm flooded areas that were well outside of the 100-year floodplain. So many of them didn't have flood insurance.

Last week I visited one of those communities. It was a Habitat for Humanity community that had some 90 homes built over the last 15 to 16 years. Sixty of those homes are under water. Those 60 homes are not habitable, and as a result, 60 families are displaced.

The pain is, as I said before, hard to imagine. It is immeasurable. To give you an idea, we have reports of several victims, and I have summarized a few of them. Another victim is Ann Johnson from Lenoir County, another county that was hard hit. She was one of the many people who were displaced and had to live in a shelter. As she was waiting in the shelter, she told a reporter:

I just feel kind of lost right now, loss for words. You kind of feel like you don't have anything and you're just starting all over again.

Another victim, Perry Harris of Johnston County, south of Raleigh, sustained more than \$1 million in damage to a small business that four of his children worked at and had for some 15 years. He said:

It is very emotional. I've been trying to do the best I can. I have four kids that work for me. It has been very hard on my family. We just don't know what tomorrow brings.

Another victim, Charlie Mitchell, who is a farmer in Wayne County, lost the home he lived in for 49 years. He has a 2,000-acre farm that was submerged under water. He said: "I've been in floods or around floods all my life, but I've never seen anything like this."

Hurricane Matthew has been especially difficult for children as well. In fact, the teachers and school counselors in Cumberland County asked the students to write down their experience to kind of help them begin to cope and recover from the traumatic experience. There was one sixth grade student who wrote:

I heard a loud crack followed by three loud thuds. When my family got out of bed, I saw three big trees, and one destroyed the kitchen. Not even five minutes after we left, the ceiling collapsed in all rooms except for the bathroom and my mom's room.

Matthew has been a life-changing event for many North Carolinians. Relatives and friends who lost a loved one, families who lost their homes, small businesses and owners who can no longer find a place to work and employ others, farmers who have watched their once-fertile land become unproductive due to the flooding.

I share these stories because North Carolina will need help, just like West Virginia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Those States have also has been damaged in this storm season or in the flood season. Many people lost their lives, and those States need help. North Carolina needs help.

My team is working with Senator BURR and my House colleagues to really try and quantify the damage. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working to make sure we work with our colleagues in other States to make sure they get the assistance they desperately need before we leave at the end of the year.

More than anything else, I want to make sure the victims of this storm know they have people working for them, and we are going to make sure this great body and this Nation comes to their aid in their time of crisis.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

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

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, after a long district work period and a national election, I am returning to the Senate floor to resume my weekly "Waste of the Week" speeches.

The Presiding Officer and my colleagues have watched me come to the floor 53 times in the 114th Congress to talk about documented waste, fraud, and abuse, and the expenditure of funds—of taxpayer dollars—on things that produce no positive effect.

Regardless of which party is controlling any branch of government—and we have had a significant change here in just the last couple of weeks—it is imperative that our focus remains on governing for the benefit of the American people, and this includes, from my perspective, rooting out any kind of waste, fraud, and abuse found within the Federal Government.

Taxpayers should demand an effective and efficient government that spends their money on the behalf and the future of this country and on behalf of the future of our constituents. When they read about waste, fraud, and abuse, it is perfectly natural that they would call on us to address the problem, which has been paying a dime more than is necessary to run the Federal Government, and to pull us out of this ever-spiraling deficit spending and deep entrance into debt which may not be able to be repaid.

That is why I am taking a look at yet another waste of the week, and this one is called identity theft tax refund fraud which, over the past 2 years, has accounted for \$23 billion in stolen tax-

payer money; that is right, \$23 billion of stolen taxpayer money.

How does this happen? Well, the theft occurs when criminals gain access to someone else's personal information, like their name and Social Security number, in order to essentially steal the tax refund that might be owed to them for the tax returns that have been interrupted and sent before the victim's tax return has actually been filed. Often criminals file someone else's tax return before the victim does so the IRS ends up sending tax refund money to criminals instead of the workers who earned the money. When such abuses happen, not only is the IRS unknowingly paying criminals, but the real tax refunds are denied or seriously delayed to the millions of hard-working Americans who are counting on those refunds.

So for families who struggle to make ends meet, annual tax refunds are often seen as a lifeline, but when those families have their tax returns stolen, it can take up to a year or more to rectify this mess.

Sadly, many of these criminals prey on senior citizens and low-income individuals because they know they are more likely to receive a tax refund and less likely to pursue the lengthy and often complicated process of getting the tax return that is due them.

Some hacks have even targeted children under the age of 14, often because parents don't think it is necessary to monitor their children's credit. Unfortunately, this makes children easy targets.

Within the past decade, identity theft-related tax fraud has exploded. In fact, from 2011 to 2014, the Government Accountability Office and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, TIGTA, estimates that the IRS paid out \$23 billion in tax refunds to identity thieves instead of the taxpayer who was due the money. Let that sink in—\$23 billion paid out by the Federal Government to criminals in just a 4-year period of time, and that is just the fraud the IRS has discovered. We don't know the number of returns that have not been identified or discovered over that period of time. This is the year 2016, and this is an ever-increasing amount of money in fraud that is occurring.

The continued success of those who are able to hack in and get Social Security numbers of individuals and use that to steal their tax returns is drawing ever more criminal activity. These criminals are getting more sophisticated, making it much harder for the IRS to track down and next to impossible for the government to recover those funds.

There is no silver bullet for addressing identity tax fraud. The IRS has detected and prevented numerous attempts of ID theft-related tax fraud. However, there is more that can and should be done.

First, the IRS data security system needs to be updated to comply with the

Federal Government's own security standards. According to TIGTA, three different Federal agencies have data security requirements for the Federal Government, and the IRS data system doesn't fully comply with any of them. This could be fixed. It should be fixed immediately.

Coordinating between agencies is something I have been talking about over and over again. The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. Social Security disability doesn't know about Social Security retirement payments and the unemployment insurance disability being paid. There is a lack of communication between agencies within the Federal Government.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, testified at the Senate Finance Committee in April that there are nearly 100 recommendations that the GAO has made to the IRS to improve their data security. So the government agency charged with looking at how efficient or inefficient an agency is has the opportunity to make recommendations to that agency, and hopefully they will be complied with, but because of our lack of oversight in the U.S. Congress, we are not following up with enough pressure on those agencies to actually employ those recommendations. As a consequence, we are standing down here on the floor talking about this waste that goes on and on. Yet we don't go after the agencies to get those recommendations in place.

We learned that GAO's 100 recommendations have not been fully implemented, and worse, more than half of these recommendations are over 1 year old.

Imagine how the American people would react if a private company had so many persistent holes in its data system that it wrongfully paid criminals \$23 billion of their money.

Another way to prevent fraud suggested by the IRS watchdogs is to first receive the W-2 forms before issuing refunds. Here is what happens: employers issue the W-2s showing how much you earn and we attach those to our tax returns. The problem is, the tax returns that go to the government and the returns that come in from the taxpayer are not coordinated, and so there is a gap that potentially exists. The 2017 tax-filing season will be the first year this accelerated system is implemented to address this particular issue because the legislation that was passed in 2015, which I supported, has accelerated the issuance of W-2s from the IRS so the IRS can verify the validity of the return.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate as long as I am here to keep the pressure on the IRS to ensure it meets Federal data security requirements and fulfills the other unimplemented security recommendations.

So adding to our chart, which we thought when we started we might be

able to reach \$100 billion—we weren't sure—but it just keeps coming in. It just keeps pouring in, record after record, examination after examination, by certified nonpartisan government organizations. We added \$23 billion more to the waste of the week thermometer, reaching now well over \$350 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse.

To those who say there are no more cuts we can make in spending to reduce the deficit and the ever-increasing Federal debt or to those who say we need to find ways to address critical needs such as funds to address the spread of the Zika virus or money for cancer research or money to help strengthen our military during this time of conflict and threat to our homeland, I say to them: Let's at least start with what we know are tax dollars that are lost to waste, fraud, and abuse. We owe that to the taxpayers and to future generations. We owe that to our children and grandchildren who will be saddled with this debt. We owe that to our Nation to run an effective, efficient government to retain the trust of the American people that the tax dollars they sent to Washington are wisely spent for necessary purposes that only the Federal Government can accomplish.

We have a duty. We have a duty that rises above politics. We have a duty to make every effort we can to make government efficient and effective on behalf of the taxpayer.

So I am calling on my colleagues to say, yes, we need to look at the long-term impact in our midst. It is critical. It can have negative implications for the future of America. Until we get to that point—and we have made several attempts to do that under this administration, and each one was shut down before it hit the White House or was rejected by the White House—can't we at least look at the \$350 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse that is documented? Can't we at least start there? That is what I am calling on my colleagues to do. We don't have many weeks left in this session, but you can count on me being here each week that we have left, talking yet again about yet another instance of waste, fraud, and abuse.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Arizona.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, here we go again. For the eighth consecutive year, Congress has failed to pass an appropriations bill for the Department of Defense on time, leaving our troops operating on a so-called "continuing resolution."

Now, fresh off an election where the American people were clear that they are fed up with business as usual, that is exactly what we are about to get if Congress adopts another continuing resolution that would cut resources to our troops, hamper the war against ISIL, and delay the cutting-edge equipment and reforms they need.

A continuing resolution would also make the job of managing the government's largest agency even more difficult—and at the worst possible time.

The Presidential transition process currently underway is difficult enough on its own, but no incoming President has ever had to inherit a Department of Defense operating under a continuing resolution—no incoming President—but this is not the time for us to break that streak.

As the name suggests, a continuing resolution is supposed to continue funding the government in situations where the Congress fails to pass a regular appropriations bill. So what is the big deal about continuing last year's funding levels?

Our Nation asks a lot of the men and women serving in uniform. We are asking them to defend our Nation and our interests in real time against rapidly changing threats and adaptive adversaries, but a continuing resolution would lock our military into last year's budgets and last year's priorities. Does anybody believe this year isn't greatly dissimilar from last year on the battlefield?

A continuing resolution would place our troops at greater risk by forcing them to operate under an outdated budget that does not recognize the full extent of the threats they face. Worse still, a continuing resolution doesn't quite live up to its name. A continuing resolution would actually cut funds for our troops. The continuing resolution passed by Congress in September to keep funding through the end of this year cut the military's budget by \$9 billion at annualized levels. Under a potential yearlong continuing resolution, our military would be short \$12 billion.

The incoming and elected President of the United States stated time after time that we needed to spend more money on defense; we are not taking care of the defense needs of this Nation; we are not taking care of the equipment, training, and benefits of men and women who are serving in the military; that we have the smallest Army that we have had since World War II; that we have the smallest Air Force that we have had since the end of the Korean war; that we have the smallest Navy since the end of World War I.

So what are we going to do? What are we going to do in response to all that? As the conditions around the world become more chaotic, we are going to cut defense spending by \$12 billion. Not only would a continuing resolution cut resources, it would leave them with the wrong mix of funding among accounts.

That means the wrong kinds of money is being spent on the wrong programs because we are continuing what we did last year.

Under a continuing resolution, our military would experience shortfalls in some very important areas. Training for our National Guard and Reserve troops would be at risk of falling off-track. As Vladimir Putin's Russia continues to menace our NATO allies, our military would not be able to carry out the expansion of the European Reassurance Initiative, which is essential to deterring Russian aggression in Eastern Europe.

Might I add an aside, it didn't seem to get much notice that a Russian aircraft carrier, launching aircraft with airstrikes into Aleppo—my friends, that is the first time in history that Russia, generally regarded as a land power, now has sufficient ships and aircraft capability to launch attacks into Aleppo, Homs, and other parts of Syria. Guess what they are doing. They are slaughtering innocent men, women, and children. They are killing the very people whom we have armed, trained, equipped, and sent into battle. It is atrocious.

A continuing resolution would put our groups at greater risk in Afghanistan and in the fight against ISIL. The President has requested a \$5.8 billion emergency supplemental to cover the costs of additional troops deployed to Afghanistan and expanded operations against ISIL in Iraq and Syria, but a continuing resolution would not include any of these necessary funds which would fill a shortfall that is looming in January.

Put simply, this cockamamie idea, this abrogation of our responsibilities called a continuing resolution would shortchange American troops who are putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

Meanwhile, the Department of Defense could have an excess of as much as \$6 billion in money under a yearlong continuing resolution. However, those funds would be unusable because of restrictions on new procurement, on buying new weapons systems, and other requirements. There are restrictions on that and there is not authorization for increases in production rates.

For example, we are firing off a lot of missiles. We need to replace those missiles. We need to replace the aircraft that are wearing out. We need new parts for them. None of that is possible under what is now being contemplated.

Under a continuing resolution of any duration, our military would have to delay 78 new starts, 89 production increases which would affect critical programs. That includes the Ohio-class submarine replacement program, the KC-46 tanker, the Apache, the helicopters—the Black Hawk helicopters.

A continuing resolution would also delay major research and development initiatives. In short, what we are contemplating—cutting funds for our troops—inhibits their ability to serve

the Nation, and they are putting the men and women who are serving in the military at greater risk.

Why? Why? Because we refuse to act. We who represent them, we who are supposed to be standing for them. We are not going to pass a new appropriations bill. We are just going to kick the can down the road for another 3 months or more. In other words, some may ask: If this continuing resolution delays some programs, can't we just make it up later? For some programs, perhaps, but there is one area where we cannot make up the losses of a continuing resolution, and that is readiness. We are asking our troops to be ready to defend this Nation at a moment's notice. We are asking our troops to be ready to take the fight to ISIL. We are asking our troops to be ready to deter and, if necessary, defeat aggression in Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific. We are asking them to be ready today.

But a continuing resolution would force tradeoffs that undermine readiness. In other words, they will not be able to conduct the training operations, the replacement of parts, the maintenance, all the things that go into making a ready military that is ready to fight. We are impacting them. With a continuing resolution, we are harming their ability to do that. Adding additional readiness funds later in the year would be too little, too late, just papering over our failure to give our troops the resources they need when they need it.

Readiness tomorrow does not replace readiness today. Every senior leader—uniform and nonuniform at the Department of Defense—has warned Congress about the negative impact of a continuing resolution on our men and women who are serving us in the military.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter has stated that “a continuing resolution is a straitjacket” that “prevents us from fielding a modern, ready force in a balanced way.” Secretary Carter said a continuing resolution “undercuts stable planning and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.”

Commandant of the Marine Corps General Neller warned that a long-term continuing resolution “dramatically increases risk to an already strained fiscal environment and disrupts predictability and our ability to properly plan and execute a budget and a 5-year program.”

Suppose you had a company or a corporation and that company—like most companies and corporations small and large—operate on a year-to-year basis. So you tell that company: Wait a minute. For the first 3 months of next year, you are not going to get any additional funds. You are not going to be able to plan. You are not going to be able to do what is necessary.

They wouldn't stay in business.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Richardson warned that a continuing resolution would lead to wasted tax-

payer dollars. Under a continuing resolution, the Navy would be forced to break up its contract actions into small pieces. Admiral Richardson warned that as a result, the Navy would not be able to “take advantage of savings from contractors who could better manage their workload and pass on lower costs to the Navy. These redundant efforts drive additional time and cost into the system, for exactly the same output.”

Army Chief of Staff General Milley made a similar warning about waste and inefficiency resulting from budgetary uncertainty. Have no doubt, what a continuing resolution does is causes budgetary uncertainty. It is just a fact. He said:

Things like multiyear contracts, developing long-term relationships with industry where they can count on us and so on—that becomes very difficult. And what ends up happening is the price per unit goes up. So it has built in inefficiency. It has built in cost overruns. It is an un-good situation. It is not good and it needs to end.

General Milley is right. This madness needs to end.

It is time for Congress to do its job. When it comes to doing our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, there is no call for lazy short-cuts and shortchanging of our troops.

Let's pass a Defense authorization bill as soon as we get back. Let's pass a Defense appropriations bill that gives our troops the resources, predictability, and flexibility they need and deserve.

Next year, with a new President and a new Congress, let's go to work immediately on ending sequestration once and for all and returning to a strategy-driven defense budget. Let's work together on a Defense supplement that will serve as a downpayment on rebuilding military capacity, capability, and readiness that have suffered under years of budget cuts and uncertainty.

This year, this Congress, let's do our jobs and pass Defense authorization and appropriations bills. This is what the American people expect of us, and it is what the men and women who serve and sacrifice on our behalf deserve from us.

Almost everybody I know—except those who don't tell the truth—did not predict the result of this Presidential election. What we are finding out—much to the dismay of some and to the surprise of almost all—is that the American people, particularly in some parts of the country, are very unhappy. One of the reasons of their unhappiness is that they believe they have a Congress that doesn't work for them. They believe their elected representatives no longer have their interests uppermost. When they see continued gridlock in Congress, of course the frustration level goes up and the approval rating goes down. I haven't met anyone who approves of Congress recently who wasn't paid staff or blood relatives.

So the fact is that when we kick the can down the road and do not provide

the fundamental necessities for the most important obligation we have—to defend this Nation and provide the men and women with the training, equipment, readiness, and capabilities they need—then it is no wonder the American people hold us in such low regard.

So I urge my colleagues and I urge our leaders on both sides to take up the Defense authorization bill when we get back, and I think we can do that. Then let's take up the Defense appropriations bill. I have confidence in our appropriators. I don't agree with some of the things they have done, but they have carried out their duties. Why don't we move forward? Instead, for 3 months or more, we are going to put the military in a state of uncertainty—in limbo—and we will harm their ability to defend this Nation. That is not JOHN MCCAIN's view. It is the view of the leaders of the military to whom we entrust our men and women.

So I urge my colleagues to get going. Let's get the Defense authorization bill done. We could get the Defense appropriations bill done in a matter of hours.

Let's get those other appropriations bills done as well—those for the FBI, for the CIA, for our other intelligence agencies, and for those agencies of government that also are entrusted with the security of this Nation. Let's get something for them too. Let's not kick the can down the road. Let's do the people's work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a longtime member of the Appropriations Committee, I strongly believe that we should have regular, yearlong appropriations, not continuing resolutions. I would like to remind my friend from Arizona that, by tradition, appropriations bills begin in the other body, in the House of Representatives. They have not yet sent over regular appropriations bills.

It was just reported in the last few hours that Donald Trump has told them not to have regular appropriations bills, but to have a continuing resolution until the end of March.

Frankly, the Senator from Arizona is right. I agree with him. We should have appropriations bills on all subjects. I am sorry the President-elect has decided that in his spare time he will also run Congress and will not allow full appropriations bills to be passed.

BANNON APPOINTMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while we are on the subject of the President-elect, he has indicated some of the appointments he will make. Some, of course, will require advice and consent by this body, and I hope we will do that, even though this body has refused to advise and consent on the Supreme Court nomination now pending before it.

There are others he can appoint without being confirmed by the Senate. It

is amazing that the President-elect, having said that he wants to bring the country together, that he wants to be a President for all of us, would then appoint to his inner circle, someone with the ear of the President, Stephen Bannon.

Let me just read part of an editorial in the Chicago Tribune.

"The problem is that Bannon, who will sit at the right hand of a president, also works as a conduit to hate and intolerance. Bannon has said Breitbart is 'the platform for the alt-right.' Yet the 'alt-right' is a repellent, nationalist political movement that breeds racism, anti-Semitism and misogyny. The alt-right miasma 'opposes feminism, diversity, gay rights, globalism, gun control and civil rights,' according to Baruch College professor Thomas Main, who is writing a book on the movement. At the fringes of alt-right is where you will find American neo-Nazis and the Klan, two groups evidently thrilled by Trump's victory."

Those aren't my words. Those are the words from the Chicago Tribune.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the RECORD the full editorial.

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

[From the Chicago Tribune, Nov. 17, 2016]

EDITORIAL: STEPHEN BANNON: THE NEXT PRESIDENT'S WHISPERER

With just a week or so under his belt as president-elect, Donald Trump has spoken in public briefly, given a few interviews and bashed out some colorful tweets. Americans still processing his stunning victory will have to wait a bit longer to get a full sense of the next president's priorities.

But already there's this: Trump has named Stephen Bannon, 62, his White House chief strategist.

Bannon, the political equivalent of a shock jock, was little known until he became Trump's campaign chief executive in August. He is a conservative media impresario whose resume includes Georgetown, Harvard, the Pentagon and Goldman Sachs. He's now the executive chairman of Breitbart News, whose popular website dabbles in the swamplands of the far right. A lot of bigoted ugliness swims out there in the so-called alt-right, and Bannon has let it fester on Breitbart.com.

Trump won as a populist insurgent who used bullying and intemperate language to fan his message. The strategy worked but also helped divide the country. Appointing Bannon as consigliere is not a good step toward unity. It agitates the not-my-president slice of the American populace. And it confuses Americans who are trying to give the president-elect a fresh start—but who also need to see evidence that Trump will abide his promise to be "president for all Americans."

When Trump takes office, Bannon—if he's still around—won't be the Treasury secretary or the attorney general or the secretary of state: leaders working largely in public. Bannon instead will play the role David Axelrod played for the nation's last novice president. His will be the whisper in President Trump's ear. His work product won't be what the White House proposes or what Congress passes. His work product will be what the president does. What the president says. What message the president projects to the country and the world.

We get what Trump is trying to do by appointing Bannon. The president-elect made two major picks early this week: He also chose Reince Priebus to be chief of staff, the Oval Office gatekeeper. Priebus, head of the Republican Party, was a shrewd selection. Someone in the White House needs political experience to guide Trump's agenda through Washington's thicket. Priebus is perfectly positioned to be the hour-by-hour liaison to his friend and fellow Wisconsinite, House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Priebus is nobody's bomb thrower. He's a member of the Normal Club. But that also pegs him as an establishment guy, making Trump vulnerable to accusations of being a sell-out. So to assuage the anti-establishment crowd, here comes Bannon, whose website was one of Trump's most vocal cheerleaders.

The problem is that Bannon, who will sit at the right hand of a president, also works as a conduit to hate and intolerance. Bannon has said Breitbart is "the platform for the alt-right." Yet the "alt-right" is a repellent, nationalist political movement that breeds racism, anti-Semitism and misogyny. The alt-right miasma "opposes feminism, diversity, gay rights, globalism, gun control and civil rights," according to Baruch College professor Thomas Main, who is writing a book on the movement. At the fringes of the alt-right is where you find American neo-Nazis and the Klan, two groups evidently thrilled by Trump's victory.

On the issue of Trump's presidency, we want to remain patient as well as vigilant. We've said in prior editorials that presidents get fresh starts and wide latitude to set their agendas. Bannon helped Trump get elected, which makes him more clever than the Democratic operatives who backed Hillary Clinton, the losing presidential candidate. Maybe his primary White House role is to be a sop to supporters and that's all.

But Trump voters aren't the only Americans anxiously waiting for positive signals from the new administration. While Trump will never placate Democrats, there's another crucial group we'll call America's middle third who need to be assuaged. Many of them didn't vote for Trump but they may make the biggest difference in the success of his presidency: They'll either be won over or will bolt to the opposition. Like every president, Trump will calibrate many of his actions according to how far he can go without losing them.

That's always a tough balance. In today's America it's especially tough. By adding someone as notorious as Bannon to his team, the new president has more than sent the wrong signal. He also has risked alienating the vast swath of Americans who will determine whether his presidency succeeds or fails. And he's done it well before even taking the oath of office.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, everybody, whether we supported Donald Trump or not—and, obviously, I did not—wants to give any President a chance to bring this country together. Throughout the country, during this campaign, we have become terribly divided. Even in my own State of Vermont, we heard of some of these divisions.

I feel fortunate that Vermonters re-elected me. I have never run negative campaign ads, and did not this time. I was opposed by somebody who ran a completely negative campaign. I think people reject negativity. There are so many positive aspects to America. We talk about making America great

again, and there is no other country we would trade it for. What country would we trade our country for? None. We are a great nation. But what makes us great is our diversity and our ability to come together. That is what we should be doing.

I hope the President-elect will reconsider naming Stephen Bannon as his chief White House strategist and understand what kind of signal this sends to the country. We do not need more division. We certainly do not need people who might attack someone because of their religion. We need people who will realize the United States is an inclusive country, not an exclusive country. This is not the message we should send within our own country or throughout the world.

Mr. Bannon wants to continue making these horrible and offensive comments, as he has a First Amendment right to do at Breitbart News, but let us not have that be the example set from the White House, by the President of the greatest nation on Earth.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I believe Senator WARREN of Massachusetts will be joining me on the floor, and I ask unanimous consent that if she is here on the floor at the conclusion of my remarks that she be recognized next so that our remarks can be conjoined with one another.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Chair.

WORKING ACROSS PARTY LINES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, one of the hallmarks of President-Elect Trump's campaign was his desire, often stated, to clean up Washington, to lift the dark hand of special interests off of the levers of government and, as he said it in his speeches, to drain the swamp here. I would like to assure the President-elect that on this side of the aisle we are very keen to work with him on a whole variety of reforms to control the role of big special interests, their lobbying apparatus, and their political machinery here in Washington.

I very much hope that President-Elect Trump will indeed choose to work with us. I hope he will bear in mind that although he won the electoral college, it appears now clear that Secretary Clinton actually won the popular vote and that she may have won the popular vote by as many as a million votes.

It is also worth noting that if 2012 is any prologue to 2016, it is likely that

Democratic Members of Congress—of the House of Representatives—received more votes than Republican Members of Congress. The shift and the reason for Republican control of the House of Representatives has been the gerrymandering effort that has packed Democrats into very heavily saturated Democratic districts so that Republicans can create strong—but not massive—majority districts for themselves. I believe in the last Presidential election, States such as Pennsylvania and Ohio reelected Democratic Senators statewide, elected a Democratic President statewide, but then sent heavily Republican delegations to the House of Representatives because of that gerrymandering.

It may be a fluke of the way the California vote would have shaken out, but it would not surprise me if it turned out in this election that Democratic Senators and candidates for the Senate received a bigger popular vote than Republican Senators and candidates for the Senate. Those numbers are not in yet.

My point is that I hope President-Elect Trump will recognize that in a divided Nation, it makes more sense and it will bind us together better if we try to work together across party lines rather than try to ramrod a hard-right partisan agenda through. There is no place I can think of—perhaps infrastructure, but few places where we are more willing to hear his ideas and work with him than on draining the swamp.

The environment here in Washington is obviously one that lends itself to very substantial political manipulation. In all of that political manipulation, most of the cards are with the big special interests. Indeed, corporate lobbying of Congress has been reviewed and measured as being more than all other lobbying of Congress combined by a ratio of 30 to 1. So if we are wondering where the power structure comes down here in this building, think about a 30-to-1 advantage for corporate lobbying over all other lobbying combined.

There are issues where I think we can work together if, in fact, President-Elect Trump wishes to drain the swamp. There are substantive issues. One of the things I have been concerned about has been the carried interest loophole, which is a quirk of the Tax Code that allows people who are hedge fund billionaires to pay a lower tax rate than a brick mason or a truck-driver does. That, to me, is not fair.

We have seen some reflections of this in studies that looked at, for instance, an enormous building in Manhattan in New York City. The building is so big that it has its own ZIP Code, and because the Internal Revenue Service calculates tax payments and income by ZIP Code, we can get a general sense of how much money the individuals in that building make and how much they pay in taxes. What we see when we look at that study is that the average income of the inhabitants of that

building is well over \$1 million, but the tax rate they paid was actually in the low teens in terms of a percentage tax rate. And if you look at what the Department of Labor says about security workers and janitorial workers, we see that they pay more like a 20- to 30-percent tax rate in New York City. So what that leaves us with is a circumstance in which the hedge fund mogul coming back to his luxury apartment building in his limousine, as he steps out into the rain, is paying a lower tax rate than the doorman or the security official or the janitor working in that building. The doorman holding the umbrella over the head of the billionaire is probably paying a higher tax rate than the billionaire.

I can see why Donald Trump raised that issue on the campaign, and I can see why crowds responded to that. It is a disgrace in the Tax Code. We would love to work with him, but then we look at who his transition team is. The chiefs of his transition team are a whole slew of hedge fund and Wall Street billionaires—the people getting out of the limo paying the low tax rates. When it comes time for Donald Trump to keep his promise on carried interest, it will be interesting to see if he can hold his own against the insiders around him who want to preserve this disgraceful tax loophole.

We want to work with him on infrastructure. We think there should be a big infrastructure bill. The civil engineers of this country give our infrastructure a D. Everybody who drives on our roads or crosses our bridges knows we need to invest in infrastructure, but the Koch brothers have already thrown down a gauntlet saying they will challenge the President-elect on that infrastructure plan. Will he have the strength to proceed, or will the insider lobbying political operation of the Koch brothers block him? It is another contest that remains to be seen between insider politics and the President-elect.

Finally, the biggest swamp thing of them all is the fossil fuel industry. The fossil fuel industry has more or less taken over the Republican Party in Congress. What remains of the Republican Party in Congress is a little bit like what remains of that unfortunate farmer in “Men in Black” whose body was occupied by the alien, who then walked around in the skin and the overalls of the unfortunate farmer. The fossil fuel industry is a special interest. It is the biggest swamp thing in the swamp. Will the President-elect be willing to take it on in any respect? That, too, remains to be seen.

There are a lot of very powerful creatures in the swamp. It is one thing to say you are going to drain it; it is another thing to actually take them on.

I am here to assure the President-elect that not just I but many Democrats would like to work with him toward responsible climate policies, notwithstanding the nefarious presence of the fossil fuel industry; toward an infrastructure bill, notwithstanding the

ideological position of the Koch brothers; and on carried interest, notwithstanding the infiltration already of his transition team by Wall Street special interests.

With that, I yield the floor to my outstanding colleague from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, last week Hillary Clinton got about 1 million more votes than Donald Trump; yet here we are—Donald Trump won the Presidency. Across the Nation, everyone is wondering what happens next.

It has been barely a week, but we have already seen disgusting ideas emerging from Trump Tower: Put a White supremacist in the White House; float a plan to register all Muslim Americans; draw up plans to round up millions of human beings and rip families apart across this Nation. It is sickening, and we will fight back. But, hey, at least he promised to shake up our corrupt political system, right? I mean, after all, when President-Elect Trump announced his campaign, he called out the politicians who were “controlled fully by the lobbyists, by the donors, and by the special interests.” When he accepted his party’s nomination at the Republican National Convention, he said, “When innocent people suffer, because our political system [. . .] has sold out to some corporate lobbyist for cash—I am not able to look the other way.” He promised that he would “not be controlled by the donors, special interests, and lobbyists who have corrupted our politics and politicians for far too long” and that he would “drain the swamp” in Washington, DC. Those are his words, repeated loud and repeated long during the campaign.

President-Elect Trump has now named most of his transition team. So how is he doing on his rock-solid, double-down promise to get rid of the special interests and the lobbyists? Big surprise. Trump is not “draining the swamp.” Nope. He is inviting the biggest, ugliest swamp monsters in the front door, and he is turning them loose on our government and on our economy. In just 1 week, the President-elect has elevated a slew of Wall Street bankers, industry insiders, and special interest lobbyists to run the show on his transition team. Let’s run through just a few examples.

The guy in charge of staffing the Federal Communications Commission was on Verizon’s payroll and has produced studies aimed at knee-capping the net neutrality rules.

The guy in charge of picking the team that will decide energy policy in a Trump administration is a lobbyist for the oil and gas industry.

The guy picked to staff up the Department of Agriculture is a “veteran food and agriculture lobbyist” whose

firm has raked in millions representing the food industry.

The guy leading the transition for the Environmental Protection Agency has been paid by the oil industry and denies that climate change is real.

The guy heading up the transition team for the Social Security Administration is—you guessed it—a former lobbyist who spent much of his career working to cut and privatize the Social Security system.

The guy—and, by the way, we may have noticed a pattern here: almost all guys—working on transportation and infrastructure is a founding partner at a law firm that lobbies for the National Asphalt Paving Association.

The guy in charge of economic issues for the Trump transition team served for 6 years as chief economist at Bear Stearns—the Wall Street firm that helped crash our economy in 2008, and he now runs a consulting firm for Wall Street clients.

Trump’s very first decision is to hand over the keys of government to the worst kind of DC insiders and special interests. It seems like all those promises to stand up for working people were just a giant con.

As the outrage has now spread, we have heard reports that Vice President-Elect Mike Pence has decided to remove all lobbyists from the transition team. Yeah, I will believe it when I see it. If we learned anything from this campaign, it is that Team Trump will make up things if it seems convenient. Last night we already heard another version of his story. It seems that lobbyists can come on board, but only if they drop their formal lobby registration when they join the team. Swamp monsters today, swamp monsters wearing clean shirts and ties for the transition team tomorrow, and swamp monsters once the transition is over. Putting a clean shirt on a swamp monster doesn’t change anything. They have already had ample opportunity to stuff transition plans with ideas that will be good for their well-connected clients, and they will be disastrous for everyone else.

Besides, even if the lobbyists finish up early and leave, the Trump transition team is still full of industry insiders seeking special deals for themselves and for their companies. This isn’t subtle, and you don’t have to take my word for it. Here is how Politico put it this morning: “A populist candidate who railed against shady financial interests on the campaign trail is now putting together an administration that looks like an investment banker’s dream.” In the same article, one historian said, “You would have to go back to the 1920s to see so much Wall Street influence coming to Washington.”

So what happened? How come the guy who spent the election tweeting “I’m not controlled by lobbyists or special interests” is stuffing his transition team full of lobbyists and special interests? Well, when you ask the President-elect about his flip-flop, he says he

needs lobbyists on his team because “they know the system.” He said, “Everybody’s a lobbyist” in DC. That is literally the opposite of what he said during the campaign, and it is also not true. Many Americans, both inside and outside Washington, have plenty of expertise to serve the American public without being bought and paid for by special interests.

Americans are angry about a Federal Government that works for the rich and powerful and that leaves everyone else in the dirt. Donald Trump knows that. He talked a good game during the campaign, and he promised to end corruption. He promised to drain the swamp. And after 1 week, we have seen what Donald Trump’s promise means—nothing. His word, his promise to the American people, is worth nothing.

Well, Mr. President-Elect, let me be clear: I am ready to fight on behalf of the millions of Americans you have lied to. That includes the millions who voted for you and the millions who didn’t.

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.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE SCHISLER

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my Deputy Chief of Staff Stephanie Schisler, who is retiring this week after 41 years of service in the Senate. She has been working here longer than 99 of the current Members of the Senate, which you would never know by looking at her because she still looks amazingly youthful, but she and Senator LEAHY, our longest serving Senator today, both began their careers in the Senate in 1975. Her dedication to this institution and to serving our country is absolutely remarkable.

Stephanie is a well-known member of the Senate community, having worked for me as well as four other Senators—Richard Stone, a Democrat from Florida; Bob Kasten, a Republican from Wisconsin; a good friend of mine, Dirk Kempthorne, a Republican from Idaho; and Blanche Lincoln, a Democrat from Arkansas, before joining our office. She has a remarkable record.

Stephanie’s bipartisan resume is a testament to her expertise and her skill, but also to her integrity. Stephanie is beloved by the entire Senate community, from fellow staffers to Capitol police officers, to folks who maintain the building. It seems as though she knows all of them, if you can believe that. She has built wonderful relationships on the Hill, which is one of the reasons she is so effective.

No matter what you ask of her, Steph knows who to call and how to get the job done and done well. That includes everything from hanging animal mounts in my front office, such as a huge buffalo or bison head, which couldn't have been an easy proposition, but she figured out how to get it done. Now there is even a drone suspended from the ceiling in our conference room.

While Stephanie has always excelled at her job, she has also helped those around her succeed. She has an eye for recognizing talent. For example, when she worked for Senator Kasten of Wisconsin, she hired a young man by the name of PAUL RYAN as an intern. Of course, today he is Speaker of the House. Stephanie has always been able to see the potential in people, and that is a great example. She has always worked very hard to help them to succeed. She has been a mentor and a surrogate mother to many staffers, not only in my office but in other offices and throughout her tenure working at the Senate.

I want to thank her husband Gordon and her children Nick and Leigh for supporting Stephanie during all those late nights and long weeks throughout her career.

Stephanie is truly a unique individual and an irreplaceable member of my team. I keep pleading for her not to retire, but so far it hasn't worked. I am not giving up, though. She is truly somebody who cannot be replaced.

While we will miss Steph, we are grateful for the positive impact she has had on so many lives with her amazing influence for good in the Senate. We thank her for her service to our country, and we wish her the best as she begins this new chapter in her life. We are so appreciative to have had Steph as part of our team, and we will truly miss her.

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

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

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

BANNON APPOINTMENT

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the President-elect's selection of Stephen Bannon, a divisive figure and former head of the alt-right Web site Breitbart to serve as Chief Strategist and Senior Counsel to the President.

In the early hours of November 9, after it became clear that he had offi-

cially won the race for the White House, President-Elect Trump appeared before his supporters to deliver a victory speech. He said, "Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division. . . . To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across this Nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people."

After a long and contentious campaign, it seemed to me that the President-elect implicitly acknowledged that some of the rhetoric he had used during the race had alienated and offended many of our communities. He said, "I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be the President for all Americans."

It is no secret that I did not support President-Elect Trump during the campaign, but despite the fact that I disagreed passionately with our President-elect about the best way to approach many if not most of the challenges facing our Nation, I truly believe that there are places where we can find some common ground. We both understand the need to rebuild our Nation's crumbling infrastructure and to send Americans back to work repairing our roads, bridges, and schools. Both President-Elect Trump and I support closing the carried interest loophole, which allows private equity and hedge fund managers to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. These are issues on which I look forward to working with the next administration, so one can understand why I was encouraged by President-Elect Trump's call for unity. Once an election is over and the heat of the campaign has subsided, the American people expect our leaders to come together to find common cause and get to work solving our Nation's problems.

I was disappointed when, just a few days later, I learned that the President-elect had selected former Trump campaign CEO Stephen Bannon to serve as his Chief Strategist and Senior Counsel, a position the President-elect described as an "equal partner" to his incoming White House Chief of Staff.

The selection of Mr. Bannon to serve at the very highest level of our government does not signal a willingness to set aside our differences and embrace unity—far from it. Before Mr. Bannon joined the Trump campaign, where he was widely credited as the chief architect of its most corrosive tactics, Mr. Bannon was the executive chairman of Breitbart News.

Breitbart News, for those who are not familiar with it, is a conservative Web site founded by the late Andrew Breitbart. Even from its inception, Breitbart was a bastion of far-right ideology whose writers and editorial editors unapologetically courted controversy. But the site took a darker turn shortly after Mr. Bannon took it over in 2012.

"I think anger is a good thing," Mr. Bannon is quoted as telling a gathering of conservative activists, and it shows. Mr. Bannon guided Breitbart away

from more mainstream conservative opinion to instead traffic in an ideology of racism, misogyny, xenophobia, homophobia, and anti-Semitism. Even a former Breitbart editor, who has lamented the site's hard shift to the extreme right, described its comment section as "turning into a cesspool for white supremacist mememakers."

This Senator thinks it is important for the public to understand exactly how Mr. Bannon's Breitbart describes its fellow citizens. Here are just a few articles that Breitbart published under Mr. Bannon's direction.

"Gabby Giffords: The Gun Control Movement's Human Shield." Included in this article is the line, "Giffords is their human shield—the gun control representative who could do and say what she wanted without facing any real pressure to prove her claims were true."

Two weeks to the day after nine people were murdered at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, Breitbart published, "Hoist it High and Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims a Glorious Heritage." In the article, the writer asks: "Barack, you might just want to remind us again which state of the Union, north or south, your ancestors resided in during the traumatic years 1861–1865? Or did Kenya not have a dog in that fight?"

In "Political Correctness Protects Muslim Rape Culture," the author describes cases of sexual assault in Europe, but warns that "you won't hear much about it in U.S. mainstream media because the epidemic is a by-product of the influx into Europe of a million, mostly Muslim, migrants."

"Mexico is Sending us Colonists, Not Immigrants" is a story in which readers are warned that "Mexico sees Mexicans in the United States as strategic assets in every sense of that word. They are seen as extensions of the Mexican state and partners in Mexico's plan."

This is nasty stuff. This is vile. It comes all the way from the top, from Mr. Bannon himself. In July, Mr. Bannon wrote a piece for Breitbart, in which he accused his political opponents of a "plot to take down America" by focusing on the need to improve the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color. That was the plot to take down America.

The article opened with Mr. Bannon explicitly and baselessly linking the man responsible for shooting police officers in Dallas, TX, to the Black Lives Matter movement. Mr. Bannon wrote: "Five police officers are murdered in Dallas by a [hashtag] Black Lives Matter-type activist-turned-sniper." There is no question that the Dallas shooter was a troubled man who harbored hate in his heart, a man whom investigators determined was himself motivated by racist ideologies, but there is no evidence suggesting that the shooter was a member of Black Lives Matter, a movement born in opposition to violence and hate.

He was not an “activist-turned-sniper,” a turn of phrase Mr. Bannon crafted to suggest that two roles exist along a continuum, to suggest that it is only a matter of time before the peaceful protesters take up arms.

It is bad enough that Mr. Bannon sought to fan the flames of fear, anxiety, and turn our communities against Americans peacefully exercising their first amendment rights. Mr. Bannon’s article did not stop at impugning activists who protest officer-involved shootings. No. Mr. Bannon proceeded to cast suspicion upon an entire race. He wrote:

Here’s a thought: What if the people getting shot by the cops did things to deserve it? There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent.

Wild conspiracy theories aside, there is a name for that kind of tactic. It is called a dog whistle. To some, such rhetoric may not appear overtly racist, and make no mistake, that is by design. Not every person who hears that kind of language understands that by saying that “some people are naturally aggressive and violent,” Mr. Bannon is suggesting that Black people—after all the ones who were shot by the police—are naturally aggressive and violent.

But to the alt-right, to those who read his Web site, Mr. Bannon’s meaning is all too clear. Now, Mr. Bannon does not always attempt to cloak his views. At times, connecting lines he draws are much clearer. In the very same article, Mr. Bannon suggested that efforts by the Obama administration to pursue gun safety measures in the wake of the Orlando shooting are nothing more than an effort to divert attention away from refugees. Never mind that refugees were not involved in the incident. Let’s all remember that the tragedy at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, a shooting in which 49 people were murdered, and 53 others were wounded, was carried out by an American-born U.S. citizen.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bannon wrote: “In the wake of Orlando, the Obama administration, with Hillary Clinton cheering it on, intoned against guns and ‘hate,’ and is now back to importing more hating Muslims.”

To suggest that members of a peaceful protest movement like Black Lives Matter were in league with a cold-blooded killer, that the sympathies of the President of the United States lie not with the victims of gun violence but instead with those who would seek to do us harm, to pit members of vulnerable communities against one another—LGBT people against refugees, peaceful protesters against the cops who rushed to shield them from gunfire—is abhorrent.

Regrettably, we have no reason to believe Mr. Bannon would not seek to deploy such tactics from the White House. After all, they featured prominently in the Trump campaign’s final television ad. In the spot, the President-elect’s voice warns that “those

who control the levers of power in Washington” and “global special interests” don’t have America’s best interests at heart.

At the same time, images of George Soros, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein—all prominent Jews—flash on the screen. To those who may not know better, such an ad could seem innocuous, but, to me, its message is obvious. The ad’s anti-Semitic overtones, which draw on an old and hateful conspiracy theory about Jews controlling banks and financial markets, were obvious to me. I called it a German shepherd whistle designed to be heard in some of the darkest remaining corners of our country and our world. Politics that rely on this type of innuendo—Stephen Bannon’s brand of politics—has no place in a modern Presidential campaign, and it certainly has no place in the White House.

Let’s be clear. The use of racially charged rhetoric and innuendo is repulsive. The very purpose of deploying dog-whistle politics in the context of a campaign is to attract the support of people who harbor hateful ideologies without offending the sensibilities of more mainstream voters.

Every Member of this body should condemn rhetoric that sows the seeds of discourse. It is our obligation, not just as Senators but as Americans, to stand up to Mr. Bannon’s hateful, decisive brand of politics and reject it. We cannot change the fact that such strategy has played a role in this campaign, but moving forward, it is imperative that we not allow these corrosive tactics to become normalized. We cannot allow them to become a regular part of our politics.

If President-Elect Trump truly meant what he said during his victory speech, if he truly hopes to be President for all Americans, he will recognize that such tactics stand in the way of that goal and he will renounce them. The women and men the leader chooses to surround himself with show the public what kind of leader he will be. President-Elect Trump has a choice: Will he truly attempt to “bind the wounds of division” or will our next President seek counsel from a man who proudly traffics in hatred, half-truths, and pernicious innuendo? Will President-Elect Trump’s administration open its doors to all people or will it seek to govern from exploiting old prejudices and pitting us against one another? The campaign is over, but the wounds inflicted during a long battle remain raw. It is time to set about the work of healing them.

I urge President-Elect Trump to begin that work by surrounding himself with people equal to the task. Mr. Bannon is not one of them. He should not serve in the next administration. I call on President-Elect Trump to appeal to America’s better angels and to reject the dark politics represented by Stephen Bannon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, our Nation has gone through a difficult, bruising Presidential election. Normally, we would be making the pivot to healing those wounds, but this election has been particularly rough, and the wounds sustained during the campaign continue to haunt our Nation. Many groups of Americans across our country are frightened for the future, of being deported, of being targeted as Muslims, of resurgent racism toward African Americans, of anti-Semitism, of losing their right to marry the person they love.

Unfortunately, they have good reason to be afraid. We have seen a surge, a wave of hateful bigoted, racist, sexist attacks happening in communities across our country since the election. The divisive rhetoric and conduct of President-Elect Donald Trump’s campaign over the past year and a half is responsible for unleashing this blight on our country. He has the responsibility to turn things around, to put an end to this division, and to start the healing.

That is why, earlier today, 10 of my colleagues in the Senate joined me to send a letter to President-Elect Trump, demanding that he stand up and condemn these verbal and physical attacks occurring around this country, that he denounce his own past campaign rhetoric that gave life to so many of these acts of hate and violence, and that he exclude proponents of hatred and discrimination from the ranks of his administration, including immediately firing white supremacist Steve Bannon as his Chief Strategist.

Here is what the text of the letter says:

Mr. President-Elect:

Your campaign conduct and Electoral College victory have unleashed a wave of verbal and physical assaults against our fellow Americans. In just the last six days, the Southern Poverty Law Center has documented hundreds of acts of discrimination and violence toward many of the ethnic and social groups you attacked in your campaign. These attacks are absolutely unacceptable. We condemn them. We stand united with our fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, these acts of hate have been enabled by your campaign strategy of promoting bigotry, racism, and sexism. It is the logical consequence of your campaign attacks on and discrimination aimed at Hispanics, African Americans, veterans, immigrants, women, Muslims, Jews, and individuals with disabilities. Millions of Americans see a President-elect who has chosen to knock them down rather than to lift them up. Your conduct has empowered too many Americans to act on their darkest impulses.

This is the wrong vision for America and the wrong path for your coming Administration. We call on you to change course. We urge you, as our future President, to join us in rejecting hate and embracing respect for every ethnicity, race and gender. We urge you to join us in fighting for a nation free of discrimination, where every child has the opportunity to thrive and contribute according to his or her ability. We urge you to join us in fighting for our Constitutional vision of equality and opportunity and the vision in

our Pledge of Allegiance of liberty and justice for all.

As you assume the mantle of leadership in office, it is your responsibility to put an end to the crimes of hate and prejudice sweeping our nation. These wounds to our national citizenry are of your making. It is your responsibility to rectify the damage. You have the power as President to move beyond the hate-filled rhetoric of your campaign.

We call on you to repudiate your campaign attacks against diverse communities of Americans.

We call on you to address the American people and demand that all Americans end these verbal and physical attacks and replace acts of hatred with acts of kindness.

We call on you to exclude the proponents of discrimination and hatred from the ranks of your Administration, and that includes immediately firing Steve Bannon as your Chief Strategist.

The letter concludes:

It is time for you to act boldly and powerfully to put the nation on a path of healing. For the sake of all Americans, we call on you to rise to the challenge.

In addition to myself, it is signed by Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, Senator SHERROD BROWN, Senator ED MARKEY, Senator BERNARD SANDERS, Senator AL FRANKEN, who spoke so eloquently a few moments ago, Senator RON WYDEN, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, Senator-Elect CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Senator TOM CARPER.

I thank my colleagues who have appropriately said that at this moment—at this unusual moment in our history, in our time here in the 21st century—that we have a President-elect playing on hate and prejudice and bringing a white supremacist in as Chief Adviser is unacceptable.

Some will say that President-Elect Trump cannot himself be accountable for what is happening across our country, but they are wrong. His words and his conduct are directly connected to the harassment and the physical and verbal assaults that we are seeing.

I am going to share with you all the comments of the campaign and the acts of citizens in category after category to show how these are tied together—how, indeed, these verbal assaults and these physical assaults are motivated by and justified by the campaign of our President-elect—just to emphasize that it is time for our President-elect to take responsibility, to change course, to embrace the connectedness of our American communities, the vision of equality and opportunity in our Constitution, the vision of a nation with justice for all, and the fact that our President should be working to raise up all families—not raising up a few by tearing down the rest.

Let's start by looking at what Mr. Trump said about our Nation's Latino citizens. At the start of his campaign, Mr. Trump said:

When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best . . . they're sending people with lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with them. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. . . . And some, I assume, are good people.

Later in the campaign he promised to build a wall—"a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words."

When discussing Judge Gonzalo Curiel, a U.S. district judge presiding over a lawsuit against Trump University—by the way, an American-born citizen—the President-elect said the judge couldn't be impartial and should be removed from the case because "this judge is of Mexican heritage."

Judge Curiel was born and raised in Indiana.

Mr. Trump's right-hand man, his designated Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, used his position at Breitbart News to continue attacks against Latinos. Under his leadership, Breitbart frequently used anti-immigrant slurs and published "war on Spanish" and nativist-appealing content in his quest to make his platform a platform for White nationalism.

It is important to note that even many Republicans and conservative commentators believe that Mr. Bannon is a man with unconscionable views and frightening ties to white supremacist movements.

John Weaver, a former top adviser to Governor John Kasich tweeted of Mr. Bannon's selection as Chief Strategist: "The racist, fascist extreme is represented footsteps from the Oval Office."

Ana Navarro, a Republican strategist, called Bannon: "White supremacist, anti gay, anti Semite, vindictive." Ana then said: "Be afraid, America."

Glenn Beck, known to all of us as a rightwing radio commentator—a very conservative commentator, a person who has attacked virtually every idea to help working America that comes from the blue side of the aisle—said Bannon is "terrifying" and said that he has helped to give voice to White nationalists.

Former KKK leader David Duke and the American Nazi Party have praised Bannon's elevation to the White House. So there should be no mistaking or sugar coating what precisely this individual, Steve Bannon, stands for.

Under his leadership, Breitbart became a leader in anti-Latino, nativist material—one headline after another attacking Hispanics here in America.

So when we look at what is happening right at this moment to Latinos today, what do we see? We see students in our schools taunting and bullying their classmates. At DeWitt Junior High School in Lansing, MI, White students formed a human wall and refused to let their Latino classmates into the school.

In Ventura, CA, a Latino mother reported seeing fifth graders at her child's school chanting: "Build a wall."

Latinos all across our Nation are being harassed and told they are going to be deported, they don't belong here in America, even if they were born here in America.

In Andover, MA, a group of white men in a car threw a water bottle at a

young Hispanic woman and screamed: "Time to go back to your country"—insert expletive—"my man Trump is on top now and we don't want you here!"

In Southern California, a college student was accosted by a man who said:

I can't wait until Trump asks us to rape your people and send you back over the biggest damn wall we're going to build. Go back to hell.

Then he inserted a racist slur for a Mexican and then threw water in the young woman's face.

Walls all across the Nation are being spray painted with phrases such as: "Build the Wall Higher."

In the face of attacks such as these, it is hard to remember that we are, indeed, a nation of immigrants. Unless you are 100-percent Native American, you are the child, grandchild, great grandchild, or the descendant of immigrants. Your forefathers and foremothers came to our country and felt they had come to a place where they could thrive. We have those beautiful words carved into the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It inspires all of us. Each one of us—again, unless we are 100-percent Native American—have an ancestor who came to the country and felt that moment of freedom and opportunity no matter where they had come from.

Latinos are not the only group of Americans suffering because of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign. African Americans have become a significant target in post-Trump America, as too many take their cues from our next President's words and actions towards that community—words like the ones President-Elect Trump used to talk about African Americans who work for him. He said:

I've got black accountants at Trump Castle and Trump Plaza. Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

He then went on to say:

I think the guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is, I believe that. It's not anything they can control.

Those are the words of our President-elect.

When he talked about the Black Lives Matter movement on FOX News, he said:

I think they are trouble. I think they're looking for trouble.

He often shows a startling disconnect with the African-American community, generalizing that they all live in inner cities that he regularly describes as poverty-stricken war zones.

This disconnect started very early on in his real estate career when President-Elect Trump was publicly sued twice for discriminating against African Americans who were trying to rent apartments in his buildings.

Of course, we can't talk about Mr. Trump's—President-Elect Trump's—relations with the African-American

community without bringing up his longstanding promotion and advocacy of the birther movement, which tried to delegitimize our country's first African-American President.

Those efforts go back to 2011, when Mr. Trump was considering a run for the White House and said on one talk show: "If he wasn't born in this country, which is a real possibility . . . then he has pulled off one of the great cons in the history of politics."

He went on and on and on—month after month—questioning the legitimacy of our President in office.

To his credit, on that particular point Mr. Trump has recanted himself, but he used it as a race card time after time after time to delegitimize our President—President Obama—because he is African American.

The views of President-Elect Trump's right-hand man, his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, aren't any better. Under Bannon's leadership, Breitbart created a news section titled "Black Crime."

Just 2 weeks after the Charleston massacre in which nine African-American churchgoers were slaughtered, Breitbart ran this headline. By the way, in that attack, the attacker used the Confederate flag as a symbol—a racist symbol—to justify attacking these nine individuals.

What did Steve Bannon do? He ran this headline: "Hoist It High And Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims A Glorious Heritage." In a lengthy July post on Breitbart, Bannon accused the left of a "plot to take down America" by fixating on police shootings of Black citizens. Well, the list goes on and on, but he proceeded to say: "There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent." That is certainly a direct racist statement.

And what is the result we see today of all of this racism from our President-elect and from his Chief Strategist? Well, we have seen a startling rise in people's willingness to use the "N" word in public.

At a school in Maple Grove, MN, the boys bathroom was defaced by graffiti that included racial slurs such as the "N" word and porch monkeys, alongside pro-Trump messages such as "Trump Train" and "Make America Great Again."

Students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse who were living off campus found the quote "Go Home" and the "N" word written on their front door.

A man in Knoxville, TN, woke up one morning to find his car vandalized with the phrase—and I am paraphrasing—expletive deleted "U", insert "N" word, and then the word "Trump" spray-painted on his car.

We have seen incidents harkening back to a time in history of discrimination and segregation.

At a high school in Jacksonville, FL, an individual put up these signs: "Colored" and "Whites Only"—the time of Jim Crow in America, where African

Americans were treated as second-class citizens—and a "Whites Only" sign was found on the door of a bathroom stall at a high school in Duluth, MN.

These are just a few of the incidents. There are the assaults as well, one incident after another of African Americans being assaulted. There is the softball field dugout in Wellsville, NY, where the phrase "Make America White Again" was spray-painted and the defacement of a wall in Durham, NC, where someone decided to write "Black lives don't matter and neither does your vote." There was a horrific incident in my State of Oregon in which an African-American woman was attacked in the parking lot of a grocery store in Hillsboro, OR. A group of three men threw a brick at her, broke her ribs, called her the "N" word, threatened to rape her, and they said: Now we finally have a President who feels how we feel.

It is hard to imagine how our President-elect, with his own racist commentary, his own past acts of discrimination, his own racist campaign, his own racist Chief Strategist, isn't at all connected to these events sweeping the country. They are directly connected. And that is why we are calling on the President-elect to change course. The election is behind us. Before the President-elect is 4 years of opportunities to improve the lives of Americans. Take the assaults of the past and make them the assaults of the past. Look to the vision of partnership to build a better America in the years ahead. Leave that past behind.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and the passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

Let's make that the spirit of the next 4 years, where together we are dedicated to progress for all Americans toward reaching that goal of opportunity and equality and justice.

Another target has been our women across the country. Our President-elect repeatedly treated women as sexual objects. Women have worked so hard to be seen as equals in our society. Women have flown as astronauts. They have reached the heights in science. They have reached peak after peak in leadership across our country. They bring their insight and wisdom to this Chamber here in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives 100 yards across Capitol Hill.

But our President-elect has seen it differently. Referring to the media, he said: "It doesn't really matter what they write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of"—insert a demeaning term for women. He declared that "You don't give a"—insert expletive—"if a girl can play a violin like the greatest violinist in the world. You want to know what does she look like."

Our President-elect derided a political opponent by commenting on her

looks, saying, "look at that face! Would anybody vote for that? Can you imagine that, the next face of our President?"

During the campaign, our President-elect called a female lawyer disgusting or at some point in passing he called a female lawyer disgusting because she asked to take a medical break to pump breast milk for her 3-month-old daughter.

I think we are all aware of the comments he made towards FOX News debate moderator Megyn Kelly—words I choose not to repeat at this moment. And then he said pregnant women are an inconvenience for his business. And of course our President-elect was caught on tape bragging about sexually assaulting women, saying:

I'm just automatically attracted to beautiful—I just start kissing them. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

Then he went on to talk about groping the women and being able to get away with it because he is a star.

He has brought into the White House his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who shares these views about women, putting up a headline: "There's No Hiring Bias Against Women. . . . They Just Suck At Interviews."

Another one said: "The Solution to Online 'Harassment' is simple: Women Should Log Off."

Here is another: "Would You Rather Your Child Had Feminism or Cancer?" as if women's rights are a disease.

We see that these comments and the conduct of the President-elect and the comments of his Chief Strategist have had an impact. Two men at a concert in Ohio threatened to "Donald Trump" a female security guard because she wouldn't let them into a restricted section of the venue. According to one teacher, a 10-year-old girl was taken home from school after a male classmate grabbed her private parts, and when asked why he did it, the boy said that if a President can do it, he can do it too. In Oklahoma City, a woman was chased on the highway because of her Hillary bumper sticker, while men in another car hurled sexual insults at her.

These are just a small number of the hundreds and hundreds of events happening across this country. Every Member of this body, every Member of the Senate can relate stories from people who have shared with them over the past few weeks, stories from their constituents who have written to them to share the harassment they have suffered.

We have just seen a historic milestone. We have had, for the first time, a woman as the nominee of a major political party—and not only that, she got a lot more votes than did Donald Trump. The women's suffrage movement has come so far since the days when Elizabeth Cady Stanton said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal" and that "the history of the past is but one long struggle toward equality." We have come a long

ways in the few decades since Martin Luther King said that the moral arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice. Across our country, citizens have worked to bend that arc in this vision of a nation that embraces opportunity for all—not opportunity only for the rich and powerful to have more opportunity, but opportunity for all, for every child to have the ability to contribute to this country.

My father, now deceased, was a mechanic. He never went to college. But he told me when I was in grade school: Son, if you go through the doors of that schoolhouse and you work hard, you can do just about anything here in America. That is the vision we want to strive toward, where the son of a mechanic, the daughter of a janitor, the child of a Hispanic couple or an African-American couple or a gay couple or a lesbian couple—where every child has the opportunity to thrive. To do that, we have to set aside these racist attacks, these sexist attacks.

Another target has been our Muslim-American community. For the last year and a half, they, like other groups of Americans, have been denigrated and insulted by President-Elect Trump and his campaign. His campaign has worked to fan the flames of Islamophobia. Take Mr. Trump's views on registering Muslim-Americans. When asked whether the United States should have a registry of Muslims, he said, "I would certainly implement that. Absolutely. . . . There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases. We should have a lot of systems." When the reporter followed by asking "Would Muslims be required to register?" he answered, "They have to be. They have to be."

Well, let me share with the President-elect that we are not a nation that discriminates because of one's religion. It is called freedom of religion. Our vision is opportunity for all. There were nations that discriminated based on religion. Those were European nations. That is why a lot of our forefathers came here—to escape that oppression and to have the freedom to thrive and to maintain the religious views they wanted to have, not what somebody else told them they had to have, or to be imprisoned, or register them for discrimination because of their religious background.

So when any American attacks our Muslim-American brothers and sisters, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder. And if any other religious group is attacked, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder and stand for the vision of opportunity and equality for all. That is what every Member of this Chamber should be coming down here to say—that when those groups are attacked, we will stand with them because that is not the vision of America. That is not the spirit of America. That certainly is 100 percent contrary to the vision of America.

Our President-elect tried to foment fear of Muslims seeking refuge in our

Nation from war zones. He told a crowd in Minneapolis that allowing refugees into our country "will import generations of terrorism, extremism and radicalism into your schools and throughout your communities." This statement is so far diverged from the truth as to make it impossible to recognize where he got this notion. Every expert will tell you that if a terrorist wants to come into our Nation, the hardest path is to come as a refugee: You have to go to refugee camp, you have to be registered, you have to be vetted for years, and if you are male, you are probably not going to make it, but because the goal was to foment Islamophobia, this lie was repeated again and again. It is much easier to come into our country on a tourist visa, a business visa, a student visa, not a refugee settlement visa.

Our President-elect told the same crowd that refugees settling in Minnesota were "joining ISIS and spreading their extremist views all over our country. . . ."

Now there are reports from some connected with the transition team that the incoming administration is considering implementing a system for registering Muslim Americans, just as President-Elect Trump talked about, and using our country's shameful internment of Japanese Americans to justify this idea because it is a precedent. Let me be clear: Imprisoning fellow Americans as we did during World War II was a shameful and dark chapter and a mistake. We need to make sure we remember that it was a mistake and never use it as a precedent for action in the future.

Then, again, here we have our President-elect's Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who has run headlines like, "Political Correctness Protects the Muslim Rape Culture" or "Immediately After Muslim Mayor Elected, London's Iconic Buses Proclaim, 'Glory to Allah.'" Mr. Bannon has personally suggested that we are in a global war against Islam.

So it is no wonder the rhetoric of our President-elect and the leader of the White supremacist Web site is causing discrimination and confrontation with Muslim Americans around our country.

Some are being physically assaulted, like the woman at San Jose University who lost her balance and choked when a man attempted to rip off her headscarf or the Muslim student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus who reported having a knife pulled on her.

Then there are those who are being verbally abused and otherwise intimidated, including a woman riding the BART train in San Francisco who was accosted when another passenger called her a terrorist who should be deported, and a pickup truck that has been driving around Brooksville, FL, with writing on it that says: "All Muslims are Terrorists," "Deport them all," and "I hate Muslims." In Georgia, a Muslim teacher found a note left for her that

said: "Headscarf isn't allowed anymore" and telling her to "hang yourself with it." That is the level of Islamophobia sweeping our Nation at this very moment, inspired by the rhetoric of our President-elect and his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, and it is unacceptable. It needs to stop.

As Robert Kennedy once said, "America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity—the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired." We need to embrace that heritage, we need to cherish that heritage, and we need to strive to live up to the best instincts of our Nation, not the darkest impulses.

Yet another group that is feeling threatened is our LGBTQ community. I will note that Donald Trump in his campaign did not attack our LGBTQ community overtly, and he said on "60 Minutes" the other night, as the question of same-sex marriage came up, the question of same-sex marriage is "settled."

Actions speak as well as words, and of all the possible men and women he could choose as a running mate, he chose now-Vice President-Elect Mike Pence, the most anti-LGBTQ Governor in America. This individual is someone who has signed a draconian religious "liberty law" in Indiana that allows individuals and businesses to discriminate against the LGBTQ community. Our Vice President-elect supported conversion therapy to change people's sexual behavior. As a radio host, he gave a speech and declared marital equality would lead to "societal collapse."

Mr. Trump's Chief Strategist echoes much of this. One headline on Breitbart News said: "Dear Straight People: I'm Officially Giving You Permission to Say"—and then it goes on to list anti-LGBTQ slurs. Another headline that he put up on his Web site said: "Gay Rights Have Made Us Dumber, It's Time to Get Back in The Closet." Yet another headline said: "Kids Raised By Same-Sex Couples Twice As Likely To Be Depressed, Fat Adults."

How has this kind of rhetoric impacted our Nation since the election? A gay couple in Ogden, UT, woke up to find their car vandalized with anti-gay slurs painted on the side. Rainbow flags, the symbol of the LGBTQ movement around the world, were burned in Rochester, NY. An individual in North Carolina found a note on their car that said:

Can't wait until your "marriage" is overturned by a real president. Gay families = burn in hell #Trump 2016.

Like so many of the other groups of Americans I have talked about, the LGBTQ community has struggled for a long time to be accepted, to be recognized as full members of our society, to not be discriminated against when they seek employment in our country, to have the same rights against discrimination that we adopted for race and gender and ethnicity in 1964. We have

come a ways, but we haven't yet made it to the point that we have provided the same foundation against discrimination that we provided in 1964 to other groups.

So while Donald Trump himself did not attack the LGBTQ community, the person he chose as Vice President and the person he elevated to Chief Strategist for the White House very much have, and that is a powerful, powerful message that has unleashed attacks across this country.

As our next President, Donald Trump has the responsibility to put an end to the prejudice and to put an end to the hate crimes sweeping our Nation and to calm the fears and anxieties of millions of Americans who are frightened about their future in this country—about whether they will have an opportunity to contribute to this country, whether they will be fired from their job, whether their car will be vandalized, whether their children will be taunted and bullied, whether they will be attacked in a parking lot.

Across the Nation, thousands of people have been turning out to walk the streets and to protest. They are trying to send a message. Sometimes that message has gone off-track.

In Portland, OR, thousands turned out to send this message to our President elect: Put the hate speech and hate acts behind you. Don't bring White supremacists or deeply prejudiced individuals into your administration. Let's have a next 4 years that embraces all Americans and their opportunity to succeed. They are trying to send a message by walking with their feet from park to park, across bridges, through the streets.

Unfortunately, some anarchists decided to destroy the effectiveness of this protest by breaking windows and setting some fires. The organizers of these protests condemn the anarchists and try to keep them out, and most of the protests have succeeded.

I ask for our President-elect, if you won't listen to those of us who are publicly asking you to change course, and if you won't listen to my colleagues who are privately calling you and saying to you and your team to change course, then listen to the people in the streets across America who are trying to peacefully convey the message that we are a diverse nation, with a fabulous vision of embracing people of every religion and every ethnicity and every race. Let's continue that tradition. Let's strengthen that tradition. Let's build on that tradition. That is the message all of us are trying to send.

I join my colleagues to repeat the requests we have made on the floor in Senate, the letter we sent to you, the message sent privately by many of my colleagues sitting across the aisle, the message sent by many of our leaders from civil rights groups and other organizations who have contacted the transition team, the message that has echoed with thousands and thousands

of emails sent to Capitol Hill to ask us to help convey this message.

From every direction, Americans are reaching out and saying: End the hate speech. End the hate commentary. Bring people into your administration who believe in opportunity and justice for all. Change directions.

It is a time for leadership. It is time for our President-Elect Donald Trump to rise to the occasion and to help build a nation that provides the foundation for every American to thrive.

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

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

HONORING ALASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I have been proud to associate myself with the work of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. I have been doing this for the many years I have been here in the Senate, and I have been privileged over the years to read the names of Alaska's fallen law enforcement officers. They have a candlelight vigil that occurs at that memorial every May. It is an extraordinarily powerful and moving vigil. From my seat, I am able to look out and see thousands of individuals, and directly in front of the stage they have the wives, husbands, parents, and children of those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As I think of the families, individuals, and those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice, it is very difficult to find words that express the depth of my gratitude for their service or the depth of my sorrow.

It is a great honor to be asked and a duty to demonstrate my solidarity with the thin blue line. I go each year hoping that I will not be invited back the next year because that would mean Alaska did not lose a law enforcement officer in the previous year. Unfortunately, I will be invited back to the 2017 ceremony because the year 2016, this year, I am sad to say has been a most difficult one for the law enforcement community in Alaska. This past autumn has been particularly difficult.

Since this body recessed at the end of September, 25 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the line of duty—15 to gunfire. Firearms-related law enforcement fatalities are up 70 percent according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. This year we have to contend with a particular type of firearms-related fatality, the ambush shooting. This year, 2016, will go down in the annals of law enforcement as the year of the ambush shooting. From

Stanislaus County, CA, to Canonsburg, PA; from New York City to Des Moines, IA; from Peach County, GA, to Palm Springs, CA, it seems no corner of the country is immune from this tragic trend. Unfortunately, Alaska is not immune from it either.

Just this last Saturday, on November 12, Anchorage police officer Arn Salao was dispatched on a call involving an individual who failed to pay a taxi fair, and as he pulled up to the scene, an individual opened fire on his patrol car. Officer Salao exited his car and began to return fire, but he was struck four times before the assailant was brought down by Officer Salao and his backup. It turns out—we have just learned this within the past day—that the perpetrator's gun was linked through ballistics to five homicides in Anchorage during this year of 2016.

Officer Salao has undergone two surgeries and he is expected to survive. On behalf of a grateful Senate, I will take this opportunity to recognize Anchorage Police Officer Arn Salao for his bravery and his heroism, and wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the men and women of the Anchorage Police Department under the able leadership of Chief Chris Tolley. Chief Tolley is very proud of his team—and justifiably so—from the officers on the scene to the dispatchers who calmly managed the situation, to the investigators who pieced together the story.

Up in Fairbanks, to the north of Anchorage, we had a different outcome with a different ambush shooting. Sergeant Allen Brandt of the Fairbanks Police Department was not so fortunate. On the evening of Saturday, October 15, Sergeant Brandt gathered his four children, brought them together on his bed before he was going out to report for duty. That was ordinary for this sergeant—four young kids under the age of—I believe it is 8—all snuggling with their dad as he prepared to read a story, as he did each and every day. Unfortunately, nothing beyond that was ordinary about that particular evening. Sergeant Brandt had a premonition that he would get shot that evening, and he actually shared that with his family.

Sergeant Brandt was dispatched to a call of shots fired in downtown Fairbanks later that evening. He pulled up on the scene. He was shot six times by an assailant who took his gun and his patrol car, leaving Sergeant Brandt on the street to die. Hearing the gunfire, Brenda Riley rushed out of her home. It was late. It was cold. She was wearing a robe and slippers, and she literally held Sergeant Brandt in her arms while help arrived.

The sergeant was first taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and then he was air-lifted to Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. I had an opportunity to visit with him just hours after the shooting there at the hospital in Anchorage and had an opportunity

to not only hear directly from Sergeant Brandt about the circumstances behind the shooting but to share his thoughts with his wife present as well as his best friend.

Sergeant Brandt was supposed to survive. His most serious injury was shrapnel to the eye. He had been shot multiple times in the legs, took a shot directly to his chest, and, fortunately, the bulletproof vest saved him, but shrapnel came up into his eye. At the time I saw him, he had a patch. He was quite concerned that he would lose his eyesight and, if he lost his eyesight, he was concerned that he wouldn't be able to continue to serve in the Fairbanks Police Department—a concern he said was very troubling.

The sergeant was released from the hospital. He returned home to Fairbanks to thank Mrs. Riley and to thank the Fairbanks community for their support. Eight days after he was released from the hospital, Sergeant Brandt went to the Fairbanks City Council. He went to speak before the council. It was actually the same day that the new mayor was being sworn in, new council members were being sworn in.

Sergeant Brandt wanted to thank the community of Fairbanks. A devout and humble man, Sergeant Brandt told the council that he has seen the hand of the Lord. Yet, he noted, we have many fine officers who have done greater and better things than I have. He said: Our officers do a very hard job and they need your support. Working weekends when their friends are working nights, sleeping during the day, the time that you miss with your family.

In Sergeant Brandt's words, officers do a hard job and most of the time thankless. He said: We need your support and not just when bad things happen.

He asked the council:

Can you imagine telling your kids before you go to work that you think you are going to be shot? That's what our police officers deal with every day. I just want you to know what life is like for a police officer.

Those were the words that Sergeant Brandt shared with the Fairbanks City Council.

Later that week, Sergeant Brandt returned to Anchorage for scheduled eye surgery. He was fighting to save his eyes, again, in hopes of returning to duty. Unfortunately, Sergeant Brandt died from complications of that surgery. His assailant has been charged with murder in the first degree.

Sergeant Brandt's final public utterance—that the law enforcement family needs the support of the community and not just when an officer has been shot—these words must resonate throughout this Nation. As we reflect on a tragic year about to close, it is my sincere hope this will be our national resolve in the year to come.

Like every other law enforcement officer, Sergeant Brandt knew the risks and his family knew the risks. In spite of those risks, his wife Natasha sent

him out to work each and every day because the community needs people with Sergeant Brandt's selflessness, his courage, and his integrity.

So my thoughts today remain with Natasha Brandt and her four kids, who I hope will grow up to appreciate just how much of a hero and a role model their father was.

My thoughts also remain with Brenda Riley, who ran out of the house in her robe and slippers to come to the aid of an officer in distress, and with Phil McBroom of the North Pole Police Department, who is Allen's best friend, who stood watch with him there at the hospital and who maintained vigil and then cared for Allen's children, along with his own four kids, as well as with all of the men and women in law enforcement.

Once again, I join with my Senate colleagues in wishing Officer Salao a speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING EDWARD ITTA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is following these sad and difficult comments that I continue my remarks this afternoon to pay tribute to a truly great Alaskan leader who lived a full and strong life.

Today I rise to honor the life of Edward Itta of Utqiagvik, AK, formerly known as Barrow. Mr. Itta passed away on November 6 after a very courageous battle with cancer.

It is hard for me to even share comments about Mr. Itta's life—Edward's life—because he lived a life that was so remarkably full. As I look to the comments that I have prepared, it just doesn't seem appropriate to recognize Edward, using the formality we have here in the Senate, with just words.

Edward Itta was a visionary leader in our State. In many ways, like many Alaska Natives, he lived in two worlds—the traditional world of an Inupiaq whaling captain, as well as the past president of the association and vice chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I came to know Edward through his life as a whaling captain and how he helped to translate that into this modern world because he was very much a part of the modern world of business, government, and politics.

Edward Itta is probably best known for the two terms he served as mayor of the North Slope Borough, which is where many of us in Washington, DC, our Nation's Capital, came to know of and learn about Edward Itta and his leadership. He, as mayor, created the Healthy Communities Initiative to promote community-based activities. He also created the mayor's Youth Advisory Council, recognizing the need to encourage student leadership for our Next Generations, always focused on, again, a forward vision. He was deeply involved in policy discussions over how to balance oil and gas development in the Arctic with traditional values and the impact of climate change on his communities.

He came to Congress to testify before our committees. He was viewed as the Arctic expert, if you will, one who certainly had a Ph.D. in Arctic living. He spoke at just about every Arctic conference that I have participated in, as one, again, who could speak to his life as a whaling captain, as an Inupiaq, as a leader, as a father and husband but also a very strong businessman who was committed to leading his people into a modern-day world, while at the same time retaining ties to the land, to the waters that feed and sustain them.

Our former colleague Ken Salazar, who went on to serve as Secretary of the Interior, referred to Edward Itta as a giant of Alaska who opened his eyes to the wonders of the Arctic and its people.

There is a great book that is authored by Bob Reiss, entitled "The Eskimo and the Oil Man." It tells the story of how, as Shell was first seeking to explore opportunities in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas—some of the resistance that this oil company met as it dealt with the Native people in trying to gain consent and support for their activities in the Arctic and how this Eskimo, this Inupiaq visionary, helped to bring together the world of the traditional subsistence lifestyle and how it could be compatible with oil exploration and development in the Arctic. It is a book that once I had completed, I didn't put away on a bookshelf to not read again. I keep it out because I continue to refer to it.

Edward was appointed in 2012 to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President Obama and did wonderful work within the Commission. In the business world, Mr. Itta was active in his regional corporation—the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He served on numerous subsidiary boards as well as his village corporation, UIC. Also, before taking on the role of mayor, Mr. Itta served in numerous management roles on the North Slope Bureau, including chief administrative officer and public works director. Locally he will be remembered for his leadership in building and maintaining community infrastructure, gravel sources, sewers, roads, airports and the like which were so essential to the survival in the far north.

Edward Itta played in so many worlds and in all of them successfully. Yet he never forgot where he came from or who he was. His family, his friends—so many of us who call him friend—recognize what he provided for so many. We will remember his great sense of humor, his infectious laugh. He loved to tell stories. He would walk around the community gathering—a gathering they call Nalukataq, and Edward would walk me around to every little family in this semicircle on the beach, introducing me to everyone from the elder down to the youngest grandchild and telling stories about all in between.

He was an amazing man. He had a passionate commitment to the values

and traditions of the Inupiaq people. We will miss Edward Itta.

I had an opportunity to be there at the hospital in Barrow during the last few days Edward was on this Earth and had a chance to give a hug to his wife and to share my love and my support for a truly great Alaskan.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I understand that the majority leader is going to be coming on the floor, and I will be most happy to yield to him.

CONGRATULATING THE SENATOR FROM ALASKA

Mr. CARPER. While she is still here, I want to congratulate the Senator from Alaska and the chair of the Energy Committee on being named one of the recipients of the Jefferson-Lincoln Award this year in California and just say how proud I was to sit there in the audience and say that I know her and have the opportunity to work with her. So congratulations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if I can just say right back to my friend that it was indeed a privilege and an honor to be recognized with the Jefferson-Lincoln Award, along with my colleague from Delaware.

Particularly at times when political heat and rhetoric can be amplified a little bit, I think it is important to recognize and know that colleagues from very different parts of the country, with different constituencies, and different political perspectives can come together, whether working on legislative agendas or just showing respect and appreciation for the good work they do. I have such respect and appreciation for my friend from Delaware. It was indeed a privilege to be recognized with him, and I thank him.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, most people are not familiar with the Jefferson-Lincoln Awards, but they are given out every year to different people, Democrats and Republicans, usually to people who are in public life. One of the recipients was Bob Mueller, a former FBI Director—and SAM FARR, who is stepping down from Congress after about 28 years there and a life of service. He succeeded Leon Panetta in Leon's House seat all those years ago.

They present these awards to people who want to get things done. That is pretty much it—people who use common sense, are collegial, work across the aisle, and just get things done. It was an honor to be there with my colleague and the Panettas as well. It was a great evening.

Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor as soon as the majority leader comes.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

OFFICER CODIE HUGHES AND SPECIAL AGENT TATE JARROW

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I come to the floor maybe once a month when we are in session to talk about folks who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security. There are about 225,000 of them. What I do every month is pick on a couple of them. We pick on a part of the Department of Homeland Security that maybe doesn't get a lot of attention.

Before the Presiding Officer leaves, I just want to say "Happy Thanksgiving" to him.

Tonight, if I can, in the time that I have, I will start off by—I have been doing this now for 2 years, coming to the floor and talking about people in the Department of Homeland Security who have done amazing things for all of us.

If you will recall, the Department of Homeland Security didn't even exist when I first came here in 2001. It was created on the heels of 9/11. We took about 22 disparate agencies and glommed them together. They all had something to do with Homeland Security. The Department has struggled at times to try to be a coherent, collegial, productive organization. I think they are hitting their stride, and I am proud of the work they do.

There are more than 230,000 employees in the Department of Homeland Security around the country and around the world. They do some of the most difficult and some of the most diverse work that is done in the Federal Government, anything from protecting against cyber attacks—we have plenty of that going on—to helping communities recover from natural disasters. Unfortunately, we have a lot of that going on as well with FEMA helping out—to securing our borders, our ports of entry. The Department of Homeland Security faces great challenges as it carries out its mission of protecting all of us as we go about our daily lives.

As most people know, the U.S. Secret Service is charged primarily with protecting the President and the Vice President and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When I was a kid growing up, I thought that was all they did. As it turns out, there is a whole lot more that they do. It is a huge challenge, especially in a Presidential year like this when you have all these people running for President—mostly in the Republican Party, but some in our party too. As all the candidates are traveling around this Nation and going hither and yon, the Secret Service is trying to keep them and their families safe and doing it on a regular basis.

This part of their job becomes a lot harder during a Presidential election. The men and women of the Secret Service worked this year thousands of hours of overtime in this campaign cycle in order to provide protection for every candidate who needed it, whether Republican or Democrat. The Secret

Service did this while continuing to perform other special protection duties, such as the massive task of securing the United Nations General Assembly.

In September, converging on New York City at the United Nations, we had leaders of over 100 different nations around the world, and the job of protecting them and keeping them safe fell largely—not entirely, but largely on the Secret Service. For many agents, this required significantly long hours and weeks at a time on the road and away from their homes, all while standing ready at a moment's notice to thrust themselves into harm's way should their duty require it.

I am enormously proud of the Secret Service in this election season. Their work to ensure our candidates' personal safety and protect them from harm also helps protect our democracy, ensuring that the American people have the final say on who will be our next President and next Vice President. The Secret Service agency is a critical part of ensuring the peaceful transition of power from one duly elected leader to the next.

For all these reasons it is urgent that the Congress do what it needs to do to ensure that the Secret Service agents who have worked so hard in recent months receive the pay that they have earned and deserve. The pay limit in current law prevents that from happening at the moment for those agents who are owed overtime compensation. I support efforts in this year's House and Senate appropriations bills to address that issue and to make our Secret Service agents whole. I'm hopeful that a fix to this problem can be included in any final spending bill that we take up during the final week of this year.

The demanding work done by the men and women of the Secret Service exemplifies the term "public servant," as they put their lives on the line every day to protect our President, Vice President, and the candidates for those offices, regardless of party or politics. Even during the busy Presidential campaign like the one we have just gone through, every division of the Secret Service, despite the added strains, continues to exceed expectations through their ongoing work.

While many of us know of the Secret Service's duty to protect the President, relatively few of us know of the important work done behind the scenes by countless others across the Secret Service, two of whom I am proud to highlight tonight.

One is called the Secret Service Uniformed Division, and they protect the White House and its grounds 24/7. They ensure that the people's house is secure for the President and their families, for their guests, staff, and visitors.

I have no idea how many people visit the White House every year, but I know it is in the hundreds of thousands, maybe more, maybe even in the millions—but a lot of people go there from all over the world and visit. One

of the things that the Secret Service Uniformed Division does is help to make sure that when visitors go there, they are safe.

One uniformed division officer who has lived her entire life in the service of others is Codie Hughes. Officer Hughes joined the Secret Service 12 years ago.

Here is a photo of her with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary Mayorkas. As a uniformed officer with the White House branch, Officer Hughes is charged with securing one of the most iconic public buildings in the world, the White House.

In the past 3 years alone, she made more than 45 arrests while patrolling the area around the White House, including one person who was wanted by the FBI for previously making threats against law enforcement officers. Since 2013, Officer Hughes has helped save the lives of not one but three people who needed her help.

When a man collapsed in the White House before a meeting with the President, Officer Hughes administered CPR before the man was revived with a defibrillator.

Similarly, earlier this year, when Officer Hughes found a man collapsed on the street outside the White House without a pulse, she administered CPR until medics arrived.

And last year, most remarkably, when Officer Hughes happened upon two detectives in her hometown of Leesburg, VA, administering CPR to an unconscious man, she quickly identified herself as a Secret Service agent and offered to help. Along with the detectives, Officer Hughes administered CPR until the medics could respond.

This is her picture. As I said earlier, she is shown here with the Secretary of the Department, Jeh Johnson, who has done a great job, and the Assistant Secretary, Ali Mayorkas, who has also done a terrific job, and the fellow who has been the Director of the Secret Service for several years now, Joe Clancy, who by everybody's acknowledgment has done a very good job providing wonderful leadership. This photograph represents a time not long ago when she received the Secretary's award from the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. It is, I think, the highest honor that can be presented by the Secretary of the Department. It is the Exceptional Service Gold Medal for her "extraordinary bravery saving numerous lives both on and off duty." It is a well-deserved award for an exemplary public official. Codie, congratulations.

Officer Hughes currently serves as an instructor at the Secret Service training academy, teaching new agents how to respond to stressful situations while maintaining their composure at all times. I can think of few people better prepared to serve in this position than Codie Hughes.

When Officer Hughes is off duty, she continues her service as a volunteer with the Leesburg, VA, fire company.

For 10 years she has worked on her own time to make a difference in her community and protect her neighbors during fires and other emergencies.

So to Codie, we say thank you for the example you have set for so many others at the Department of Homeland Security, in your community in Leesburg, and across our country. Thank you, Codie.

Another true public servant within the Secret Service is a fellow named Tate Jarrow, a special agent. Tate is pictured here to my left. He looks like a young fellow, but after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Special Agent Jarrow served 5 years as an Army infantry officer, achieving the rank of captain before joining the Secret Service.

Mr. President, as an old Navy guy, a retired Navy captain—he is an Army captain—I feel I should say "Navy salutes Army," and the Navy does salute the Army. I like to say to people—I like to kid folks in the different services, and we take shots at one another in a fun-loving way, but I would say to my friends in the Army kidding me about the Navy, "different uniforms, same team." So we are lucky that we are on the same team with this fellow.

Tate is a special agent in the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force. He has worked to protect millions of Americans from large-scale financial fraud. While fraud and counterfeit investigations are one of the Secret Service's lesser known tasks, the growth, scope, and scale of cyber crimes makes Agent Jarrow's work more important than ever.

After one of the largest data breaches in history compromised the information of nearly 100 million people, Special Agent Jarrow worked with forensic investigators and the FBI to track down the hackers and stop them from using the information to perpetrate a large-scale stock manipulation scheme. Special Agent Jarrow's work brought to justice three men who not only stole this information but were stealing more than \$100 million using various illegal enterprises that preyed on innocent people around the world.

In another case, Special Agent Jarrow shut down a criminal enterprise that used investment fraud, credit card fraud, identity theft, and computer hacking to steal more than \$250 million—\$250 million—from some 600,000 Americans and thousands of other people around the world. His work helped put away the culprits, sending the ring leader to jail for 20 years or more.

Special Agent Jarrow has been described by his colleagues as "one of the most preeminent cyber investigators in the Federal Government." That is really saying something, because we have some terrific ones in the NSA, or the National Security Agency, and in the Department of Homeland Security and elsewhere. So that is high praise.

While they say that Special Agent Jarrow is quiet, they say he is humble in person, and he is dogged. He is dog-

ged in his pursuit of the bad guys. Unfortunately, there are plenty of them out there.

The American people, their information, and their hard-earned savings are all safer thanks to Tate's efforts to go after the bad guys who prey on hard-working Americans online.

This October, about a month ago, Special Agent Jarrow was honored by Secretary Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with the Secretary's Silver Medal Award for his work with the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force. Shortly after that, the Partnership for Public Service awarded Special Agent Jarrow with the Call to Service Award, one of its prestigious "Sammy" awards that go to talented Federal servants for outstanding service to us, the American people.

The Secret Service is full of women and men like Codie Hughes and Tate Jarrow, who have dedicated their lives to serving others on the job and off the job. The work done by them and others like them, especially over these past 18 months, and by thousands of men and women in the U.S. States Secret Service is a shining example of public service at its best. While many of us can get swept away in the politics of the day or the latest headlines and the last tweets, there are countless public servants across the Department of Homeland Security who wake up every morning, and they go to work on behalf of us, the American people.

Their dedication, their service, and their sacrifice continue to move our country forward. So, to Officer Hughes, to Special Agent Jarrow, and to all their colleagues at the U.S. States Secret Service, we thank you for your unwavering dedication, your long hours, tireless service to our President, to our Vice President, to their families, and really to the American people. All of us here in this Chamber and countless others around the country are better servants thanks to your hard work and shining example.

In closing, I should acknowledge the fact that, despite the excellent work I have detailed in these remarks, the Secret Service has faced its share of challenges in recent years. But this week the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security issued a new report praising a number of steps that the agency—the Secret Service—has been taking to make needed improvements. These improvements are thanks, in part, to the exceptional work of rank-and-file personnel like Officer Hughes and Agent Jarrow, and also to the strong leadership of Director Clancy, Secretary Johnson, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, and others who have been committed to ensuring that the Secret Service remains the finest protection agency in the world.

As I prepare to yield the floor and leave the building, I just want to take a moment to say, when a lot of American families gather on Thanksgiving Day across our country and enjoy a

meal together—hopefully, a wonderful meal together with their parents and their moms and dads, their brothers and sisters, their children, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews—my hope is that when we give thanks, we will also remember to be thankful for the folks I talked about here today and the hundreds of thousands of people like them who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security.

One of the reasons we have the freedom we do as a nation is because of their vigilance and commitment to duty. So I extend that on behalf of all of the Members of the Senate to the folks who serve us in the Department of Homeland Security and throughout this government and to the folks who work in this building and who enable us by providing for Members and staff here in the Capitol and to the pages who are going to go home for a week or so and come back for maybe a week or so. We wish all of them a happy Thanksgiving, and we look forward to seeing all of you, including my friend the Presiding Officer in about 10 days.

With that, the majority leader is here. I am happy to yield the floor to him and wish him a happy Thanksgiving a few days in advance.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM “BILL” BISSETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a man who has been a great advocate for the people of Kentucky and a man I am proud to call a friend. Mr. William “Bill” Bissett, who served for more than 6 years as the president of the Kentucky Coal Association, KCA, helped lead the effort in Kentucky to spread awareness regarding the devastation the coal industry has seen over the past several years—devastation wrought in many cases by wrongheaded government regulations and daunting challenges within the energy market.

Unfortunately for Kentucky, Bill recently left his position with the KCA, and starting November 1, he moved on to take his talents to the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce as its new president and CEO. Bill’s departure is a great loss for the Commonwealth, and although he will certainly be missed, I wish him all the best in his new position.

As the people of Kentucky well know, the coal industry has not only supported and sustained life in the Bluegrass State for generations, it has also powered this Nation’s rise through the industrial revolution and through times of war to become the greatest country in the world.

Coal is forever intertwined with the history of Kentucky and the Nation, but recently, coal has been under attack. For the last 8 years, the current administration has waged a war on coal and a war on coal jobs. They would have us believe it is immoral to use coal, and they have pursued regula-

tions that aim to close coal mines and shut down coal-fired power plants that exist in Kentucky and prevent new ones from being built.

Even in the face of this hostile environment, in 2010, Bill Bissett took on a difficult job that many would have shrank from and became the president of the KCA. Since then, he has been on the front lines fighting against government overregulation and overreach. And I have been proud to stand alongside Bill to defend Kentucky’s coal workers and their families against an administration dead set on waging a war on coal, a war which has contributed to the closure of mines and an increase in unemployment.

Bill and I worked together in taking Kentucky’s case for coal and for coal jobs to the EPA. When the EPA first held hearings on the set of regulations that would become the so-called Clean Power Plan—regulations that threaten to close down power plants in Kentucky and reduce jobs—Bill and I worked together in calling for them to hold listening sessions in Kentucky so EPA could hear from the people who would be most affected by its new rules.

When the EPA refused to come to Kentucky and only held hearings in States with little reliance on coal like California and Massachusetts, Bill and the KCA joined me in making sure our voices were heard. We convened our own hearings in Pikeville, where coal miners and Kentuckians with jobs reliant on the coal industry spoke about how EPA’s proposed regulations would impact them. We also took our case directly to the EPA in Washington, DC, when it conducted one of its listening sessions on the so-called Clean Power Plan, which threatens to cut more coal jobs in Kentucky and increase electricity prices in the State by double digits.

These are just a few highlights of Bill’s tenure with KCA. Before coming to KCA, Bill worked as chief of staff/senior vice president for communications at Marshall University, his alma mater. Prior to that he served as vice president of public relations for Charles Ryan Associate, CRA, an integrated marketing firm. During his time at CRA, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Friends of Coal campaign. Bill and his wife, Lara, are devoted parents to two daughters, Molly and Maggie.

From the beginning of his tenure at KCA to the very end, Bill Bissett worked with great energy and enthusiasm on behalf of Kentuckians who work in the coal industry. He was a great advocate for coal miners. Kentucky’s loss is truly Huntington’s gain, and I wish Bill well in his future endeavors with the regional chamber of commerce and beyond. On behalf of the thousands of Kentuckians touched by Bill’s work, I want to thank him for his service to the Bluegrass State and his advocacy to preserve our history and heritage. He is always welcome back in Kentucky, where he has many friends.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA YU

Mr. DURBIN. Earlier this year, Linda Yu, one of Chicago’s most respected and well-liked broadcasters, announced that she will anchor her final newscast next Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

For more than 37 years, Linda Yu has reported the news in Chicago and set a high bar for those who follow. Linda is one of the special ones. She has an outstanding ability to connect with her viewers, which has ingratiated her to Chicagoans. A viewer once told her that “when things go wrong, you make me feel safe.” That’s what Linda Yu means to Chicago. She is a comfort to a city during difficult times and a trusted voice. Linda is the consummate professional, class act, and trailblazer. As the first Asian American to anchor a news broadcast in Chicago, Linda has become a role model for children aspiring to the newsroom, regardless of race or gender. That is quite a legacy.

Linda’s story is a uniquely American story. Born in Xian, China, Linda moved to Hong Kong with her family when she was only 2 years old. Three years later, they immigrated to the United States, living in Pennsylvania and Indiana, before settling in California. In 1968, Linda Yu graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor of arts in journalism. Shortly after, she began her career at the ABC-owned affiliates KTLA-TV and KABC-TV in Los Angeles, before moving to what became her home away from home, Chicago, IL. In 1979, Linda joined Chicago’s WMAQ-TV. Five years later, she joined ABC 7’s 4 p.m. newscast. And for the next 32 years, it was the No. 1 newscast. How is that for a winning streak?

Among her accolades, Linda Yu earned five Chicago Emmy Awards. Her first came in 1981, for a special newscast on the assassination attempt on President Reagan. One year later, Linda received her second Emmy for her report and coverage of a construction accident in Chicago’s downtown loop. In 2005, Linda was honored by the Chicago chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the prestigious Silver Circle, honoring her for 25 years of outstanding contributions to Chicago broadcasting. Linda also received the National Gold Medal from the National Conference of Community and Justice for her documentary “The Scars of Belfast.”

Linda Yu has had an amazing career and is an extraordinarily accomplished professional. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Chinese American Service League, the March of Dimes, Asian Human Services and Juvenile Protective Association. She also cofounded the Chicago Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association. But her proudest accomplishment is her family. The mother of a daughter, Francesca, and a son, Bryan, Linda now plans on spending more time with them and writing her next book. Her first book, a memoir, “Living and Working in America, 15 lessons,” published in Chinese, is a guide to help

young Chinese woman in the global workplace. Her next book will focus on stories of prominent Asian woman entrepreneurs and political and cultural leaders in America.

When Linda broke the news to her colleagues that she was "moving on" from ABC 7, she made sure not to use the word "retire" because she couldn't imagine retirement. So let me be clear, this is not the final chapter for Linda Yu. She will continue to write and be a role model for her community and countless young women around the world.

I want to congratulate Linda Yu on her distinguished career and thank her for giving so much to the people of Chicago. She will truly be missed. I wish Linda and her family all the best.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-58, concerning the Department of the Air Force's and Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$21.1 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-58

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$11.5 billion.

Other \$ 9.6 billion.

Total \$21.1 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Seventy-two (72) F-15QA Aircraft.

One hundred and forty-four (144) F-110-GE-129 Aircraft Engines.

Eighty (80) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II).

Eighty (80) Digital Electronic Warfare Suites (DEWS).

Eighty (80) M61A "Vulcan" Gun Systems.

Eighty (80) Link-16 Systems.

One hundred and sixty (160) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS).

Three hundred and twelve (312) LAU-128 Missile Launchers.

Eighty (80) AN/APG-82(V)1 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars.

One hundred and sixty (160) Embedded GPS/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI).

Eighty (80) AN/AAQ-13 LANTIRN Navigation Pods w/Containers.

Eighty (80) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods w/containers (MDE Determination Pending).

Eighty (80) AN/AAS-42 Infrared Search and Track Systems (IRST) (MDE Determination Pending).

Two hundred (200) AIM-9X Sidewinder Missiles.

Seventy (70) AIM-9X Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Eight (8) AIM-9X Special Training Missiles.

Twenty (20) CATM AIM-9X Missile Guidance Units.

Twenty (20) AIM-9X Tactical Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) AIM-120C7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Five (5) AIM-120C7 Spare Guidance Kits.

One hundred (100) AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM).

Forty (40) AGM-88 HARM CATMs.

Two hundred (200) AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapons (JSOW).

Eighty (80) AGM-84L-1 Standoff Strike Anti-Ship Missiles (Harpoon).

Ten (10) Harpoon Exercise Missiles.

Two hundred (200) AGM-65H/K (Maverick) Missiles.

Five hundred (500) GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) Guidance Kits.

Five hundred (500) GBU-31 (VI) JDAM Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) GBU-54 Laser JDAM Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) GBU-56 Laser JDAM Guidance Kits.

Five hundred (500) BLU-111B Bombs.

Five hundred (500) BLU-117B Bombs.

Six (6) MK-82 Inert Bombs.

One thousand (1,000) FMU-152 Joint Programmable Fuses.

Non-MDE include:

ACMI (P5) Training Pods, Reece Pods (DB-110), Conformal Fuel Tanks (CFTs), Identification Friend/Foe (IFF) system, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), ARC-210 UHF/UVF radios, LAU-118(v)1/A, LAU-117-AV2A, associated ground support, training materials, mission critical resources and maintenance support equipment, the procurement for various weapon support and test equipment spares, technical publications, personnel training, simulators, and other training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-SAC and X7-D-YAB) and Navy (QA-P-AAB).

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

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: Nov 17, 2016.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Qatar—F-150A Aircraft with Weapons and Related Support

The Government of Qatar requested to purchase seventy-two (72) F-15QA multi-role fighter aircraft and associated weapons package; the provision for continental United States based Lead-in-Fighter-Training for the F-15QA; associated ground support; training materials; mission critical resources and maintenance support equipment; the procurement for various weapon support and test equipment spares; technical publications; personnel training; simulators and other training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program value is \$21.1 billion.

This proposed sale enhances the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country and strengthening our strategically important relationship. Qatar is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region. Our mutual defense interests anchor our relationship and the Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) plays a predominant role in Qatar's defense.

The proposed sale improves Qatar's capability to meet current and future enemy air-to-air and air-to-ground threats. Qatar will use the capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractor will be Boeing Corporation of Chicago, IL. The Purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor. Additional contractors include:

Astronautics Corporation of America, Arlington VA.

BAE Systems, Arlington, VA.

Elbit Systems of America, Fort Worth, TX.

General Electric Aviation of Cincinnati, OH.

Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX.

L3 Communications, Arlington, TX.

NA VCOM, Torrance, CA Raytheon, Waltham, MA.

Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Teledyne Electronic Safety Products, Thousand Oaks, CA.

UTC Aerospace Systems, Charlotte, NC.

Implementation of this sale requires the assignment of approximately 24 additional U.S. Government and approximately 150 contractor representatives to Qatar.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-58

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale involves the release of sensitive technology to Qatar. The F-15QA weapons system is classified up to SECRET.

The F-15QA aircraft uses the F-15E airframe and features advanced avionics and other technologically sensitive systems. The F-15QA contains the General Electric F-110-GE-129; an AN/APG-82(V) Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar; internal and external electronic warfare and self-protection equipment; identification, friend or foe (IFF) system; operational flight program; and software computer programs.

2. Sensitive and classified (up to SECRET) elements of the proposed F-15QA include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software: AESA radar, Digital Electronic Warfare Suite (DEWS), Missile Warning System (MWS), Non-Cooperative Threat Recognition (NCTR), Advanced Display Core Processor (ADCP) II, the AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER targeting system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS), Infrared Search and Track system (IRST), APX-114/119 IFF, Link-16 Datalink Terminals, ARC-210 UHF/VHF, DB-110, EGI, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), and associated air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons. Additional sensitive areas include operating manuals and maintenance technical orders containing performance information, operating and test procedures, and other information related to support operations and repair. The hardware, software, and data identified are classified to protect vulnerabilities, design and performance parameters and other similar critical information.

3. The AN/APG-82(V) 1 is an AESA radar upgrade for the F-15. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and synthetic aperture radar, which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars. The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes. The highest classification of the radar is SECRET.

4. DEWS provides passive radar warning, wide spectrum radio frequency jamming, and control and management of the entire electronic warfare (EW) system. It is an internally mounted suite. The commercially developed system software and hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. The system is classified SECRET when loaded with a U.S. derived EW database.

5. The AAR-57(v)2 uses electro-optical sensors to warn the aircrew of threatening missile launch and approach which is integrated within DEWS. This system detects and performs data hand-off so countermeasures can be automatically dispensed. The system, hardware components and software, are classified up to SECRET.

6. The ADCP II is the F-15 aircraft central computer. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer. The hardware and software are classified SECRET.

7. The SNIPER (AN/AAQ-33) targeting system is UNCLASSIFIED and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in electro-optical clarity and haze and low light targeting capability. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified CONFIDENTIAL. Overall system classification is SECRET.

8. The LANTIRN (AN/AAQ-13) is a navigation pod and provides high-speed penetration and precision attack assistance in all flying conditions. The pod uses a terrain-following radar and a fixed infrared sensor to display an image of the terrain in front of the aircraft on a heads-up display. System components, countermeasures and vulnerabilities are classified up to SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

9. The AN/AAS-42IRST system is a long-wave, high resolution, passive, infrared sensor system that searches and detects heat sources within its field of regard. The AN/AAS-42 is classified CONFIDENTIAL, components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

10. A combined transponder interrogator system is UNCLASSIFIED unless Mode IV or V operational evaluator parameters, which are SECRET, are loaded into the equipment.

11. An advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links is used for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. The terminal hardware, publications, performance specifications, operational capability, parameters, vulnerabilities to countermeasures, and software documentation are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The classified information to be provided consists of that which is necessary for the operation, maintenance, and repair (through intermediate level) of the data link terminal, installed systems, and related software.

12. JHMCS is a modified HGU-55/P helmet that incorporates a visor-projected Heads-Up Display to cue weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. This system projects visual targeting and aircraft performance information on the back of the helmet's visor, enabling the pilot to monitor this information without interrupting his field of view through the cockpit canopy. This provides improvement for close combat targeting and engagement. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

13. The AN/AVS-9 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

14. The ARC-210 UHF/VHF secure radios with HAVE QUICK II is a voice communications radio system that can operate in either normal, secure, or jam-resistant modes. It can employ cryptographic technology that is classified SECRET. Classified elements include operating characteristics, parameters, technical data, and keying material.

15. The DB-110 is a tactical airborne reconnaissance system. This capability permits reconnaissance missions to be conducted from very short range to long range by day or night. It is an under-the-weather, podded system that produces high resolution, dual-band electro-optical and infrared imagery. The DB-110 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

16. Embedded GPS INS (EGI) is a navigation platform that combines an inertial sensor assembly with a fixed reception pattern antenna (FRPA) GPS receiver and a common Kalman filter. The EGI system is the primary source for position information. The EGI is UNCLASSIFIED. The GPS crypto variable keys needed for highest GPS accuracy are classified up to SECRET.

17. Software, hardware, and other data and information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon systems on a case-by-case basis.

18. The following munitions are part of the F-15QA configuration:

19. AIM-9X Sidewinder missile is an air-to-air guided missile that employs a passive in-

fared target acquisition system that features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The AIM-9X tactical and captive air training missile (CATM) guidance units are subsets of the overall missile. The AIM-9X is overall classified CONFIDENTIAL; major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL. However, technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

20. The AIM-9X is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-128 guided missile launcher. The LAU-128 provides mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-128 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

21. AIM-120C7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AMRAAM is classified CONFIDENTIAL; major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL. However, technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

22. The AIM-120C7 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-128 guided missile launcher. The LAU-128 provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-128 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

23. Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is an air-to-ground weapon with a guidance tail kit that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather "smart" munitions. With the addition of a laser guidance nose kit, the JDAM provides a capability to engage moving targets. The GPS-only guided JDAMs are GBU-38/31 (500 and 2000lbs respectively) and the Laser/OPS guided JDAMs are GBU-54/56 for the 500 and 2000lbs variants. The JDAM in UNCLASSIFIED; technical data for JDAM is classified up to SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

24. JDAMs use the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS. Countries approved for GPS PPS will be provided Group Unique Variable (GUV) keys or unique country keys.

25. The AGM-154 is a family of low-cost standoff weapons that are modular in design and incorporate either a sub-munition or a unitary warhead. Potential targets for Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) range from soft targets, such as troop concentration, to hardened point targets like bunkers. AGM-154C is used by the US Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, and allows aircraft to attack well-defended targets in day, night, and adverse weather conditions. AGM-154C is a penetrator weapon that carries a BROACH warhead and pay load.

26. AGM-154 uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS.

27. The AGM-84L-1 Harpoon is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 28 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability. Harpoon Block II is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile.

28. AGM-84L-1 uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS. The following Harpoon components

being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive and are classified CONFIDENTIAL include: IIR seeker, INS, OPP software and, missile operational characteristics and performance data. The overall system classification is SECRET.

29. The AGM-65H/K Maverick is an air-to-ground close air support missile with a lock on before launch day or night capability. The H model uses an optical device guidance system that has the capability to penetrate haze and provides high contrast and longer range target identification. The K model uses the same guidance with a heavyweight penetrator warhead. Maverick hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. The SECRET aspects of the Maverick system are tactics, information revealing its vulnerability to countermeasures, and counter-countermeasures. Manuals and technical documents that are necessary for operational use and organizational maintenance are classified CONFIDENTIAL. Performance and countermeasure design are SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

30. The AGM-65 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-117 guided missile launcher. The LAU-117 provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-117 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

31. The AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM) weapon system is an air-to-ground missile intended to suppress or destroy land or sea-based radar emitters associated with enemy air defenses and provides tactical air forces with a kinetic countermeasure to enemy radar-directed, surface-to-air missiles, and air defense artillery weapons systems. Destruction or suppression of enemy radars denies the enemy the use of air defense systems and therefore improving the survivability of our tactical aircraft. General capabilities, performance characteristics and support requirements are classified up to CONFIDENTIAL. The overall system classification is SECRET.

32. The AGM-88 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-118 guided missile launcher. The LAU-118v I/A provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-118 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

33. M61A1 20mm Vulcan Cannon: The 20mm Vulcan cannon is a six barreled automatic cannon chambered with 20x120mm ammunition with a cyclic rate of fire from 2,500-6,000 shots per minute. This weapon is a hydraulically powered air-cooled gatling gun used to damage/destroy aerial targets, suppress/incapacitate personnel targets and damage or destroy moving and stationary light materiel targets. The M61A1 and its components are UNCLASSIFIED.

34. Qatar is both willing and able to protect United States classified military information. Qatari physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. Qatar demonstrated its willingness and capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past. Qatar is firmly committed to its relationship with the United States and to its promise to protect classified information and prevent its transfer to a third party. This sale is needed in furtherance of USG foreign policy and national security interests by helping to improve the security of a vital partner in the CENTCOM AOR.

35. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advance capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of

the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-21, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$10.1 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-21

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 6.3 billion.
Other \$ 3.8 billion.
TOTAL \$10.1 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-two (32) F/A-18E aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines.

Eight (8) F/A-18F aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines.

Eight (8) spare F414-GE-400 engines and Twenty-four (24) engine modules.

Forty-one (41) AN/APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars.

Forty-four (44) M61A2 20mm Gun Systems.

Forty-five (45) AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receivers.

Two hundred and forty (240) LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers.

Forty-five (45) AN/ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser Systems.

Twelve (12) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods.

Forty-eight (48) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS).

Forty-five (45) AN/ALQ-214 Radio Frequency Counter-Measures Systems.

Forty-five (45) AN/ALE-55 Towed Decoys.

Forty-eight (48) Link-16 Systems.

Eight (8) Conformal Fuel Tanks.

Fourteen (14) AN/ASQ-228 AT/FLIR Systems.

Non-MDE includes: ARC-210 radio (aircraft), Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), Launchers (LAU-115D/A, LAU-116B/A, LAU-118A), Command Launch Computer (CLC) for Air to Ground Missile 88 (AGM-88), ANAV/MAGR GPS Navigation, Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS), aircraft spares, Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE), support equipment, aircrew/maintenance training, contractor engineering technical service, logistics technical services, engineering technical services, other technical assistance, contractor logistics support, flight test services, storage and preservation, aircraft ferry, Repair of Repairable (RoR), support

systems and associated logistics, training aides and devices, spares, technical data Engineering Change Proposals, avionics software support, software, technical publications, engineering and program support, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistic support services.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KU-P-SBG).

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

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 17, 2016.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Government of Kuwait—F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Aircraft with Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested to purchase thirty-two (32) F/A-18E aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines; eight (8) F/A-18F aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines; eight (8) spare F414-GE-400 engines and twenty-four (24) engine modules; forty-one (41) AN/APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars; forty-four (44) M61 A2 20mm Gun Systems; forty-five (45) AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receivers; two hundred and forty (240) LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers; forty-five (45) AN/ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser Systems; twelve (12) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods; forty-eight (48) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS); forty-five (45) AN/ALQ-214 Radio Frequency Counter-Measures Systems; forty-five (45) AN/ALE-55 Towed Decoys; forty-eight (48) Link-16 Systems; eight (8) Conformal Fuel Tanks; and fourteen (14) AN/ASQ-228 All-LIR Systems. Also included in the sale are ARC-210 radio (aircraft); Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems; AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG); Launchers (LAU-115D/A, LAU-116B/A, LAU-118A); Command Launch Computer (CLC) for Air to Ground Missile 88 (AGM-88); ANAV/MAGR GPS Navigation; Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS); aircraft spares; Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE); support equipment; aircrew/maintenance training; contractor engineering technical service; logistics technical services; engineering technical services; other technical assistance; contractor logistics support; flight test services; storage and preservation; aircraft ferry; Repair of Repairable (RoR); support systems and associated logistics; training aides and devices; spares; technical data Engineering Change Proposals; avionics software support; software; technical publications; engineering and program support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistic support services. The estimated total program cost is \$10.1 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political and economic progress in the Middle East. Kuwait is a strategic partner in maintaining stability in the region. The acquisition of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will allow for greater interoperability with U.S. forces, providing benefits for training and possible future coalition operations in support of shared regional security objectives.

The proposed sale of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will improve Kuwait's capability to meet current and future warfare threats. Kuwait will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense.

The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will supplement and eventually replace the Kuwait Air Force's aging fighter aircraft. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractors will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri; Northrop Grumman in Los Angeles, California; Raytheon Company in El Segundo, California; and General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts. Offsets agreements associated with this proposed sale are expected; however, specific agreements are undetermined and will be defined during negotiations between the purchaser and contractor. Kuwait requires contractors to satisfy an offset obligation equal to 35 percent of the main contract purchase price for any sale of defense articles in excess of three million Kuwait Dinar, (approximately \$10 million USD).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of contractor representatives to Kuwait on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft and provide support and equipment familiarization.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-21

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet is a single and two-seat, twin-engine, multi-mission fighter/attack aircraft that can operate from either aircraft carriers or land bases. The F/A-18 fills a variety of roles: air superiority, fighter escort, suppression of enemy air defenses, reconnaissance, forward air control, close and deep air support, and day and night strike missions. The F/A-18E/F Weapons System is classified SECRET.

2. The AN/APO-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar System is classified SECRET. The radar provides the F/A-18 aircraft with all-weather, multi-mission capability for performing air-to-air and air-to-ground targeting and attack. Air-to-air modes provide the capability for all-aspect target detection, long-range search and track, automatic target acquisition, and tracking of multiple targets. Air-to-surface attack modes provide high-resolution ground mapping navigation, weapon delivery, and sensor cueing. The system component hardware (Antenna, Transmitter, Radar Data Processor, and Power Supply) is UNCLASSIFIED. The Receiver-Exciter hardware is CONFIDENTIAL. The radar Operational Flight Program (OFP) is classified SECRET. Documentation provided with the AN/APO-79 radar set is classified SECRET.

3. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 Electric Warfare Countermeasures Receiving Set is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 provides the F/A-18F aircrew with radar threat warnings by detecting and evaluating friendly and hostile radar frequency threat emitters and providing identification and status information about the emitters to on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment and the aircrew. The OFP and User Data Files (UDF) used in the AN/ALR-67(V)3 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain threat parametric data used to identify and establish priority of detected radar emitters.

4. The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System is classified SECRET. The AN/ALE-47 is a threat-adaptive dispensing

system that dispenses chaff, flares, and expendable jammers for self-protection against airborne and ground-based Radio Frequency and Infrared threats. The AN/ALE-47 Programmer is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The OPP and Mission Data Files used in the AN/ALE-47 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain algorithms used to calculate the best defense against specific threats.

5. The AN/ALQ-214 is an advanced airborne Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures (IDECM) programmable modular automated system capable of intercepting, identifying, processing received radar signals (pulsed and continuous) and applying an optimum countermeasures technique in the direction of the radar signal, thereby improving individual aircraft probability of survival from a variety of surface-to-air and air-to-air RF threats. The ALQ-214 was designed to operate in a high-density Electromagnetic Hostile Environment with the ability to identify and counter a wide variety of multiple threats, including those with Doppler characteristics. Hardware within the AN/ALQ-214 is classified CONFIDENTIAL.

6. The Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Combined Interrogator/Transponder (CIT) with the Conformal Antenna System (CAS) is classified SECRET. The CDT is a complete MARK-XIIA identification system compatible with (IFF) Modes 1, 2, 3/A, C4 and 5 (secure).

7. The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) is a modified HGU-55/P helmet that incorporates a visor-projected Heads-Up Display (HUD) to cue weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. In close combat, a pilot must currently align the aircraft to shoot at a target. JHMCS allows the pilot to simply look at a target to shoot. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data and documents are classified up to SECRET.

8. The AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Pod is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating infrared, low-light television camera, laser range-finder/target designator, and laser spot tracker. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided weapons such as laser-guided bombs. It offers much greater target resolution and imagery accuracy than previous systems. The AN/AAQ-33 is UNCLASSIFIED.

9. The Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is SECRET. JMPS will provide mission planning capability for support of military aviation operations. The JMPS will be tailored to the specific releasable configuration for the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

10. The AN/AVS-9 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

11. The AN/ALE-55 towed decoy improves aircraft survivability by providing an enhanced, coordinated onboard/off-board countermeasure response to enemy threats. When threat libraries are installed, the AN/ALE-55 is classified SECRET.

12. Link-16 is a secure data and voice communication network. The system provides enhanced situational communication awareness, positive identification of participants within the network, secure fighter-to-fighter connectivity, and secure voice capability. It can be classified up to CONFIDENTIAL.

13. The LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers is designed to enable F/A-18 aircraft to carry and launch missiles. It provides the electrical and mechanical interface between the missile and launch aircraft as well as the two-way data transfer between missile and cockpit controls and displays to

support preflight orientation and control circuits to prepare and launch the missile. The LAU-127E/A is UNCLASSIFIED.

14. ANAV Global Positioning System (GPS) is a 24-channel Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) based pulse-per-second GPS receiver built for next generation GPS technology.

15. Command Launch Computer (CLC) is an electronics subsystem installed on the airframe to interface with the AGM-88 NBIC HARM Missile. The CLC and associated software package are compatible with all AGM-88 A/B/C missiles. The CLC receives target data from the missile and onboard avionics, processes the data for display to the crew to the appropriate display, determines target priority, and collects aircraft data for pre-launch hand-off to the AGM-88 HARM missile.

16. The AN/ASQ-228 Advanced Targeting Forward-Looking Infrared (ATFLIR) is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating thermographic camera, low-light television camera, target laser range-finder/laser designator, and laser spot tracker developed and manufactured by Raytheon. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided munitions such as laser-guided bombs.

17. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait, can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the classified and sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government.

18. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

19. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my frustration with the inaction of the Federal Communication Commission due to political reasons. The FCC's Chairman, Tom Wheeler, was forced to cancel a vote during their open meeting due to the inaction of one acting commissioner. That vote would have implemented a program to help rural Americans receive wireless broadband internet. I see no reason for the Commission to delay a vote, on a noncontroversial policy that would infuse universal service funding to the most high-cost rural communities across the country.

I regularly hear from Oregonians in rural counties that it is clear high costs are preventing private sector broadband investment in parts of rural Oregon. The FCC must fulfill its responsibility to provide a lifeline to rural communities and a connection to the global economy. Wireless cell service and broadband internet spur economic opportunity, improve public safety, and increase educational outcomes for rural Americans. Any delay causes these rural communities to wait even longer for help.

For these reasons, I am putting a hold on any confirmation vote for Jessica Rosenworcel to be a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK AND TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I am proud to be a steadfast ally of the LGBT community. This week is Transgender Awareness Week, during which we seek to raise the visibility of transgender and gender nonconforming people and to bring awareness to the issues this community faces, from prejudice and discrimination to acts of violence that have claimed too many lives.

Eighteen years ago, Rita Hester, an African-American transgender woman was murdered in Boston, MA. Rita's death ignited fear in the transgender community. Her murder also sparked the founding of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. On November 20, we remember Rita and the all too many transgender individuals who have lost their lives to hate-based violence.

Sadly, the fear that the transgender community feels has not subsided in the last 18 years. For the transgender community, and even more so for transgender women of color, the fear of violence is still all too real. In 2015, at least 21 transgender individuals in the United States were victims of fatal violence. This year, we have already reached that same number of transgender deaths attributable to violence, reflecting more such deaths than in any other year in which advocates have kept records. This is both sad-den and maddening.

Too many of these victims' stories go untold, but through the Transgender Day of Remembrance, many of these individuals silenced by violence get a small voice. This day is a reminder that no person's life is worth less than another's because of who they are or whom they love. We must continue to do all we can to stop the marginalization of the transgender community, to stop the discrimination, and to stop the violence.

In 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. It was the first Federal law to provide civil rights protections for transgender people, and it was a step in the right direction. But it has not been enough to stop the ongoing discrimination and violence against the transgender community.

We still have work to do and need as many voices as possible convey that message. This week in particular, but every week as well, we must remember all the transgender individuals who have lost their lives to violence at home and abroad and continue to work towards a more inclusive society, free of violence and discrimination.

HONORING MICHAEL G. SAURO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JAMES LANKFORD and myself, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Department of Army civilian employee Michael G.

Sauro who died 1 day after his 40th birthday on October 19, 2016, of wounds received from encountering hostile enemy fire near Kabul, Afghanistan.

The son of Michael and Christine Sauro, Mike was born on October 18, 1976 in Chambersburg, PA. He graduated from Savanna High School in Savanna, IL, and went on to graduate with his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

"Whether it be sports, or his friends, or his family, he always went at it 100 percent," recalled a fellow Savanna High School graduate, "He was very committed to the U.S. and service members, making sure they had what they needed to do their job." He was passionate about life and was always willing to step in and help. His infectious smile will be remembered by everyone that knew and loved Mike.

Mike began his Federal civilian service in December of 1999 and spent his career working for the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK, and at its satellite locations at Fort Riley, KS, and Schofield Barracks, HI.

While at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, he led the effort and was instrumental in revisions of the hazardous materials course. He worked to deliver the most robust training course available at over 50 locations in and outside the continental United States. Mike was the liaison between McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the satellite training locations helping to ensure that the mission was accomplished. McAlester Army Ammunition Plant coworkers fondly remember him for his "sunny disposition as well as his genuine kindness."

Mission always came first for Mike. Regardless of the complexity of the task, he quickly comprehended requirements of the task and aggressively accomplished them in a professional, timely manner. He deployed three times—the first time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the second in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the third to support the mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces. Mike's dedicated service and expertise made a difference around the world and saved lives. He is a testament to the values of the Defense Ammunition Center, the U.S. Army Combined Services Command, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the U.S. Army.

Mike is survived by his parents Michael and Christine Sauro, his brother and sister-in-law Ben and Sarah Sauro, his sister and his brother-in-law Brienne and Lance Matthews, and their children, Dakota and William.

Today we remember Michael G. Sauro, an American hero who gave his all for his country. Our Nation lost a great American, son, grandson, brother, uncle, and friend. Mike's service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS AHMUTY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Chris Ahmuty as he retires from the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin after 24 years of advocacy and leadership. Since 1992, Chris has dedicated his professional and personal life to creating a stronger and more equal Wisconsin.

Chris was born in New York City and spent his childhood and adolescent years in Derby, NY. Growing up, Chris's grandfather, Frederic P. Lee, played a significant role in shaping his future. Based in Washington, Frederic was an active contributor to the political reform movement in Montgomery County, MD, throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Frederic's commitment to public service and family values had a tremendous impact on Chris, eventually leading him into a career in advocacy.

Chris's career with the ACLU did not begin with a full time job, but rather a volunteer position. After moving to Milwaukee to attend graduate school, Chris held a variety of jobs, including a position at the Milwaukee County Historical Society. However, following in his grandfather's political footsteps, he began to spend his free time volunteering for the ACLU. Soon after, in 1982, he became the executive assistant to the ACLU Wisconsin executive director, Eunice Edgar.

Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union continues its mission to preserve individual rights and liberties. Since becoming executive director of the Wisconsin chapter in 1992, Chris has personally embodied this mission both in his work and in the community.

Over the course of his tenure, the Wisconsin chapter has grown from 4 full-time employees to 12, including 2 full-time staff attorneys. According to those who work most closely with him, Chris's leadership style is rooted in his familial values and strong belief in the importance of civil liberties. He recognizes that change will not occur over a single day or week, but over a long period of time with the help of perseverance, patience, and a strong will. Chris is a staunch advocate who has fought to end racial segregation in schools, uphold a woman's right to choose, and preserve every individual's First Amendment rights. Under his leadership, ACLU Wisconsin also fought hard to challenge the State's voter ID laws, which threaten to disenfranchise or discourage Wisconsin voters. Chris has spent his career giving a voice to those who might otherwise not be heard.

Chris's commitment to the people of Wisconsin goes beyond the impact he has had at the ACLU. He has served on advisory committees for the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and on the Legal and Policy Committee of the Wisconsin Relay of Electronic Data, helping develop privacy standards for Wisconsin healthcare. Lastly, Chris has served on the board of the Milwaukee Turners for over 10 years as a way of honoring his German heritage and

helping mold the next generation of leaders.

For the many years I have known Chris, he has been a respected leader, a passionate advocate, and a cherished friend. His patience, character, and drive make him a wonderful ally and a fearless protector of the rights of all Wisconsin residents. Although he is retiring from the ACLU, I know he will continue to spend his days fighting for equality.

I am so pleased to join with others in expressing gratitude for his leadership and recognizing his accomplishments. I wish him and his partner, Bob, all the best in the next chapter of their lives together.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN R. HEIMANN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of the Honorable Stephen R. Heimann, as he retires from the Bartholomew County Circuit Court after 25 years of distinguished service.

Born in Monroeville, in Allen County, IN, he graduated from Wabash College and the Indiana University School of Law and ran a successful private law practice for 10 years.

Since his appointment to the bench in 1991, Judge Heimann has embodied the most dignified ideals of our judiciary, dutifully demanding of himself the same high standards of conduct that he enforces and maintains for the community. The legacy he leaves goes beyond the thousands of orders and decisions he has rendered and extends to the way he treats others.

Judge Heimann's contributions have made a difference in the local community and in legal circles. His involvement has included performing in the local "Dancing with the Stars" competition to raise money for charity, facilitating interfaith Christian and Muslim dialogue, delivering a keynote speech before the NAACP, providing marriage preparation counsel to young couples, and numerous other leadership roles on the boards of nonprofit organizations. He has also served the State's judiciary by chairing its board of law examiners, judicial ethics and professionalism, judicial education, and judges and lawyers assistance program boards.

The Honorable Stephen R. Heimann has served the people of Bartholomew County and State of Indiana with great integrity, honesty, and professionalism. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and service, and we wish him well in retirement with his wife, Ann, children Andrew and Emily, and granddaughter Nora.

RECOGNIZING BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF BROWNSBURG, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brown Elementary School of Brownsburg, IN, for

being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Opened in 1997, Brown Elementary School currently serves 680 students. Brown Elementary School prides itself on having a welcoming environment for students and various programs like Learning Lab, which provides students struggling academically with extra support in reading and math in a small group setting.

Brown Elementary School's effectiveness can be found, in part, in its willingness to meet the educational needs of each individual student. The school began implementing the professional learning communities model during the 2011–2012 school year, which allows teachers to work on target areas to improve students' performance, contributing to their academic success. This interactive model allows teachers to share resources and ask questions to ensure the curriculum is being met across grade levels.

Brown Elementary School also benefits from the parent support group, which takes an active part in enhancing student learning and achievement. Through the group, approximately 15 to 40 parent volunteers come to school daily to help support the efforts by teachers and assist with student learning.

I am proud to recognize Brown Elementary School principal Dr. Casey Smitherman, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Brownsburg community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Brown Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Cathedral High School of Indianapolis, IN, for being named as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to

gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Founded in 1918, Cathedral High School is a Holy Cross School and one of the oldest and largest Catholic high schools in Indiana. It is one of the top-performing schools in the State. Among the school's strengths is its diversity, with students enrolled from more than 160 grade schools, who live in nine central Indiana counties, and come from neighborhoods across Indianapolis.

Cathedral High School provides a faith-based holistic education centered on its mission to "transform a diverse student body to have the competence to see and courage to act." This is evident through the school's rigorous academic program to ensure all students are challenged to their highest ability, and staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character.

Indicators of Cathedral's academic success are illustrated through the success of its students on Indiana's graduation qualifying exams for math and English. The school saw a 98.3 percent passage rate on Indiana's graduation qualifying exam for math and English. Additionally, 100 percent of Cathedral graduates were accepted to institutions of higher learning.

I am proud to recognize Cathedral High School principal David L. Worland, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Indianapolis community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Cathedral High School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING GEIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF FISHERS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Geist Elementary School of Fishers, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Geist Elementary School, GES, which was built in 2004, serves approximately 780 students from kindergarten through fourth grade. GES is part of Hamilton Southeastern School District, which now has five National Blue Ribbon schools. GES was recognized, in part, for its exceptional academic program, and it prides itself on providing

students with an education that meets the interests, abilities, and needs of all students, while also empowering them to reach their full potential.

GES has received an A grade by the State of Indiana since 2004. GES has distinguished itself through inquiry and project-based learning, in which lessons are built around key questions, and students take ownership of their learning. For example, students participate in a schoolwide inquiry project, Geist Marketplace, where students from different grade levels partner together to create a business. The project promotes collaboration and entrepreneurship, allowing students to create, market, and sell their products. In addition, they learn to pay their debts and hold an event that is open to the local community, where residents can purchase the products made by the students. Ultimately, students can provide proceeds to local charities.

GES parents, faculty, and staff work together to provide a positive learning environment to ensure students develop strong character, while achieving academic excellence and getting involved in the community.

I would like to recognize Geist Elementary School principal Christi Thomas, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Fishers community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Geist Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEXINGTON, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Lexington Elementary School of Lexington, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Lexington continuously aims to bridge the gap between students from diverse economic backgrounds. In 2008, Lexington implemented a schoolwide support and service model, which allowed extra funding for tutors and a more personalized approach to ensure individual student success.

Lexington Elementary prides itself on a rigorous curriculum designed to maximize student exposure to core concepts that are essential for academic growth and success. Each grade level

has specific programs designed to tailor that grade's needs. In the primary grades, Lexington uses the Burst reading program to provide students with foundational skills they need to read independently.

Lexington Elementary School's positive and nurturing atmosphere ensures all students are treated with respect. Students help lead the way through initiatives like Lexington's Project Words of Wisdom, where, every morning, students share motivational ideals, such as being kind to others, during the schoolwide morning announcements.

Lexington Elementary School's approach and dedication to student achievement has been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community. Students also benefit from programs in the local community. The Scott County Family YMCA offers a before and afterschool program with nearly 50 percent of the Lexington student population. This partnership offers homework assistance, enrichment activities, and exercise opportunities.

Lexington Elementary School is a stellar example of the benefits that result from dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong community partnerships in education.

I am proud to recognize Lexington Elementary School principal Charles Rose, who was leading the school at the time of the nomination, current principal Nick South, as well as the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Lexington community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Lexington Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING NORTHPOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GRANGER, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Northpoint Elementary School of Granger, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010, Northpoint Elementary School continues to demonstrate academic excellence and works to meet the individual needs of its students through

various strategies and assessments. Northpoint demonstrates an interactive method to learning and embodies a triangle of success approach that develops a strong connection between the school, parents, and teachers.

Northpoint Elementary School's staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character including academic excellence and service to others. Teachers and support staff not only mentor students academically but also focus on nurturing students' social and emotional needs. Programs to help students are provided before, during, and after school, including an antibullying program that is taught to students and reinforced regularly.

Northpoint Elementary School is an example of how dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong family engagement in education benefits both students and the local community. Students participate in various programs, including giving back to families in need by donating gifts during the holidays and supporting local homeless shelters.

Northpoint students come from various backgrounds. With a diverse student body, Northpoint has created an inclusive atmosphere to ensure every student is treated with respect.

I am proud to recognize Northpoint Elementary School principal Diane L. Wirth, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Granger community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Northpoint Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH RIPLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF VERSAILLES, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize South Ripley Junior High School of Versailles, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

South Ripley Junior High School has distinguished itself as a top-performing school in Indiana. For the last 4 years, South Ripley Junior High School has been named a Four Star School and an A rated school. In 2016, South Ripley was named a national School to Watch for its high performance on State

standardized tests and overall academic excellence.

The school's philosophy of education is built upon the expectation of success in all students. South Ripley Junior High School focuses on helping each student develop individual success academically and personally. To that end, the core curriculum supports college and career readiness to develop the skills students need in everyday life, such as problem-solving, as well as reading and writing effectively. In addition, South Ripley's faculty and staff continuously work with students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs and help students develop strong character.

I am proud to recognize South Ripley Junior High School principal Destiny Rutzel, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Versailles community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate South Ripley Junior High, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Union Elementary School of Zionsville, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Union Elementary School opened at its current location in 2007 and currently serves over 600 students. Union Elementary prides itself on creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment, where teachers, students, and teachers work together so that all students can reach their potential. Teachers utilize a wide variety of assessment practices to measure student progress, make instructional decisions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

Union Elementary School seeks to ensure students are enriched both during and after school. The school has an outdoor classroom, which includes native Indiana wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and vegetable gardening space, allowing creativity to go beyond the traditional classroom. Students are offered various extracurricular activities, including foreign language clubs, art enrichment, engineering club, a kids fitness program—Fit Kidz—and a drama club.

Union Elementary maintains a high standard for academic excellence, which can be attributed to the success of a rigorous curriculum, innovative instructional practices, and a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Faculty works closely with parents to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. Parents are encouraged to be an active part in their child's learning from serving as field trip chaperones to volunteering in the classroom. Union Elementary School's dedication to student achievement and positive atmosphere have been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community.

I am proud to recognize Union Elementary School principal Jennifer Raycroft, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Zionsville communities well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Union Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CARMEL, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize West Clay Elementary School of Carmel, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

West Clay Elementary opened in August 2006, with a mission to provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential. Every year since its inception, West Clay has been named an Indiana Four-Star School based upon high achievement results on standardized tests.

West Clay strives to provide a quality education to students through the tireless work of its dedicated staff, who serve in various leadership roles, such as school committee chairs. West Clay's mindset is on constantly striving to improve through reflection and staff development.

West Clay students, parents, and staff work closely together to give back to the community through philanthropic initiatives led by the parent teacher organization, PTO, and student government. Their efforts support organizations such as Riley Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association,

the American Diabetes Association, the Humane Society, and Gleaner's Food Bank. Over the last decade, the students and staff of West Clay have helped raise over \$60,000 which resulted in the donation of countless supplies to local organizations.

West Clay works to provide students with a positive learning environment to support their social, emotional, and academic needs. For example, West Clay has many student support services, including an instructional coach, who partners with staff to develop appropriate programs that will enhance student learning and will ensure that students are challenged, while at the same time supported in an effort to enable students to reach their potential. These staff members play an integral part in determining student learning needs through analyzing data and gauging students' interests.

I am proud to recognize West Clay Elementary School principal Jennifer Szuhaj, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Carmel community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate West Clay Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Weston Elementary School of Greenfield, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Weston Elementary consistently has distinguished itself as a top-performing school, was named an Indiana Four Star School in 2013 and 2016, and has been named an A school by the State each of the past 5 years.

Weston's success can be attributed to the school's goal of continuously looking for ways to provide a well-rounded education to students. The school emphasizes problem-solving and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their work and thought process. In addition to core subjects, students are exposed to physical education, art and music, and several classes participate in daily exercise led by prerecorded video segments from the Indianapolis Colts. Weston also offers students Weston Fit, an after-school fitness club that promotes

healthy eating and staying physically active.

Weston also prides itself not only on its academics but fostering a supportive environment that offers programs to promote emotional, social, and cultural wellness. Weston utilizes a fulltime social worker, who provides class lessons on topics of bullying and character education, with an expectation that students will treat their classmates with respect and develop strong social skills.

Weston's students, facility, and staff work together to ensure every child succeeds, and faculty partners with parents to encourage family engagement and parent involvement in school-sponsored activities.

I am proud to recognize Weston Elementary School principal Shane Bryant, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Greenfield community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Weston Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RYAN BODGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to thank and congratulate my defense fellow, Air Force Lt. Col. Ryan Bodge, on a successful year serving in my office. The expertise and experience that Ryan brought to my team was invaluable, and he will certainly be missed after he leaves.

Prior to his assignment as a defense fellow, Ryan served as the commander of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Bagram Air Field, BAF, in Afghanistan. He led a blend of more than 500 coalition and contract personnel responsible for the defense of 36,000 personnel, a 27-kilometer perimeter, and the Air Force Central Command's busiest airfield with more than \$3.5 billion in combat assets to include two specialized teams: Fly Away Security and Tactical Security Element personnel. His squadron was Tactical Control to Task Force Solid, responsible for the Bagram Ground Defense Area.

Ryan was born and raised in Cold Spring, NY, and he enlisted in the Air Force in 1992. He served as an F-16 and A-10 aircraft weapons load crew team chief and then in a special duty as a professional military education instructor. In 2003, Ryan commissioned to become an officer after successfully completing officer training school. He has served as a flight commander, convoy commander, officer in charge of training and resources, operations officer, high-risk response leader, major command, USAF, staff officer and two-time squadron commander. Ryan has deployed in support of the following missions: Southwest Asia, Operation

Iraqi, and Enduring Freedom, as well as Resolute Support and now Freedom's Sentinel. He has served on the Air Education and Training Command Security Forces staff as an executive officer and chief of force protection programs and technology.

Ryan's humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Tiffany, from Valdosta, GA, and their son, Garrett. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency which the Bodge family patriotically embodies. Ryan's family are his pride and joy and will equally be missed by our office team.

While we will miss having Ryan in our Capitol Hill office, I know that he will be moving on to greater things. I want to again thank Ryan and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him on his promotion.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH KENNEDY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize veteran Jeremiah Kennedy for his years in service in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Kennedy was inspired by his grandfather, the late Jerry Kennedy, who was also in the Navy during Vietnam and played a role in his decision of which branch to join.

Mr. Kennedy joined the Navy and left for boot camp in June of 2007. He then went on to an advanced training course to become an aviation ordnanceman, responsible for loading and building fighter jets with bombs and missiles, as well as maintaining all of the equipment that is used to transport those bombs and missiles from the magazines to the flight deck.

As an aviation ordnanceman, Mr. Kennedy was stationed aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS *George Washington*, which was sent out to replace the USS *Kitty Hawk*, an aircraft carrier located in Yokosuka, Japan. There, he remained in a forward deployed status, subject to being deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours upon the President's request. Mr. Kennedy was stationed overseas in Japan, as well as nine other different countries, and he considers the chance to experience different ways of life and traditions a truly incredible opportunity. After 5 years of service, Mr. Kennedy was honorably discharged from the Navy in June of 2012.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Kennedy for his dedication and service to our country. •

TRIBUTE TO DAN O'MALLEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I want to recognize Detective Dan

O'Malley who has served Lewis and Clark County sheriff's office proudly for 18 years. In his work as patrolman, a narcotics officer with the Missouri River drug task force, and detective with the criminal investigation bureau, he has made our communities a safer place to live.

Currently, he is assigned to the domestic violence multidisciplinary team, where he works tirelessly to protect women and children from violent crimes and domestic violence.

In addition to his duties with the sheriff's office, Detective O'Malley serves as a liaison for the Lewis and Clark County drug treatment court. Dan dedicates countless hours assisting those struggling with substance abuse issues and increasing their likelihood of successful rehabilitation. He continually goes above and beyond to provide the guidance and leadership people desperately need to overcome life's challenges and he does it with great compassion and empathy. His efforts have saved lives, families and have protected our communities.

His commitment and dedication to protecting and serving our community and his compassion to help others in need is second to none. This past July, Detective O'Malley was named Montana's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" by the Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association for his exemplary service. We are blessed to have officers like Dan O'Malley serving the people of Montana. Each day, he looks forward to taking on new challenges, making our community a safer and better place for us all. As a proud father of four, I know he understands the importance of integrity, honor, and commitment. •

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT WADE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Albert Wade of Yellowstone County. Albert, a Pearl Harbor survivor and a pilot of the B-17 Fortress, who is celebrating his 98th birthday this month. We celebrate our independence and freedom, because of people like Albert, who selflessly put himself in harm's way for his country.

In 1939, Albert was one of the first six men appointed to form the original Army Air Corps, and was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombers attacked. During the attack, his entire fleet of the B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down, and unknown to anyone at the time, Albert was the only survivor. It wasn't until 4 and a half weeks later, Albert says, that the American Red Cross found his then paralyzed body at the Russian Aid Station and brought him home.

Albert has been offered the Purple Heart many times; however, he continues to turn it down, saying that he is just a regular person. Albert went on to marry the love of his life, Louise, and has two children, Maggie and Del. Albert has dedicated his life to his family and has started several businesses, written several books, and became a pastor.

On September 23, 2012, Albert, along with nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War, were honored in Washington, DC, through the Honor Flight Program.

Albert embodies the kind of selflessness at the core of Montana's strong legacy of service. I am proud to honor this brave man for his service to his community and to our country.●

RECOGNIZING GEOTEMPS, INCORPORATED

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of an important business to Nevada, Geotemps, Inc. I am proud to honor Geotemps' significant contributions to the mining industry in the State of Nevada, throughout our Nation, and across the globe. I am extremely proud of Geotemps' years of success and am grateful for how it has benefitted the Silver State.

In 1986, Lyle Taylor of Reno, NV, created Geotemps to help increase Nevada's growing economic force. Recognizing that one of Nevada's greatest assets is its hard-working citizens, the Taylor family worked tirelessly to create an enterprise that would provide hard-working Nevadans with opportunities for success in critical industries. For 30 years, Geotemps has fulfilled these aspirations and produced positive results for Nevada.

Geotemps has provided the Nevada mining industry with reliable individuals across the State, while keeping the business within the Taylor family. Lyle Taylor's son, Lance, has led the company into a new generation of labor services. With offices in four Nevada counties, four States, and two countries, Geotemps remains a small business that produces big results. Much of Nevada's success lies in small businesses like Geotemps, and our State has truly benefited from the hard work and dedication of Geotemps' employees.

Over the course of three decades, Geotemps has demonstrated strong dedication to the great State of Nevada's mining industry. Without the determination and persistence of its founders and entire staff, Nevada would not have experienced the excellent growth we see today.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Geotemps on its 30th anniversary. This institution has advanced Nevada's mining industry, and I am honored to recognize this important milestone. I wish Geotemps well in all of its future endeavors and in creating greater opportunities in Nevada.●

REMEMBERING JUNIUS FOY GUIN, JR.

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Judge Junius Foy Guin, Jr., of Russellville, AL, who passed away on November 8, 2016. He will be long remembered for his service

to our Nation, his contributions to the legal community, and his dedication to both kindness and fairness in the courtroom.

Judge Guin was born in Russellville and graduated from Russellville High School in 1940. He went on to earn his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Alabama. Judge Guin took time off of school to serve as an infantry first lieutenant in World War II. During his service, he was sent to Camp Swift near Austin, TX, where he met and married his wife. After the war, he returned to the University of Alabama to complete his law degree and subsequently joined his father's private law practice from 1948 to 1973.

As an attorney, Judge Guin served on the Alabama State Bar Commission, the Board of the Alabama Law Institute, and the Alabama Supreme Court's advisory commission. He was also the first chairman of the judicial commission, which is now the judicial inquiry commission.

Judge Guin began his career in public service when he was nominated by President Richard Nixon to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. He was confirmed by the Senate on April 10, 1973, and assumed senior status on February 3, 1989.

In addition to his professional achievements, Judge Guin was named Citizen of the Year for Russellville in 1973. He served as an elder and chairman of the foreign missions committee of the North Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville, as well as the West End Church of Christ and Palisades Church of Christ in Birmingham. Judge Guin also enjoyed playing golf, valued music and traveling the world, and always loved cheering on the Crimson Tide.

I offer my deepest condolences to Judge Guin's wife, Dorace, and his children Jan, Judy, Jay, and David, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I join all of their loved ones as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn his loss.●

REMEMBERING JOAN TRIMBLE TOOLE

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of an exceptional Montanan and member of the Greatest Generation, Joan Trimble Toole. Joan passed away peacefully 1 year ago today at the age of 92 in Helena, MT. Her tireless dedication to public service set a tremendous example that we should all strive to achieve. Joan's footprint on policy and progress in Montana is remarkable; however, if she were here today, I suspect she would tell you that nothing made her prouder than being a grandma to 25 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Joan always put her family first, but her commitment to improving Montana communities didn't lag far behind.

I recently had an opportunity to read a letter that Joan sent to Eleanor Roo-

sevelt in 1942. Joan was 19, and the United States was fully engaged in World War II. In one of her earliest attempts to serve her country, Joan desperately wanted to join the war effort. Unfortunately, she still had a year remaining to complete her college degree. Joan found herself in a bit of a bind and sought the advice of the First Lady. She wrote, "... I would like very much to leave college at the mid years to volunteer for some sort of service that will take up all my time and preferably take me away from home. I do not care about uniforms and really would like to drive an ambulance on foreign duty so that I could feel I was actually in contact with the people who need help." Mrs. Roosevelt responded a few weeks later and stressed the need for Joan to stay in school and finish her degree. Undiscouraged and always resolute, Joan still managed to contribute to the war effort. She may not have driven ambulances abroad like she wanted, but she found a different way to serve by helping track German submarines as she concluded her studies.

It is clear that Joan possessed an extraordinary penchant for service at an early age and a drive to go beyond contemporary norms to fight for her beliefs, her country, and her friends and neighbors. Fortunately for Montana, Joan moved to our great State in 1949. Joan would go on to spend the majority of the next 75 years living in Montana. She raised a family and fought to make Montana a better place as a political activist. She championed the causes that still to this day make Montana the best State to live in and raise a family. She cared deeply about all Montanans' right to a clean and healthy environment and to a quality public education. Perhaps, most notably, she cared deeply about the importance of expanding the role of women in politics in Montana and beyond.

In 1954, along with friends Laura Nicholson and Harriett Meloy, Joan founded the Montana League of Women Voters, a group that proved to be instrumental in the formation of Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention and to the passage of a new State constitution in June of 1972. The 1972 Montana Constitution includes a provision that states, "All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment." Joan was so incredibly proud that Montana's Constitution guaranteed citizens the right to a clean and healthful environment. She brought it up all the time although she typically failed to mention the part where her activism played a critical role in securing the language.

For the rest of her life, nothing could deter Joan's dedication to protecting Montana's landscape and education system. She served on the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, lobbied for the Office of Public Instruction during legislative sessions, and

shared her expertise with numerous political campaigns and ballot initiatives. Joan volunteered for nonprofit environmental organizations, libraries, schools, the Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters. For decades, Joan was a fixture in Montana politics, fighting for progressive causes across the State. If there was an opportunity to advocate for change or improve her community, Joan always showed up.

Throughout my 8 years in Montana Senate, it was not unusual to glance up to the senate gallery and see Joan sitting in the front row. She usually had a grandchild or two in tow, as she always went to great lengths to teach her grandchildren the importance of public service and significance of always showing up. She would beam as her grandchildren took in the scene and processed the importance of being involved. She knew that her last calling in life was to pass her experiences, stories, and wisdom onto the next generation.

Even in her last few years, as it grew increasingly difficult for her to get around, I saw Joan at most of the events I held in Helena. She would give me a hug and thank me for my work before venturing off to find who she really came to see: my wife, Sharla.

A year later, we still miss Joan every time we pass through Helena. Montana lost an incredible leader and an irreplaceable voice. As we move forward and aim to tackle the challenges facing our Nation, we must remember the lessons we learned from Joan. We must ask ourselves how we can step up and serve our country, like Joan did in her letter to Eleanor Roosevelt. We must take action to advocate for our beliefs, like Joan did when she founded the Montana chapter of the League of Women Voters. Finally, we must always show up, like Joan did until the last days of her life.●

RECOGNIZING HOLLY CLEGG

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses come in many different shapes and sizes. No matter their shape or size, one thing remains the same: small businesses are the brainchild of passionate individuals who seek to make their life and the lives of those in their community a better place. In this spirit, I would like to recognize Holly Clegg of Baton Rouge, LA, who took her passion for cooking and healthy eating and turned it into a business that has grown over the past 20-plus years.

From an early age, Holly had a keen interest in cooking. Her passion and entrepreneurial spirit drove her to start her own catering company while she was still in high school. As a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Holly continued to perfect her passion through various cooking classes at the university. Upon graduation, she attended the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in London and then Cordon Bleu in Paris. Following this formal

training, Holly would marry unique Louisiana cuisine to the benefits of healthy eating in order to help people dealing with prevalent diseases and also launched and self-published a line of cookbooks. In 1993, after a local retail shop decided to stop selling cookbooks, Holly trailblazed her own road to success by promoting her first cookbook of the “trim&TERRIFIC” book series. Shortly after, she partnered with various organizations to develop cookbooks for heart patients, cancer patients, and arthritis patients. Having sold over 1 million cookbooks, her success has helped her gain notoriety, and she has appeared on various national media outlets to share her message of healthy eating.

During the month of October, in which we recognize and celebrate women-owned small businesses, I find it fitting to honor a female entrepreneur like Holly Clegg for capturing her God-given talent and building a business that has benefited so many. Her entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to her passion has helped Holly share tasty recipes all across the country and help everyday Americans struggling with crippling diseases to eat better while still enjoying the many flavors of Louisiana cuisine.

Congratulations, Holly, and thank you for harnessing your talent and being a role model for all women entrepreneurs. Holly is just one of the many examples of female entrepreneurs taking their interests and talents and cultivating them into successful business opportunities, and for this, we honor her as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING GENUSA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, one of Louisiana's best kept secrets is that our cuisine encompasses far more than oysters, gumbo, and boudin balls. In fact, Louisiana is home to a wide variety of culinary perspectives, often passed down from generation to generation, including this Small Business of the Week, the family-owned and operated Genusa's Italian Restaurant in Monroe, LA.

After spending years dreaming of sharing their Italian family recipes with friends and neighbors, Cherry and Francis Genusa took the entrepreneurial leap and opened their namesake restaurant in 1967. Using the original recipes passed down from Francis's mother and aunt, the couple offered up authentic Italian dishes to the Monroe community. For several years, Genusa's Italian Restaurant remained a hidden gem as Cherry and Francis did all the cooking, cleaning, table-waiting, and general management. This was in addition to raising their three children—Rachel, Ann, and Francis—who initially helped by rolling out meatballs and eventually were entrusted with more responsibilities.

Over the years, Genusa's Italian Restaurant became a Monroe favorite and

has enjoyed such success that it outgrew the original small kitchen and single dining room. Today Genusa's Italian Restaurant has grown to employ several Monroe locals who serve a dedicated clientele and also host celebratory occasions in their multiroom establishment. And Rachel, Ann, and Francis, who now run the restaurant continue with their family's tradition of growing their own herbs and tomatoes for their signature red sauce.

Congratulations to the Genusa family for nearly 50 years of small business success, and with that, I would like to formally recognize Genusa's Italian Restaurant as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING HEALTHY IMAGE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the path to small business success is different for each person, and every so often, one will stumble across an idea that fulfills a niche, which then benefits both the entrepreneur and the surrounding community. As we continue to celebrate National Women's Small Business Month, I would like to recognize Healthy Image of Lake Charles, LA, as Small Business of the Week for its impressive work in helping neighboring businesses grow and succeed.

As a marketing director for a healthcare organization in the Lake Charles area, Kristy Armand recognized the demand for a local marketing agency that catered to medical groups. An entrepreneur at heart, Kristy jumped at the opportunity to utilize her experience in health care and marketing to develop her own small business. Kristy enlisted the help of Christine Fisher, an intern with whom she had worked nearly a decade before, and together the women behind Healthy Image landed their first client in 2002. Five years later, Barbara VanGossen joined the growing business as a partner and the creative director, and within 1 year, Healthy Image outgrew its original location, moved to a new office, and hired several more employees.

During this period, the Healthy Image team worked closely with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, SBDC, at McNeese State University to provide marketing tips, financial consulting, and business advice with local entrepreneurs. Today, Healthy Image is made up of a team of specialists who provide an array of business services, including advertising, event planning, graphic design, social media, and branding to over 100 clients.

The success of Healthy Image has earned Kristy, Christine, and Barbara recognition on the national level. In 2013, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce selected Healthy Image as one of its distinguished Blue Ribbon Award winners with the title of being one of the “Top 100 Small Businesses in the Country.”

I would like to congratulate the inspiring team at Healthy Image and

wish them the best in their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING THE PAPER MARKET

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians have a long history of embracing life and celebrating when the occasion calls for it. In particular, the city of Monroe is home to a paper and party supply store that provides all celebratory essentials. As the holiday season quickly approaches, I would like to recognize The Paper Market of Monroe, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Amy Robinson has always been a celebration enthusiast, and from Mardi Gras to Christmas to crawfish season, she has found several reasons to celebrate every season in Louisiana. In 2010, Amy had an off-the-wall idea to track down the owner of her favorite local paper product shop to see if they would be interested in selling their profitable small business. After months of negotiating, Amy and her husband, Brian, became the proud owners of the popular local stationery store and set out with a new vision to create within the space a place in which members of the Monroe and West Monroe communities could come to plan their celebrations.

Today, The Paper Market embodies Amy's personal motto to "celebrate everything" and is regionally renowned for providing specialized party supplies for all occasions, in addition to carrying a wide variety of home decor and gift lines with a Louisiana flair. Amy has also employed an in-house graphic designer to provide a one-stop-shop for her customers' celebration-planning needs.

As we continue to celebrate National Women's Small Business Month, it is my honor to recognize Amy Robinson, her entrepreneurial efforts, and The Paper Market of Monroe for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Congratulations, Amy, Brian, and the entire Paper Market team. Thank you for your commitment to serving your community, and I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING SOPHI P CUPCAKES

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana is known for many great things, not least of which is our unique and delicious cuisine. Whether it is a crawfish boil in the spring or the first fall gumbo pot, our family traditions often center around food. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Sophi P Cupcakes LLC in Lafayette, LA, for sharing a unique take on a traditional dessert in the Acadiana region.

Jennifer Melancon studied the art of pastry for several years before she and her husband, Dustin, decided to open Lafayette's first cupcake-centered bakery, otherwise known as a cupcakery. Combining Jennifer's skill and Dustin's

business sense, the Lafayette natives launched Sophi P Cupcakes in 2010. Almost immediately, Sophi P Cupcakes became a community favorite and later that year was recognized as the 2010 "Best New Business" by the Better Business Bureau of Acadiana. One year later, Jennifer and Dustin were awarded the 2011 "Rising Young Business Leader" by the Junior Achievement of Acadiana. Over the next few years, Sophi P Cupcakes continued to grow and succeed and in 2015 expanded their operation to launch multiple Sophi P Express coolers across the campus of the couple's alma mater, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Jennifer and Dustin are now focused on the future of Sophi P's and have their eyes set on expanding their business across Louisiana and the Nation.

While hard work and thoughtful planning have played a major role in their success, there is no doubt that Jennifer's leadership as the head pastry chef and owner has helped cement Sophi P's as a local favorite in Acadiana. Catchy cupcake names such as "the Dude" and "Chocolate Thunder" match the "sophisticated to punk" theme that is the inspiration behind the cupcakery. With treats made daily with fresh ingredients and a mission revolving around customer service and appreciation, it is no wonder that Sophi P's is a great success as part of the cupcake craze sweeping the Nation.

During the month of October, when we celebrate women-owned small businesses, I want to especially congratulate Jennifer for her role in making Sophi P Cupcakes the resounding success that it is today. Her exceptional culinary skill and artistic mind has helped Sophi P Cupcakes become one of Acadiana's favorite places for sweet treats. Her passion is an example to all aspiring female entrepreneurs, and I applaud her for tapping into her talent and embarking on the endeavor of owning a small business with her husband.

Congratulations to Jennifer, Dustin, and the entire team at Sophi P Cupcakes on being named Small Business of the Week. I look forward to your continued confectionary success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4511. An act to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

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

At 2:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5392. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

H.R. 6007. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of certain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable air-space analysis, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-7530. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7531. A communication from the Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Review of Foreign Ownership Policies for Broadcast, Common Carrier and Aeronautical Radio Licensees under Section 310(b) (4) of the Communication Act of 1934, as Amended" (FCC 16-128) (GN Docket No. 15-236)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7532. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees" (RIN3084-AA98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7533. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management" (RIN0660-AA32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7534. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Arbitration Procedures" (RIN2140-AB24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7535. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Enhanced Emergency Order Procedures” (RIN2137-AF26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7536. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Expanding the Use of Excess Flow Valves in Gas Distribution Systems to Applications Other Than Single-Family Residences” (RIN2137-AE71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7537. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) 2017–2021”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7538. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial Driver’s License Requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Military Commercial Driver’s License Act of 2012” (RIN2126-AB68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7539. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendments to Implement Grants Provisions of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” (RIN2126-AB91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7540. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” (RIN2700-AE29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7541. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9954-04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7542. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prothioconazole; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9953-71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7543. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Iron oxide yellow; Exemption from

the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9953-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7544. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Di-n-butyl Adipate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9954-58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7545. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9953-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7546. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2-Pyrrolidinone, 1-butyl-; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9953-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7547. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9953-87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7548. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Increased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0050) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7549. A communication from the Acting Director of Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Equipment Contract, RUS Contract Form 395 for Telecommunications and Broadband Borrowers” (RIN0572-AC29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7550. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization (PAR) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7551. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)/TRICARE: Refills of Maintenance Medications Through Military Treatment Facility Pharmacies or National Mail Order Pharmacy Program” (RIN0720-AB64)

received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7552. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to Burundi, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7553. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938 with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7554. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Qualified Financial Contracts Recordkeeping Related to Orderly Liquidation Authority” (RIN1505-AC46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7555. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendments to the Export Administration Regulations: Update of Arms Embargoes on Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and Recognition of India as Member of the Missile Technology Control Regime” (RIN0694-AH07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7556. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Commercial Packaged Boilers” (RIN1904-AD16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7557. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Test Procedure for Commercial Water Heating Equipment” (RIN1904-AD18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7558. A communication from the Conservation Policy Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights” (RIN1018-AX36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7559. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State of Nebraska; Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program” (FRL No. 9955-25-Region 7) received in

the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7560. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Control of Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions from Off-Road Diesel Vehicles" (FRL No. 9954-78-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7561. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Procedure 2 - Quality Assurance Requirements for Particulate Matter Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources" ((RIN2060-AT15) (FRL No. 9955-20-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7562. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Disposal; Designation of a Dredged Material Disposal Site in Eastern Region of Long Island Sound; Connecticut" (FRL No. 9955-13-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7563. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule" ((RIN2050-AG70) (FRL No. 9947-26-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Export-Import Revisions" ((RIN2050-AG77) (FRL No. 9947-74-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Arizona; Revised Format for Materials Incorporated By Reference" (FRL No. 9948-55-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plan; Georgia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9955-32-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7567. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; KY Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 1-hour NO2 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9955-19-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Full Program Adequacy of Washington's Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permitting Program" (FRL No. 9928-27-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NH; Rules for Reducing Particulate Emissions" (FRL No. 9953-83-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Dallas-Fort Worth 1-hour Ozone and 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas; Texas" (FRL No. 9953-93-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7571. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Texas" (FRL No. 9953-89-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7572. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Preconstruction Permits Issued Under the Clean Air Act" ((RIN2060-AS56) (FRL No. 9954-88-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7573. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9953-41)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7574. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan; Reconsideration" (FRL No. 9955-17-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7575. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures" (FRL No. 9954-36-Region 6) received during

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7576. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels, Texas, project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7577. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding Ten Species and Updating Five Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BB82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7578. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of *Solidago albopilosa* (White-haired Goldenrod) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants" (RIN1018-BA46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7579. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying the Columbia River Distinct Population Segment of the Columbian White-Tailed Deer as Threatened With a Rule Under Section 4(d) of the Act" (RIN1018-BA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7580. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of the 36-month Non-payment Testing Period Rule" ((RIN1545-BM01) (TD 9793)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7581. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Programs: Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2017; Medicare Advantage Bid Pricing Data Release; Medicare Advantage and Part D Medical Loss Ratio Data Release; Medicare Advantage Provider Network Requirements; Expansion of Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Model; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements" (RIN0938-AS82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7582. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicability of Section 411(b)(5)(B)(i) to Implicit Interest Pensions Equity Plans" (Notice 2016-67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7583. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2017 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" ((RIN0938-AS70) (CMS-8062-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7584. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: CY 2017 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" ((RIN0938-AS71) (CMS-8063-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7585. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2017" ((RIN0938-AS72) (CMS-8064-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7586. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program: Covered Outpatient Drug; Delay in Change in Definitions of States and the United States" ((RIN0938-AT09) (CMS-2345-IFC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7587. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sections 4375 and 4376—Insured and Self-Insured Health Plans Adjusted Applicable Dollar Amount for Fee Imposed by sections 4375 and 4376" (Notice 2016-64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7588. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the amendment of a designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2016-1355); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7590. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102-1) for the June 10, 2016–August 9, 2016 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7591. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-519, "Extension of Time to Dispose of 1300 H Street, N.E., and Approval of Amended Term Sheet Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7592. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-520, "Fort Dupont Ice Arena Programming Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7593. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-521, "Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7594. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7595. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3376-EM in the State of Louisiana having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7596. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2016 Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7597. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7598. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7599. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-522, "Closing of Public Streets and Dedication of Land for Street and Alley Purposes in and abutting Squares 3953, 3954, 4024, 4025, and Parcel 143/45, S.O. 14-20357, Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7600. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the restating of the Commission's fiscal year 2015 balance sheet; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7601. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on Nov-

ember 9, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7602. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7603. A communication from the Deputy Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Titanium Dioxide and Listing of Color Additives Subject to Certification; [Phthalocyaninato (2-)] Copper" (Docket No. FDA-2016-F-0821) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation Findings—Performance Improvement 2014-2015 Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7605. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Report to Congress on Health IT Progress: Examining the HITECH Era and the Future of Health IT"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7606. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, As Amended By the Every Student Succeeds Act—Accountability and State Plans" (RIN1810-AB27) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7607. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7608. A communication from the Policy Officer, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Army National Military Cemeteries" (RIN0702-AA60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7609. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System" ((FCC 16-127) (PS Docket No. 15-91 and PS Docket No. 15-94)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7610. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Suncoast Super Boat

Grand Prix; Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0418)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7611. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River, Mile 338.8 to 341.9; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0576)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7612. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Houma Navigation Canal miles 23 to 23.5, Dulac, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0650)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7613. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hudson River, Edgewater, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7614. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Navy UNDET, Apra Outer Harbor, GU" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7615. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tennessee River 385.0-387.0; Scottsboro, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0467)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7616. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designating the Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River Stock of Beluga Whales as a Depleted Stock Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)" (RIN0648-BF55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7617. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Appalachian High Country Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

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

POM-216. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1011

Whereas, national forest lands are the largest single source of water in the United States and, in some regions of the west, contribute nearly 50% of the overall water supply; and

Whereas, the unhealthy state of these forests has resulted in catastrophic wildfires that are threatening the reliability, volume and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans; and

Whereas, severe drought and record-breaking wildfire seasons have highlighted the need for the implementation of a process that would require and provide for the United States Forest Service to accelerate restoration work in our national forests, which would protect critical headwaters and make forest lands more resilient against prolonged dry conditions, insect infestation and fire; and

Whereas, failure to take quick action will result in a continued increase in the frequency and intensity of destructive wildfires, impacting the nation's water resources for decades at considerable cost to stakeholders and United States taxpayers; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, on June 4, 2015, Representative Bruce Westerman introduced H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. The bill passed in the House on July 9, 2015 and was transmitted to the Senate, where it died in committee; and

Whereas, the Resilient Federal Forests Act expedites and improves forest management activities through a collaborative process, resulting in the protection of water resources.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representative concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-217. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to small unmanned aircraft systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, In the western United States, water is a vital and scarce resource, the availability of which has and continues to circumscribe growth, development, economic well-being, and environmental quality of life; and

Whereas, The wise use, conservation, development, and management of our water resources is critical to maintaining human life, health, safety, and property; and

Whereas, The western United States is currently experiencing serious drought conditions that are predicted to worsen; and

Whereas, Agricultural irrigation uses a significant amount of water, making the agri-

cultural sector one of the most important sectors to examine when considering water conservation; and

Whereas, Even modest improvements in agricultural water use can result in significant amounts of water not being depleted regionwide, which can then be utilized elsewhere; and

Whereas, Precision agricultural management studies have shown that farmers can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticide needed by their fields by utilizing high-resolution, high-quality remotely sensed imagery to guide their application efforts of water, fertilizer, and pesticide; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) have the capability to quickly provide expansive, high-resolution, and high-quality remotely sensed imagery that can measure specific bands in the solar spectrum, such as the thermal infrared band, which allows farmers to better understand and manage their water use; and

Whereas, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently in the process adopting rules for the usage of sUAS in agricultural management; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS, for the purposes of precision agricultural management, could occur safely at low altitudes, in rural areas removed from other air traffic and human populations, and in accordance with the FAA's proposed guidelines; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems have been used in precision agricultural management in Japan for a decade, successfully optimizing and monitoring the management of 2.5 million acres of farmland, 40 percent of which are rice fields, without any significant reported incidents; and

Whereas, Several University of California campuses and the California State University system are developing precision agriculture applications with sUAS to help save water and improve crop and environmental monitoring. For example, the Mechatronics Embedded Systems and Automation Lab at the University of California, Merced, has developed numerous innovations for precision agricultural management with sUAS; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS also have the capacity for detecting invasive plant species that deplete high amounts of water such as yellow star thistle, arundo, tamarisk, and cheatgrass, which serve no agricultural purpose and removal of which would help in water conservation efforts; and

Whereas, The use of sUAS is an emerging technology and has great promise for the development of models that forecast and predict economic impacts of droughts and meteorological phenomena: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That, due to the severity of the drought gripping the western United States, the California Legislature respectfully requests the President of the United States and the United States Secretary of Transportation, more specifically the FAA, to allow for the operation of sUAS by farmers and rangeland managers pursuant to emergency rules adopted by the administration before the FAA rules for sUAS are finalized. The emergency rules should be based on the proposed FAA rules for sUAS that were released in February 2015 and that incorporate all of the following:

(a) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation be applicable to counties located in the western portion of the United States that are projected to be in drought during the current growing season, as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Seasonal Drought Outlook.

(b) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation allow Farmers to contract with sUAS flight service providers to execute

missions on their behalf in the airspace overlying lands that they own or control under the proposed FAA rules for sUAS.

(c) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operations that allow universities and government agencies seeking to operate or procure providers for sUAS missions for drought-related research or precision management applications be given expedited approval.

(d) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation also allow farmers and rangeland managers to use sUAS imagery to detect highly water-depletive invasive species on their land or public lands that they manage; and be it further

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

POM-218. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to federal transportation funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, California's transportation infrastructure is aging and in serious need of repair with the state facing a \$59 billion shortfall to bring the existing state highway system to a state of good repair over the next decade and with California cities and counties facing a \$78 billion shortfall in restoring their own systems over the same period; and

Whereas, California motorists spend \$17 billion annually in extra maintenance and car repair bills, more than \$700 per driver, due to the state's poorly maintained roads; and

Whereas, Freight, transportation is critical to the economic vitality of the United States and robust investment in safe and efficient transportation facilities and infrastructure is essential to promoting strong economic growth in California and throughout the nation; and

Whereas, California has the most extensive, complex, and interconnected freight system in the country, including a system of seaports stretching from the City of Humboldt to the City of San Diego, six international land ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border, and a vast network of freight rail lines and truck routes which enable the state to serve as the nation's gateway to international trade; and

Whereas, California's freight network moves 1.8 billion tons of goods, valued at more than \$2 trillion, throughout the state; the vast majority of which travels to destinations beyond the state's borders; and

Whereas, Freight shipments into, out of, and within California, are projected to grow approximately 180 percent by the year 2040; and

Whereas, California's freight system, is responsible for the creation of 800,000 freight jobs and stimulates the creation of millions of other jobs throughout the economy; and

Whereas, Expansion of public transportation is a key element of California's strategy to improve mobility while meeting critical greenhouse gas reduction targets; yet the California Transit Association reports that the state's public transit agencies face a 10-year \$72 billion capital and operating shortfall; and

Whereas, In December 2015, the United States Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FASTAct),

which represents the first long-term federal transportation bill in more than a decade; and

Whereas, The FAST Act provides California and other states with long-term certainty and stability in financing transportation projects by providing marginal increases in most existing highway and transit programs, as well as \$2.1 billion annually in new freight investment; and

Whereas, The FAST Act still falls short of the level of investment needed to rebuild California's and the nation's infrastructure because the United States congress has not raised the federal fuel excise tax that traditionally has funded transportation since 1993, and meanwhile, the tax has lost more than 55 percent of its purchasing power and Congress has been unable to agree on an alternative to restore that funding gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature commends, Congress and the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding over the next five years; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to fully fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at a level of \$525 million in the 2017 fiscal year to provide additional critical transportation investment in California and elsewhere; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to work together to finally find a long-term, sustainable funding solution to restore the lost purchasing power of the federal fuel excise tax, and provide California and the rest of the country with the resources needed to rebuild its infrastructure, invest in its people through good, well-paying jobs, and restore our economy; and be it further

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

POM-219. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1014

Whereas, through federal land management planning and associated guidelines, federal agencies are recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas; and

Whereas, these administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent congressional intent and lack full and appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses; and

Whereas, the identification of these de facto wilderness areas has resulted in significant restrictions on public access and recreation, paralyzing restrictions on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage wildlife and potentially catastrophic restrictions on vegetation and habitat improvement projects, including fire management activities; and

Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and this

responsibility extends to all lands within Arizona to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations; and

Whereas, the designation of Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas has resulted in the erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to comply with its federal mandate to proactively recover threatened and endangered species; and

Whereas, according to federal land management agency guidelines, an administratively recommended wilderness area must be managed to "protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation" in perpetuity or until Congress takes action to formally designate the area as a wilderness area; and

Whereas, allowable activities within administratively recommended wilderness areas will be left to the discretion of federal staff and deciding officers, resulting in even greater restrictions and limitations than those formally vetted and designated by Congress; and

Whereas, congressionally designated wilderness provides clearer guidance for management and coordination with this state, specific processes for wildlife management exemptions and direction for collaboration via existing state agreements and guidelines; and

Whereas, administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent the spirit of NEPA and congressional intent and lack transparency; and

Whereas, with the implementation of federal land management plans, recommended wilderness areas constitute a significant and immediate change in management without a fully disclosed impact analysis required by NEPA; and

Whereas, the federal land management plans lack full NEPA disclosure of potential impacts to this state and the public, assurances protecting this state's ability to proactively manage wildlife and fulfill its public trust responsibility, including specific management activities, and analyses of the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife-related recreational and economic opportunities; and

Whereas, the areas being recommended as wilderness were not included within the original wilderness designations with purposeful intent by Congress; and

Whereas, the subsequent expansion of previously designated wilderness is an overreach of the federal agencies and disingenuous to the public, subverting original collaboration, coordination, negotiation and agreements; and

Whereas, the federal agency planning documents suggest that no significant management action or recommendation to Congress will take place before further NEPA analyses are completed. Within the recently released Prescott and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest recommended wildernesses, the United States Forest Service indicates that these areas are simply preliminary administrative recommendations and that further NEPA analyses are necessary. However, in transmittal letters, the United States Forest Service states that "the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the . . . Forest's Revised Resource Management Plan contains the NEPA analysis necessary to support a legislative proposal." This is an egregious lack of transparency.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to establishing drinking water standards for certain chemicals; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 384

Whereas, Decades after the United States Navy used an unregulated contaminant in firefighting training on two former Bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster, in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, chemicals are appearing in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

Whereas, The chemicals, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are used in a variety of products such as fabric, carpets, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam; and

Whereas, PFOS and PFOA are “extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes,” according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also states, “The toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential adverse effects for the environment and human health”; and

Whereas, A growing body of science has established associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects including a variety of cancers; and

Whereas, The chemicals were first discovered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a health advisory that took several public water wells offline; and

Whereas, On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduced the amount considered safe in drinking water. In the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

Whereas, The new recommended levels have resulted in officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships and an estimated 80 private wells; and

Whereas, While the Senate of Pennsylvania acknowledges the current efforts of the EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the Department of Environmental Protection to provide bottled water to local residents, more needs to be done to fully address this situation: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wage the President, the Congress of the United States and the EPA to expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water standard should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all necessary action to ensure that the communities of Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water and to direct the

EPA and the DOD to use all their resources to discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and provide assistance to residents and military personnel who have been impacted by the water contamination from these former military installations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to consider the appropriation of additional funds to the EPA and DOD to address this issue; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania, to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and to the United States Department of Defense.

POM-221. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Iowa supporting the federal renewable fuel standard; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

Whereas, in accordance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, as amended by the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-140, the United States has demonstrated its commitment to the long-term policy of increasing the domestic production of clean renewable fuels according to a renewable fuel standard, referred to as the “RFS”; and

Whereas, the RFS is the one of the single most successful energy policies in our nation’s history; and

Whereas, the RFS is a federal policy that requires a minimum percentage of motor fuel sold in our nation to contain renewable fuels; and

Whereas, under the RFS, renewable fuels have access to a retail market in the face of a vertically integrated petroleum market; and

Whereas, the RFS represents a congressional promise to American biofuels producers, farmers, communities, and investors that the blend levels of the RFS will increase each year; and

Whereas, this congressional policy supporting the RFS will continue to build the long-term capacity of the renewable fuels industry and will encourage the development of new types of clean fuels; and

Whereas, the RFS helps support over 73,000 jobs in agriculture, biofuels production, and associated businesses in Iowa; and

Whereas, the renewable fuels industry in Iowa helps pay \$5 billion in wages annually to this state’s employment force; and

Whereas, renewable fuels create additional markets for Iowa farmers with more than 47 percent of Iowa’s corn supply supporting ethanol production: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Iowa Senate calls upon the Congress of the United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, and this country’s future President of the United States and administration, to continue to support the RFS in order to encourage American energy production and to strengthen rural communities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the members of Iowa’s congressional delegation.

POM-222. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the

President of the United States and the United States Congress to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, On the night of July 17, 1944, two transport vessels loading ammunition at the Port Chicago naval base on the Sacramento River in California were suddenly engulfed in a gigantic explosion, the incredible blast of which wrecked the naval base and heavily damaged the town of Port Chicago, located 1.5 miles away; and

Whereas, Everyone on the pier and aboard the two ships was killed instantly—some 320 American naval personnel, 200 of whom were African American enlisted men; and another 390 military and civilian personnel were injured, including 226 African American enlisted men; and

Whereas, The two ships and the large loading pier were totally annihilated and an estimated \$12,000,000 in property damage was caused by the huge blast; and

Whereas, This single, stunning disaster accounted for nearly one-fifth of all African American naval casualties during the whole of World War II and was the worst home-front disaster of the war; and

Whereas, The specific cause of the explosion was never officially established by a Court of Inquiry, in effect clearing the officers-in-charge of any responsibility for the disaster and, insofar as any human cause was invoked, laying the burden of blame on the shoulders of the African American enlisted men who died in the explosion; and

Whereas, Following the incident, many of the surviving African American sailors were transferred to nearby Camp Shoemaker where they remained until July 31, 1944, when two of the divisions were transferred to naval barracks in Vallejo near Mare Island and another division returned to Port Chicago to help with cleaning up and rebuilding the base; and

Whereas, Many of these men were in a state of shock, troubled by the vivid memory of the horrible explosion; however, they were provided no psychiatric counseling or medical screening, except for those who were obviously physically injured; none of the men, even those who had been hospitalized with injuries, were granted survivor leaves to visit their families before being reassigned to regular duties; and none of these survivors were called to testify at the Court of Inquiry; and

Whereas, Captain Merrill T. Kinne, Officer-in-Charge of Port Chicago, issued a statement praising the African American enlisted men and stating that “the men displayed creditable coolness and bravery under those emergency conditions”; and

Whereas, After the disaster, white sailors were given 30 days’ leave to visit their families—according to survivors, this was the standard for sailors involved in a disaster—while only African American sailors were ordered back to work the next day to clean and remove human remains; and

Whereas, After the disaster, the preparation of Mare Island for the arrival of African American sailors included moving the barracks of white sailors away from the loading area in order to be clear of the ships being loaded in case of another explosion; and

Whereas, The survivors and new personnel who later were ordered to return to loading ammunition expressed their opposition, citing the possibility of another explosion; the first confrontation occurred on August 9, 1944, when 328 men from three divisions were

ordered out to the loading pier; the great majority of the men balked, and eventually 258 were arrested and confined for three days on a large barge tethered to the pier; and

Whereas, Fifty of these men were selected as the ringleaders and charged with mutiny, and on October 24, 1944, after only 80 minutes of a military court, all 50 men were found guilty of mutiny—10 were sentenced to 15 years in prison, 24 sentenced to 12 years, 11 sentenced to 10 years, and 5 sentenced to 8 years; and all were to be dishonorably discharged from the Navy; this was the largest mass mutiny trial in the United States to this day; and

Whereas, After a massive outcry the next year, in January 1946, 47 of the Port Chicago men were released from prison and “exiled” for one year overseas before returning to their families; and

Whereas, In a 1994 investigation, the United States Navy stated that “there is no doubt that racial prejudice was responsible for the posting of only African American enlisted personnel to loading divisions at Port Chicago”; and

Whereas, In the 1994 investigation, the United States Navy, prompted by Members of Congress, admitted that the routine assignment of only African American enlisted personnel to manual labor was clearly motivated by race; and

Whereas, The United States Congress reduced the death benefit to those killed in Port Chicago from \$5,000, the normal amount given, to \$3,000, simply because the sailors were African American; and

Whereas, in many cases, families of sailors killed in the disaster were never told they were entitled to consideration for the death of their relative; and

Whereas, In 2009, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial site was designated as part of the National Park Service; and

Whereas, Despite the gross injustice faced by these sailors, only one of the men charged with mutiny was given a pardon by President Clinton in 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster, which occurred in the town of Port Chicago, California, in 1944; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate further urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take action to ensure that the treatment of sailors by the United States Military after the Port Chicago disaster is rectified by providing for the full exoneration of all those who were wrongfully court-martialed and having the military records of those involved cleared of any wrongdoing or discharge references that were other than honorable, regardless of whether those sailors are alive or deceased; and be it further

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

POM-223. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California urging the passage of H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, Millions of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars are spent monitoring and over-

seeing spent nuclear fuel each year and millions of dollars more are programmed to be spent on settlement payments related to nuclear waste disposition; and

Whereas, Much of the spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste currently stored is at sites that are vulnerable to natural disasters and located near large metropolitan centers; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Energy concluded in 2013 that a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste will not be available until 2048, at the earliest; and

Whereas, The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future recommended that efforts be made to develop a permanent disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The spent nuclear fuel at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, a decommissioning site, should be promptly and safely moved to a consolidated storage site, as recommended by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, and as would be advanced by H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016, which would give priority for storage to high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel located on a site without an operating nuclear reactor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the passage of H.R. 4745 and supports the development and passage of complementary legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the United States Department of Energy to implement the prompt and safe relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to a licensed and regulated interim consolidated storage facility; and be it further

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

POM-224. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2016

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing

electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM-225. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per

billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission "offset" requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which, after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-226. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1015

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act seeks to prevent the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from exceeding its statutory authority in ways that were not contemplated by the United States Congress; and

Whereas, in the Stopping EPA Overreach Act, the State of Arizona urges Congress to find that;

(1) The EPA has exceeded its statutory authority by promulgating regulations that were not contemplated by Congress in the authorizing language of the statutes enacted by Congress;

(2) The EPA was correct not to classify greenhouse gases as pollutants prior to 2009;

(3) No federal agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under current law; and

(4) No attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be undertaken without further congressional action; and

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act should clarify that federal agencies do not have the authority to regulate climate change or global warming, thereby voiding certain EPA rules, and requires the Administrator of the EPA to provide an analysis of any regulation, rule or policy that describes its impacts on employment, and jobs in the United States before proposing or finalizing that regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, any federal agency seeking to promulgate a regulation, rule or policy should be required to provide the cost-benefit analysis and peer-reviewed science that were used in proposing the regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, penalties should be imposed for knowingly providing false information as support for a proposed regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona fully support the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-227. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission "offset" requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which,

after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-228. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1016

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore, your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens,

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the attorney General of the State of Arizona,

POM-229. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1008

Whereas, on April 13, 2015, Representative Bill Shuster introduced H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; and

Whereas, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act protects landowners from intrusive government regulation and ensures the protection of personal property; and

Whereas, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act came in response to efforts by the Obama Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Clean Water Rule, which vastly expands the federal government's ability to regulate waterways; and

Whereas, the final rule became effective on August 28, 2015; and

Whereas, the final rule is far too broad, allowing the federal government to regulate

everything from puddles of rainwater to agricultural irrigation systems; and Whereas, the final rule allows waters that have traditionally been off limits to federal regulation to be subject to the rulemaking process of the EPA and the Clean Water Act; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona is one of 27 states that have brought legal challenges against the Clean Water Rule and successfully obtained a nationwide stay barring the rule's enforcement; and

Whereas, if passed by Congress, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act would require the EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop a new rule that takes into consideration all public comments received on the matter as well as input received from state and local governments. Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-230. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may re-

duce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress. Therefore be it

Resolved that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them. Be it further

Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-231. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii requesting the Hawaii sister-state committee to review and consider the establishment of a state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii of the United States of America and the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Whereas, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand its international ties and has an abiding interest in the developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people of Hawaii and the people of Asian and Pacific countries; and

Whereas, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawaii has established a number of sister-state relationships with provinces in the Pacific region; and

Whereas, because of the historical relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, there continue to exist valid reasons to promote international friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of both countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as it serves the common interests of both countries; and

Whereas, there are historical precedents exemplifying the common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, educational, and financial bridge between ethnic Filipinos living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the Philippines, such as the previously established sister-city relationship between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Cebu in the Province of Cebu; and

Whereas, similar state-province relationships exist between the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Isabela, where cooperation and communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism, disaster preparedness, beach restoration, sports, health care, social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and

Whereas, a similar state-province relationship would reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and mutual assistance between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan has vast fertile land resources, fishery and fabric industries, the world renowned Boracay Island, and Aklan State University; and

Whereas, the major industries of the Province of Aklan are agriculture, including sugarcane, corn, coconut, and rice; tourism; pina fabric; and materials for mats, pots, bags, fans, and décor; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a technological center in the Central Philippines with its growing business process outsourcing and other technology-related industries; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is a top international tourist destination in the Republic of the Philippines, making the province much like Hawaii: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, That there is authorized and established a sister-state/province relationship, as advised by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, between the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and be it Further

Resolved, That the Governor or the Governor's designee is requested to keep the Legislature fully informed of the process in establishing the sister-state/province relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and be it further

Resolved, That the Province of Aklan be afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its sister-states and provinces; and be it further

Resolved, That if by June 30, 2020, the sister-state/province relationship with the Province of Aklan has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic benefits through local community support, the sister-state/province relationship shall be withdrawn; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, President of the Republic of the Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, Governor and Provincial Board of the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

POM-232. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to con-

tinue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1013

Whereas, United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2117, which was adopted on September 26, 2013, "[c]alls for Member States to support weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as physical security and stockpile management programmes by United Nations peacekeeping operations where so mandated"; and

Whereas, the UN Arms Trade Treaty strives to place a global ban on the import and export of small firearms, affecting all private gun owners in the United States, and to implement an international gun registry on all private guns and ammunition; and

Whereas, Senator James Inhofe introduced an amendment to the budget in 2013 that would prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty "[t]o uphold Second Amendment rights and prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty," which passed on a 53-46 vote.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress continue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the UN Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties that would interfere with the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-233. A memorial adopted by the Senate of the State of Arizona urging the members of the United States Congress from the State of Arizona to officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities in the Middle East are being subjected to systematic and violent persecution at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other terrorist groups; and

Whereas, these people are being murdered, kidnapped, sexually abused, tortured and victimized in other ways that violate the laws of their own nations, the international community and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Convention); and

Whereas, the victims of this brutal persecution are being specifically targeted based on their religious or ethnic affiliation with the intent to facilitate the annihilation or forced migration of communities with long-standing ties to their region; and

Whereas, the Convention defines "genocide" as killing members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, causing them serious bodily or mental harm, intentionally enforcing living conditions designed to cause the partial or total physical destruction of the group, preventing births within the group or transferring the children of the group to another group with the intent to destroy the group in total or in part; and

Whereas, the Convention holds that genocide is a crime that governments are obligated to prevent and for which perpetrators are to be held responsible; and

Whereas, the United States Commission on Religious Freedom, the Hudson Institute for

Religious Freedom, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Pope Francis, Hillary Clinton and many other organizations and religious and political leaders have called on the United States to recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has introduced House Concurrent Resolution 75, Senate Resolution 340 and at least five other bills designed to recognize the genocide and facilitate expedited support and aid for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East; and

Whereas, the designation of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide has real, practical policy implications and can help expedite various solutions to the crisis; and

Whereas, the Members of the Senate of the State of Arizona officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona cosponsor legislation similar to House Concurrent Resolution 75, support other congressional efforts to aid victims of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and encourage the United States government to take greater concrete action to end the genocide.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-234. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the United States Congress to secure the safe release of Robert Levinson from Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2010

Whereas, it is a time-honored tradition that the United States of America strives to ensure that all United States citizens held captive overseas are returned safely to their families and loved ones; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson honorably served the United States as a law enforcement officer in both the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson was taken captive on the Kish Island in Iran on March 9, 2007; and

Whereas, several Americans who have been held captive in Iran were recently released, but Robert Levinson was not among them; and

Whereas, it is a duty and obligation of the United States to Robert Levinson and his family to ascertain his whereabouts and secure his safe release.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the United States Secretary of State and all public officials under their charge follow the policy of the United States as stated in United States Senate Concurrent Resolution 16:

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) [T]he Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately . . . cooperate with the United States Government to locate and return Robert Levinson; and

(2) [T]he United States Government should undertake every effort using every diplomatic tool at its disposal to secure [his] immediate release,

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-235. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to women's reproductive health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, January 22, 2016, marks the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which acknowledged that every woman has a fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions and decide whether to end or continue a pregnancy, and is an occasion that deserves recognition; and

Whereas, The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, making access to abortion safe and legal, has greatly improved the health of women and families; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* has been the cornerstone of women's remarkable strides toward equality in the past four decades, and reproductive freedom is critical to a woman's ability to participate fully in the social, political, and economic life of the community; and

Whereas, California is committed to protecting the public health and welfare of all its residents, and recognizes that access to reproductive health services, including family planning and prenatal care, supports individuals and their families by ensuring that babies are planned, wanted, and healthy; and

Whereas, California recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood as one of California's largest providers of women's preventive and reproductive health care services, operating 115 community-based health centers across the state, which provide more than 1.6 million patient visits a year; and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive health care services to women and men, which may include well-woman examinations, birth control, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy tests, life-saving cancer screenings, sex education, prenatal care, primary care services, and abortion services; and

Whereas, Nationwide, during 4.6 million health center visits in 2013, Planned Parenthood provided services, including nearly 400,000 Pap smear tests, 500,000 breast examinations, 1.1 million pregnancy tests, 3.6 million provisions of birth control information and services, and 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted illnesses (including HIV), to approximately 2.7 million patients, almost 80 percent of whom were living with incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

Whereas, By providing millions of women with access to contraceptive services, public funding of Planned Parenthood helps women to avoid an estimated 516,000 unplanned pregnancies each year nationwide; and

Whereas, A sudden defunding of Planned Parenthood's health centers by federal or state governments would put patients across California, particularly members of underserved communities, at a significant disadvantage relating to their general health care because Planned Parenthood is often the only source of health care services for so many Californians; and

Whereas, Violence against abortion providers and laws that create barriers to abortion endanger the lives of both men and women; and

Whereas, Reports have found that threats of harassment, intimidation, and violence against women's health clinics have doubled since 2010, and as recently as November 27, 2015, a Planned Parenthood clinic was the target of a heinous act of domestic terrorism which resulted in the deaths of three people and nonfatal injuries to nine others; and

Whereas, The State of California stands in strong support of *Roe v. Wade* and the work of Planned Parenthood, and of women's reproductive health, and respects the principle that each woman has a fundamental right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy; Now, therefore, be it

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

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

POM-236. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California requesting the United States Congress to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 and that the President of the United States sign the legislation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Whereas, The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (the act) would make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis; and

Whereas, The act would enhance crisis response services, increase mental health workforce, promote early intervention for mental illness, and support integration of mental health, substance use, and primary care; and

Whereas, Mental illness affects all segments of society, and can have a devastating effect on the lives and families it touches, especially if left untreated; and

Whereas, Nearly 10 million Americans have serious mental illness, but millions are going without treatment as families struggle to find care for their loved ones; and

Whereas, The act has wide bipartisan support and recently passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 53-0; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California requests the Congress of the United States to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646), and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; and be it further

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

POM-237. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to EpiPen; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, Millions benefit from lifesaving drugs and devices, including Americans with allergies that can be treated by epinephrine; and

Whereas, Last year, doctors wrote 3.6 million prescriptions for EpiPen, which stops allergic reactions by quickly and safely injecting epinephrine; and

Whereas, In 2007 Mylan NV purchased the rights to EpiPen and immediately began raising its price. In 2008 and 2009, Mylan raised the price by 5 percent, and at the end of 2009 it raised the price by another 19 percent. From 2010 to 2013, Mylan imposed a series of 10-percent price hikes. And from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2016, Mylan raised EpiPen prices 15 percent every other quarter; and

Whereas, A pack of two EpiPen devices now has a list price of over \$600, an increase of 548 percent since Mylan began selling the drug, according to Truven Health Analytics; and

Whereas, The formula of EpiPen did not change, and it is no more effective in protecting against allergic reactions in 2016 than it was in 2007; and

Whereas, During the same time, Mylan began an aggressive marketing and lobbying effort to increase demand for EpiPen, which included the passage of federal and state legislation. The United States Congress passed the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act in 2013 to provide an incentive to states to boost the stockpile of epinephrine at schools. A number of states, including California, passed laws requiring public schools to have epinephrine. In 2010, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changed its recommendations so that two EpiPen devices be sold in a package instead of one and that they be prescribed for at-risk patients, not just those with confirmed allergies; and

Whereas, The rising cost of EpiPen has implications for taxpayers. Over half of California's children are insured through Medi-Cal, therefore the taxpayers are paying a large share of the cost of this medication; and

Whereas, Mylan has an effective monopoly that it is using to maximize profit because there is no equivalent generic competitor; and

Whereas, Patients who have to pay retail prices are being forced to buy EpiPen abroad, where it is cheaper, and are resorting to other devices that deliver epinephrine, including do-it-yourself syringes; and

Whereas, Even some ambulance providers in California have stopped the use of EpiPen to treat allergic shock and instead are drawing from a vial and injecting epinephrine by syringe. First responders in Seattle have developed such a kit and have sold them to public health agencies in five other states. There is a demonstration project in New York called "Check and Inject New York" that trains first responders to use syringe epinephrine kits in place of EpiPen to save money; and

Whereas, After recent widespread criticism, Mylan said it would expand access and increase benefits to programs that it uses to help consumers pay less, but those changes do not alter the prices that insurers and employers pay. Those institutions will still face the brunt of the impact from the price hikes; and

Whereas, Offering copayment assistance and free product to consumers is part of the standard playbook for manufacturers of expensive drugs. Efforts by drug makers to shield consumers from the out-of-pocket costs associated with the rapidly increasing cost of their medications ignores the fact that insurance companies bear the brunt of

these unreasonable price increases, which results in higher premiums for all consumers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature declares unnecessary and unexplained increases in pharmaceutical pricing is a harm to our health care system that will no longer be tolerated because the system cannot sustain it; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the United States Food and Drug Administration to reconsider its denial of approval for generic alternatives to EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to investigate the impact that Mylan's monopoly has had on the price hikes for EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress and President of the United States to take action to limit the unrestrained ability of drug manufacturers to increase prices based only on what the market can bear rather than on providing a fair return on investment; and be it further

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

POM-238. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to blood donations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, Since 1983, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), had prohibited the donation of blood by any man who has had sex with another man (MSM) at any time since 1977; and

Whereas, In December 2015, based on recommendations from the NHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, the FDA promulgated revised regulations to allow an MSM to donate blood only if he has not been sexually active for the past 12 months. Despite these recent steps toward a policy change, a double standard still exists under the policy as revised because it still treats gay and bisexual men differently from heterosexual men; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender-related appearance and behavior; and

Whereas, Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and Spain have adopted blood donor policies that measure risk against a set of behaviors, sexual and otherwise, rather than the sex of a person's sexual partner or partners; and

Whereas, The FDA currently does not allow gay and bisexual men in committed relationships to donate blood because, while one partner may be monogamous, that individual cannot guarantee that the other partner is monogamous. The FDA does not apply this same logic to heterosexual relationships, which in effect discriminates against gay and bisexual men; and

Whereas, The FDA is in the process of again reevaluating and considering updating its blood donor deferral policies as new scientific information becomes available, in-

cluding the feasibility of moving from the existing time-based deferrals related to risk behaviors to alternate deferral options, such as the use of individual risk assessments; and

Whereas, A 12-month deferral policy for gay and bisexual men to donate blood is overly stringent given the scientific evidence, advanced testing methods, and the safety and quality control measures in place within the different FDA-qualified blood donating centers; and

Whereas, The American Public Health Association has stated that no specific scientific rationale is provided to justify the 12-month deferral policy. The technology can identify within 7 to 10 days with 99.9 percent accuracy whether or not a blood sample is HIV-positive, and the chance of the blood test being inaccurate within the 10-day window is about 1 in 2,000,000; and

Whereas, The General Social Survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago estimates that 8.5 percent of men in the United States have had at least one male sex partner since 18 years of age, 4.1 percent of men report at least one male sex partner in the last 5 years, and 3.8 percent report a male sex partner in the last 12 months; and

Whereas, An estimated 45.4 percent of men (54 million) in the United States are eligible to donate blood, but only 8.7 percent of eligible men actually do. There are 15.7 million donations of blood per year made by 9.2 million donors, yielding approximately 1.7 donations per donor; and

Whereas, The Williams Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law estimates that, based on the population of eligible and likely donors among the MSM community, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on blood donation by an MSM would result in 4.2 million newly eligible male donors, of which 360,600 would likely donate, generating 615,300 additional pints of blood. Applying national estimates to the California population, the Institute further estimates that lifting the ban on MSM blood donations would add an additional 510,000 eligible men to the current blood donor pool, of which 43,917 would likely donate, resulting in an additional 74,945 donated pints in California; and

Whereas, One hundred fifteen members of the Congress of the United States sent a letter to the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Robert M. Califf, M.D., urging him to finally put an end to this outdated blood donation policy and update it to reflect science, not fear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the California State Legislature calls upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-239. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona

urging the United States Congress to protest and take action to fully restore the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center (Cherrybell) serves the entire southern portion of Arizona covering the counties of Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise. Currently, Southern Arizona is facing a potential economic downfall due to the initial decision made by the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors to close Cherrybell; and

Whereas, more than 1.8 million people and 23,197 businesses use the Cherrybell postal services. According to USPS officials, over 3 million pieces of mail go through Cherrybell each day as it is the 15th largest facility serving the 33rd largest population area in our nation. The processing and sorting operations at Cherrybell that are proposed to be moved to Phoenix affect approximately 280 jobs in Southern Arizona; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona, which includes both the Tohono O'odham nation and Pasqua Yaqui tribal lands, encompasses the California and Arizona border at Yuma south to Nogales, across to Douglas and Bisbee in Cochise County and the military installations located at Fort Huachuca and Davis Monthan, depends on the Cherrybell Post office; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona is home to many military veterans who depend on the USPS both for timely delivery of medical prescriptions and for employment, as the USPS employs more veterans than any entity other than the United States Department of Defense; and

Whereas, in an extensive community survey conducted in 2015, 84% of individuals and 86% of businesses reported a noticeable delay in mail delivery due to the partial closure of Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Tucson City Council Member Richard Fimbres went on record opposing the closure of Cherrybell and requested that the Council work directly with Tucson's congressional delegation and community members to frame a campaign to protect the vital jobs at Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez objects to the closure of Cherrybell and firmly believes that, due to the higher number of voters each year on the permanent early voting list, this change will clearly impact the activities of the state and county elections officials in Arizona and will cause a detrimental impact to voters. The information provided to the public by the USPS is based entirely on economic considerations with no apparent regard for the impact of the change on the fundamental right of all citizens to vote and, in particular, the significant additional detrimental impact to Native American voters in the region; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona applaud the efforts of United States Representative Martha McSally and the other members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, including Representatives Trent Franks, Ann Kirkpatrick, Matt Salmon, Paul Gosar, Ruben Gallego, Kyrsten Sinema and Raul Grijalva, who have asked for more detailed and complete information regarding the proposal Cherrybell closure; and

Whereas, thousands of people have written letters and signed online petitions urging the USPS Board of Governors not to close Cherrybell.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States protest the proposed closing of the Tucson

Postal Processing and Distribution Center and take any action necessary to fully restore operations of this vital postal facility.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-240. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to increase the number of United States Customs and Border Protection personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1006

Whereas, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations and is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the United States while facilitating lawful international travel and trade; and

Whereas, as the world's first full-service border entity, CBP takes a comprehensive approach to border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security and agricultural protection into one coordinated and supportive activity; and

Whereas, the need to increase the number of CBP personnel in the Tucson sector along the border between the United States and Mexico is critical to increasing border safety and security as well as to ensuring economic stability in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel who work at the ports of entry in Arizona will enhance the economic stability in our border communities and will increase border security between the United States and Mexico; and

Whereas, an integrated approach to securing the border and increasing economic stability along the border and in our border communities is important to residents living along the border and in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona will allow increased commercial traffic and will result in increased economic growth and stability for Arizona; and

Whereas, all of the benefits of increased economic stability in Arizona can be realized if the workload capacity at each port of entry is increased, which would result in less congestion and delay; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona should be part of the infrastructure improvements that are occurring at the ports of entry; and

Whereas, the establishment of a safe and secure border is a crucial component of national security.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That, in order to secure the border between the United States and Mexico, to enhance the safety and security of people and their property in the currently insecure regions of the border and to increase economic growth and stability for the residents of Arizona, the United States Congress act to increase the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-241. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging

the United States Congress to appropriate \$248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, The inclusion of \$248 million in funding for Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill is proposed by the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget; and

Whereas, This funding will ensure completion of the project, which will improve domestic supply chains, strengthen our national security, reduce the port's carbon footprint, and facilitate economic growth, not only for the County of Imperial and for California, but for the entire nation; and

Whereas, The Obama Administration's 2015 budget included a \$98,062,000 investment in Calexico West Land Port of Entry Phase 1. This first phase of the expansion project is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2018. Phase 2 will consist of the balance of the project, including additional sitework, an expanded pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, and six additional northbound privately owned vehicle inspection lanes; and

Whereas, The completion of this project guarantees the economic activity of the border will not be lost. On an average day, more than 15,000 to 20,000 privately operated vehicles and nearly 20,000 pedestrians enter the United States through the Calexico Land Port of Entry; and

Whereas, The United States' goods and private services trade with Mexico totaled an estimated \$583.6 billion in 2015, with exports totaling \$267.2 billion and imports totaling \$316.4 billion; and

Whereas, Mexico is currently our second largest goods trading partner with almost \$72 billion in two-way trade of goods during 2015, with goods exports that totaled \$26.8 billion and goods imports that totaled \$45 billion; and

Whereas, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California and Mexico is carried by trucks, and the Calexico East Port of Entry serves nearly all of the international truck traffic crossings in the County of Imperial, with a total trade value of over \$12 billion in 2012; and

Whereas, The San Diego Association of Governments 2050 Comprehensive Freight Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to nearly five million trucks in 2050; and

Whereas, Traffic congestion and delays at the borders of the Counties of San Diego and Imperial cost the economies of the United States and Mexico an estimated \$8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900 jobs in 2007; and

Whereas, The collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure projects and security; and

Whereas, The United States General Accountability Office and the United States Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade and tourism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the legislature of the State of California respectfully urges Congress to appropriate \$248 million in

funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; and be it further

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

POM-242. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Diné College Act of 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1017

Whereas, this state and the Navajo Nation maintain a government-to-government relationship, and the Navajo people residing in this state are citizens of both Arizona and the Navajo Nation; and

Whereas, in 1968, the Navajo Nation established Navajo Community College, which later became Diné College, to provide access to higher education to the Navajo people; and

Whereas, Diné College's flagship campus is located in Tsaile, Arizona, and there are community campuses in Tuba City, Chinle and Window Rock; and

Whereas, Diné College has dual credit agreements with school districts and schools throughout Arizona, including Red Mesa Unified School District #27, Chinle Unified School District #24, Ganado Unified School District, St. Michaels High School, Window Rock Unified School District #8, Many Farms High School, Kayenta Unified School District, Piñon Unified School District #4, Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City High School, Leupp Schools, Inc. and Phoenix Union High School District; and

Whereas, this state provides support to Diné College through its Navajo Nation, Diné College-State of Arizona funding compact, the tribal college dual credit funding program and Proposition 301 monies; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Navajo Community College Act, the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978 and the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2008, which collectively provide for maintenance, operation and construction funding for Diné College; and

Whereas, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick introduced the Diné College Act of 2015 "to fulfill the United States Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people and to clarify, unify, and modernize prior Diné College legislation," and Diné College has requested that Senator Jeff Flake introduce a United States Senate companion bill; and

Whereas, this state stands in support of the passage of the Diné College Act of 2015.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Diné College Act of 2015.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Governor of the State of Arizona, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-243. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the federal government to ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under

the law in removal proceedings by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children seeking an immigration remedy and urging the federal government to first hear cases involving children that have legal counsel and to immediately halt cases brought against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that a person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, thereby ensuring that he or she will receive a fundamentally fair, orderly, and just judicial proceeding before being deprived of his or her freedom; and

Whereas, Former Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jack H. Weil, a senior official in the United States Department of Justice; asserted in a deposition that he has trained toddlers in immigration law and can afford them a fair hearing without the toddler being represented by legal counsel; and

Whereas, The assertion made by Judge Weil is contemptible and offensive to our country's Fifth Amendment constitutional mandate to provide all with due process under the law; and

Whereas, Due process cannot be guaranteed in an adversarial immigration removal proceeding without legal representation; and

Whereas, Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." Accordingly, children escaping from violence in other countries, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by a parent, are not "illegal" when they come to the United States in search of asylum; and

Whereas, The protections of Article 14 have been incorporated by the United States Congress into domestic law, which now protects all asylum seekers, including children, by prohibiting the federal government from returning to their home countries persons who have fled persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

Whereas, It is our nation's legal and moral obligation to open our arms to children who fear harm in their country of origin and to foreign-born children in the United States who cannot be reunified with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment and who are therefore eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or any other immigration remedy; and

Whereas, Respect for due process requires that all indigent children seeking asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or other immigration remedies in defense of deportation be afforded government-funded competent immigrant counsel; and

Whereas, According to a study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, the foremost authority on federal immigration enforcement data, unrepresented children were ordered to leave the United States in 86 percent of cases, whereas represented children were ordered to leave the United States in only 16 percent of cases; and

Whereas, As demonstrated by the same study, the provision of legal representation would improve the integrity of the immigration court system, because children without legal representation fail to appear in court and therefore are ordered removed in absentia in 75 percent of cases. By comparison, children with legal representation do consistently appear in court and are therefore ordered removed in absentia in only 3 percent of cases; and

Whereas, The federal government is denying indigent immigrant children in Cali-

fornia their rights to a fair trial under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution because the federal government does not provide these children with legal representation in immigration court. These children therefore face the threat of deportation to violent and dangerous conditions where they may face persecution, violence, or even death; and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch filed an amicus brief in the case of *J.E.F.M. v. Lynch*, a nationwide lawsuit on behalf of thousands of children who are challenging the federal government's failure to provide the children with legal representation in deportation hearings, arguing that the failure of the United States government to appoint lawyers to represent immigrant children facing deportation violates their basic rights under international law; and

Whereas, The California Attorney General has engaged in efforts to close the legal services gap for unaccompanied immigrant children across California and joined an amicus brief in *J.E.F.M. v. Lynch*.

Whereas, Since January 2014, at least 83 deportees, including children, from the United States, were reported murdered upon their return to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, which remain three of the most violent countries in the world; and

Whereas, There are currently over 13,800 children in California that are not represented by legal counsel in immigration court; and

Whereas, California has a duty to protect the welfare of children within our state, including immigrant children; and

Whereas, California values immigrant children and has made this clear through legislative enactments, including Assembly Bill 540 (2001), Assembly Bills 130 and 131 (2011); commonly referred to as the California Dream Act, Senate Bill 1064 (2012), Senate Bill 873 (2014); commonly referred to as the Unaccompanied Minors Program, Senate Bill 1210 (2014), commonly referred to as the California DREAM Loan Program, and Senate Bills 4 and 75 (2015), commonly referred to as the Health4All Kids Act; and

Whereas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status under Section 1101(a)(27)(J) of Title 8 of the United States Code is immigration relief that relies on a state's interest in the welfare of children and provides for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status where a state court determines that reunification with one or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or similar basis found under state law and that it would not be in the child's best interest to return to his or her home country; and

Whereas, California makes an annual \$3 million investment to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive the legal representation that they need to pursue Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and other immigration relief; and

Whereas, California passed Senate Bill 873 (2014) and Assembly Bill 900 (2015) to ensure that California courts issue the predicate orders necessary for children to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; and

Whereas, California is disadvantaged when California's children are denied their rights under the United States Constitution, including their right to due process; and

Whereas, California has a strong interest in ensuring that the children living in this state are not unfairly deported. Schools are disrupted when children are pulled from classes, communities are thrown into disorder when families are torn apart, the health and welfare of these children are put at risk; and the state is denied the potential societal and economic contributions of these children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legis-

lature of the State of California urges the federal government to take action to remedy this injury to the State of California, through appropriate measures within the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law when they are fighting to remain in the United States of America, by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children fighting deportation and seeking an immigration remedy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the federal government to rearrange its dockets to first hear the cases of children who have legal representation and to immediately halt cases it is pursuing against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; and be it further

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

POM-244. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for state-expended dollars used to comply with federal mandates related to illegal immigration including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Whereas, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government has the authority to regulate immigration; and

Whereas, the federal government has forced states to comply with federal mandates that require states to provide various essential services to illegal immigrants including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement, with little to no reimbursement of state-expended costs; and

Whereas, the federal government historically has failed to adequately control the influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; and

Whereas, the failure of the federal government to adequately control the borders, in addition to the imposition of huge mandated but unreimbursed costs to the state of Louisiana, has led to blatant inequities in terms of exploitation of undocumented laborers and abuse of wage, safety, and child labor laws, as well as lowering wage levels for Louisiana's working poor; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has been severely affected by the impact of state budgetary cutbacks; and

Whereas, the costs incurred by the state of Louisiana in addressing illegal immigration are increasing and continuing to burden the limited resources of the state; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature created the Task Force on Illegal Immigration (task force) by House Resolution No. 175 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature to study and report the fiscal, medical, nutritional, educational, judicial, criminal, penal, and economic impact of federal mandates on the state of Louisiana relative to illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the purpose of the task force was to provide useful and critical information

and statistical data to guide the efforts of Louisiana's private and public sectors in addressing the concerns of Louisiana residents regarding illegal immigration; and

Whereas, during the task force meeting held on October 22, 2015, task force members were presented with statistical data and information on the fiscal impact on the state of Louisiana associated with providing essential services to undocumented immigrants. Estimated dollar amounts were provided by the following state agencies:

(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections presented information on the impact of incarcerating illegal immigrants in Louisiana state correctional institutions including incarceration and probation and parole costs. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately three million two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$3,290,000) annually out of the state general fund.

(2) The Department of Education presented information on the impact on the Louisiana school system relative to the enrollment of non-United States citizens and data on the number of English Language Learners (ELL) for Louisiana public and charter schools for K-12. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana for one public school district is approximately three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually.

(3) The Department of Health and Hospitals presented information regarding federally mandated Medicaid services for undocumented workers including Medicaid eligibility requirements for unborn children and the costs attributed to illegal immigration on Louisiana's medical systems as a whole. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately sixteen million one hundred thousand dollars (\$16,100,000) annually, assisting nearly five thousand (5,000) individuals with unverified immigration status.

(4) The Department of Children and Family Services presented information on the eligibility of non-United States citizens for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Based on testimony, public assistance was provided to a population of five thousand three hundred ninety-nine (5,399) non-United States citizens through Louisiana's SNAP program with a total cost to the state of Louisiana of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) in administrative costs, with an undetermined amount attributed to illegal immigrants.

Whereas, the state of Louisiana in conjunction with local governments expends approximately nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to educate each student in Louisiana every year; and

Whereas, federal limitations on the disclosure of immigration status of public school children hinders the determination of the financial impact of illegal immigration on the Louisiana public school system as a whole; and

Whereas, the annual costs associated with illegal immigration have burdened the state of Louisiana and its residents with expenses for law enforcement, healthcare, education, incarceration, and other essential services, and such costs have gone uncompensated by the federal government; and

Whereas, the costs associated with providing services to illegal immigrants should never be borne by the state of Louisiana because federal law controls the enforcement of illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the United States government should take immediate action to reimburse the state of Louisiana for estimated expenses that the state incurs annually as a result of the federal government's policies and mandates related to illegal immigration. Therefore, be it

Resolved That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for the state dollars expended annually to provide essential services including but not limited to the education, welfare, medical care, law enforcement, and incarceration of illegal immigrants; and be it further

Resolved That the house of representatives of the legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to remove any impediments with respect to disclosure of immigration status of public school children such that the financial impact of illegal immigration on the public school system in this state can be accurately determined; and be it further

Resolved That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-245. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, The Confederate States of America and its secessionist movement were rooted in the defense of slavery; and

Whereas, Using the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America for federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property only deepens the pain of those living under the legacy of slavery; and

Whereas, The United States of America continues to struggle with racial equality and tolerance; and

Whereas, The continued use of names of elected or military leaders of the Confederacy in public places is offensive to Americans who treasure the United States as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and

Whereas, The horrific shooting deaths of nine African Americans attending church in South Carolina have once again raised the searing issue of racial violence and intolerance; and

Whereas, The ensuing images of the killer wrapping himself in the Confederate flag points to the continued use of that emblem of cruel oppression as a way to further demean, offend, and wound whole segments of our society; and

Whereas, The use of Confederate leaders' names in public schools, buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property in California only serves to further the discriminatory agenda of current sympathizers of the ideology of the Confederate States of America, and is antithetical to California's mission of racial equality and tolerance; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Rep-

resentatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-246. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to lift an existing prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds for the purpose of conducting that research; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families, and communities; and

Whereas, From 2002 to 2013, inclusive, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence, of which 2,258 were children; and

Whereas, In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teenagers, and hospitalized another 6,035 Californians for nonfatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teenagers; and

Whereas, There were over 350 recorded mass shootings in the United States in 2015; and

Whereas, Since 1996, Congress has adopted annual policy riders, known as the "Dickey Amendment" and "Rehberg Amendment" that effectively prohibit the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health; and

Whereas, The author of the original Dickey Amendment, former Representative Jay Dickey (R-AR), has stated repeatedly that he regrets offering the amendment and thinks it should be repealed; and

Whereas, Despite Representative Dickey's comments and President Obama's executive action in 2013 directing the CDC to resume gun violence research, Congress has provided no funding, and the restrictive language remains in place; and

Whereas, Since 1996, the federal government has spent \$240 million per year on traffic safety research, which has saved 360,000 lives since 1970; and

Whereas, During the same period there has been almost no publicly funded research on gun violence, which kills the same number of people every year; and

Whereas, Recently, 110 Members of the Congress of the United States signed a letter urging the leadership of the House of Representatives to end the longstanding ban on federal funding for gun violence research, and over 2,000 doctors in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia did the same; and

Whereas, Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the problem of gun violence, we should be able to agree that a response should be informed by sound scientific evidence; and

Whereas, Whether it is horrific headline-generating massacres or unseen violence that occurs every day—the innocent child gunned down in crossfire, the mother murdered during a domestic dispute, or the young life cut tragically short during the heat of a petty argument—the call to action is now clear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That a comprehensive evidence-based federal approach to reducing and preventing gun violence is needed to ensure that our communities are safe from gun violence; and be it further

Resolved, That federal research is crucial to saving lives, having driven policy to save lives from motor vehicle accidents, sudden infant death syndrome, lead poisoning, and countless other public health crises; and be it further

Resolved That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to promptly lift the prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services to conduct that research; and be it further

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

POM-247. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2009

Whereas, according to the American Legion, the organization was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and providing support to fellow servicemembers and veterans; and

Whereas, the American Legion limits membership eligibility to those who have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during the World War I era, World War II era, Korean War era, Vietnam War era, Lebanon/Grenada era, Panama era or Persian Gulf War era and who have been honorably discharged or are still serving; and

Whereas, all honorably discharged military veterans deserve the opportunity to participate in the American Legion.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility to include all honorably discharged military veterans.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-248. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the appropriate federal agencies to secure the borders of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1012

Whereas, the United States is in the midst of a border crisis; and

Whereas, the sheriffs serving along the borders of the United States are in the epicenter of this crisis; and

Whereas, the porous borders of the United States have resulted in the smuggling of contraband and illegal drugs, the exploitation of human beings and the infiltration of subversives bent on doing harm to this country; and

Whereas, federal law mandates border security; and

Whereas, the quality of life normally enjoyed by the citizens of the United States is

being jeopardized by an unsecure border, which enables transnational criminals and their accomplices to prey on the citizens of the United States; and

Whereas, border security must be a stand-alone priority for the federal government; and

Whereas, violence against public officials, law enforcement and rival drug and human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate and cross international boundaries; and

Whereas, the reduction of the federal government's prosecution of the criminal element places the citizens of the United States in harm's way, leaving the burden on local governments to bear the costs associated with the apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of this criminal element; and

Whereas, elected sheriffs have a statutory duty to protect and secure the freedoms and liberties of United States citizens and must do so with or without the help of their federal law enforcement partners and policymakers; and

Whereas, working with limited budgets and staffing, sheriffs along the southwestern border of the United States and sheriffs across the nation struggle to find ways to enhance the quality of life and safety of those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal activities; and

Whereas, local governments are cognizant of the need to bring relief to United States citizens who are impacted by the lack of border security; and

Whereas, without aggressive prosecution of all of those who breach the border and commit criminal acts, the border will continue to serve as an open opportunity for the criminal element to exploit by entering the United States to prey on this country and its citizens.

Wherefore, Your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the appropriate federal agencies to do the following:

(a) Fully secure all of the borders of the United States.

(b) Fully reimburse sheriffs for the costs associated with the housing of illegal aliens who are being charged with state crimes.

(c) Return to the original guidelines as set forth in Operation Streamline for the prosecution of persons crossing the United States border illegally.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-249. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Colorado concerning restoring the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure for United States Vietnam veterans through the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 16-002

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed approximately 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over the Republic of Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; and

Whereas, These herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked to a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the federal "Agent Orange Act of

1991" to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, which amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; and

Whereas, Presumptive status provides expedited claims processing for access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's Disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, respiratory cancers, soft tissue carcinomas, and other diseases yet to be identified; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Adjudication Manual, more commonly known as the M21-1 Manual, originally allowed the presumption to be extended to all veterans who had received the Vietnam Service Medal; and

Whereas, In a February 2002 revision to the M21-1 Manual, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added a requirement that the veteran prove that he or she had set foot on the land or entered an internal river or stream, which means that since 2002 the VA has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who served in the waters off of the Vietnamese coast or in bays and harbors and who cannot furnish documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and Marine veterans to acquire VA benefits; and

Whereas, Personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne and waterborne toxins that did not merely drift offshore in the air, but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, and a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, concentrated and enhanced dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; and

Whereas, This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs after it found Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military, and when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it, too, found a higher incidence of certain cancers among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Additional studies, including those conducted by the Institute of Medicine, show plausible pathways for Agent Orange to have entered the South China Sea via contaminated dirt and debris from rivers and streams; and

Whereas, The 2009 "Institute of Medicine (US) Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides (Seventh Biennial Update)" recommended that veterans who served on ships off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam not be excluded from the presumption of exposure; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD/dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015", were introduced, respectively, in the U.S.

House of Representatives on March 6, 2015, by Representative Christopher Gibson, and on March 19, 2015, by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the U.S. Senate; and

Whereas, More than 30 national veterans service organizations support the Congressional House and Senate legislation entitled “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015”; and

Whereas, Various agencies of the federal government have recently demonstrated awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through participation and funding of the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin “hot spots” in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation’s commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans by directing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to properly administer the federal “Agent Orange Act of 1991” and by passing House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015”, under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes service on the offshore waters; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby respectfully encourage the United States Congress to restore the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served on the waters off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama; Vice President and President of the Senate Joe Biden; Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in the House of Representatives; Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; and to each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

POM-250. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state veterans cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 23

Whereas, during World War II, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United States, and, for four years, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the United States and Allied forces to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands from foreign aggression; and

Whereas, these valiant Filipino soldiers fought, suffered, and died in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of them became prisoners of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity; and

Whereas, the sacrifices of these Filipino soldiers played a vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their numerous guerrilla actions provided United States forces with time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack; and

Whereas, these Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with United States forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort by Allied forces to bring an end to World War II was launched; and

Whereas, the United States promised these Filipino soldiers pay and benefits for their military service under the United States

Armed Forces and for their oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States; however, soon after the war ended, legislation was passed that wrongfully took away the benefits and recognition they had earned; and

Whereas, because these World War II veterans had suffered a great wrong, and recognizing that for those with family in the Philippines the return of their remains to the Philippines is a profound and fervent wish, the Legislature in 2003 enacted Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, requiring the Office of Veterans’ Services to pay up to \$2,500 for the transport of their remains to the Philippines and funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and

Whereas, funding, however, has not been provided to fulfill this statutory requirement; and

Whereas, in the early 2000s, the United States also enacted legislation requiring the Veterans Administration to pay the full cost of burials at national and state veterans cemeteries to the survivors of these World War II veterans; however, this legislation failed to address coverage of the costs of transport to and services in the Philippines to be with their loved ones; and

Whereas, though many years have transpired since World War II, the words of United States President Harry S. Truman in 1946 remain the honest truth: “I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of Philippine Army veterans.”; and

Whereas, for the small number of World War II Filipino-American veterans who are still living, this moral obligation of the United States should extend to fulfilling their wish for a resting place in the Philippines among their loved ones, for this is an entitlement that they have clearly sacrificed for and earned; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of eligible Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate, Hawaii’s Congressional delegation, and the Director of the Office of Veterans’ Services.

POM-251. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation similar to the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2006

Whereas, thousands of veterans have been exposed to Agent Orange and other chemical agents during the course of their service to the United States; and

Whereas, today, many of the children and grandchildren of veterans are suffering serious health issues that are related to the veterans’ exposure to chemical agents; and

Whereas, the people of the United States owe it to their veterans to better understand the impacts of these exposures in order to guarantee that the children and grandchildren of veterans receive appropriate treatment; and

Whereas, the full effects of exposure to dangerous chemicals such as Agent Orange is still unknown, and a national research center is needed to further study the impact these exposures have on veterans, their children and their grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 is a critical step in protecting the veterans of the United States.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress adopt legislation similar to H.R. 1769 and S. 901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, that would establish in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States that are related to that exposure.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-252. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-253. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-254. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; requesting that the President of the United States support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and requesting that the United States Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1869. A bill to improve Federal network security and authorize and enhance an existing intrusion detection and prevention system for civilian Federal networks (Rept. No. 114-378).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3087. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-379).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2580. A bill to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-380).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2643. A bill to improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-381).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2717. A bill to improve the safety and address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams to prevent flooding on Indian reservations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-382).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 3218. Designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

H.R. 4887. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office".

H.R. 5150. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building".

H.R. 5309. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building".

H.R. 5356. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office".

H.R. 5591. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 5676. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building".

H.R. 5798. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building".

H.R. 5889. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022.

*Robert G. Taub, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022.

*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. LEE:

S. 3472. A bill to require the Bureau of the Census to conduct a survey to determine income and poverty levels in the United States in a manner that accounts for the receipt of Federal means-tested benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3473. A bill to increase outdated death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty, to expand the scope of eligible beneficiaries, to codify tax treatment, to change offset requirements, to harmonize death gratuities across Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3474. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3475. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3476. A bill to waive recoupment by the United States of certain bonuses and similar benefits erroneously received by members of the Army National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 3477. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3478. A bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow unpopulated census tracts that are contiguous to low-income communities to be treated as low-income communities under the new markets tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 3480. A bill to make an alien who applies for naturalization using a false identity ineligible for citizenship and to require the completion of the Historical Fingerprint Enrollment Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3481. A bill to address payment for claims relating to certain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3482. A bill to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in Utah, to authorize construction of projects in connection therewith, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 616. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 617. A resolution designating November 27, 2016, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COATS, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 618. A resolution commending and congratulating the Chicago Cubs on their 2016 World Series victory; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 619. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 689

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of

the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, 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. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2823

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2977

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2977, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on the production and importation of opioid pain relievers, and for other purposes.

S. 3111

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the 7.5 percent threshold for the medical expense deduction for individuals age 65 or older.

S. 3115

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3115, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to a national pediatric research network.

S. 3147

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3147, a bill to support educational entities in fully implementing title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education.

S. 3188

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for biodiesel.

S. 3241

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3241, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 3244

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3244, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to clarify the treatment of pediatric dental coverage in the individual and group markets outside of Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3281, a bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3405, a bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List.

S. 3414

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3414, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

S. 3438

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3438, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3447, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 3464

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3464, a bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

S. RES. 615

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 615, a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2016, as "American Special Hockey Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3473. A bill to increase outdated death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty, to expand the scope of eligible beneficiaries, to codify tax treatment, to change offset requirements, to harmonize death gratuities across Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Death Gratuities Equity Act of 2016. I am joined by Senators CARDIN and WARNER in support of this bill.

Congress required the Office of Personnel Management to study and report back on death gratuities and funeral expenses given to families of Federal employees killed in the line of duty. OPM provided its report in 2012, and what it found deeply disturbed me. Across the board the numbers were wildly different. Some families would get a \$10,000 death gratuity with \$800 for funeral expenses. Those funeral expenses were then deducted from the lump sum death gratuity. The \$800 allotment for funeral expenses had not been updated in 50 years, and the \$10,000 amount has not been updated in 20 years.

This report really struck a nerve with me. If you are working hard every day for your country and you are killed in doing that duty, your country should do all it can to thank you. I think that's a pretty reasonable request. So I worked with OPM and the administration to create this legislation here today.

My home State of Maryland has one of the highest numbers of Federal employees. Marylanders are called to service, and we proudly represent team USA at home and around the world. In 1998, when Al Qaeda bombed the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing twelve Americans. Maryland lost two of its own that day, Julian Bartley Sr. and his son, Jay. Since then, I have fought tooth and nail for his family and all the families who lose loved ones while serving America. We were able to finally get them the compensation they deserved in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014.

But families shouldn't have to worry about whether or not Congress will take action, and they shouldn't have to fight for years on end to recognize the sacrifice made by their loved ones. We need to recognize that sacrifice now and secure it for the future. The families of all Federal employees across the country need to know that we have their backs should the worst come to pass.

This bill does five things. First, it creates a standard minimum payment of \$100,000 across all departments for any federal civilian employee killed in the line of duty. Second, it gives up to \$8,800 for funeral expenses, and those expenses are in addition to the death gratuity, not taken away from it. Third, it makes it the law that these death and funeral gratuities cannot be taxed. Fourth, it ties these amounts to an automatic cost-of-living adjustment, so that we don't have to do this again in the future. And fifth, it now covers all federal employees, not just those killed abroad.

This bill also now covers more kinds of Federal service employees who are eligible for death gratuities and funeral expenses. Brave people like firefighters, dedicated post office employees, diligent census workers, and bright young stars like interns, Job Corps students, and Peace Corps volunteers. These people and their families would all be covered and protected under this bill.

I am very pleased with this plan to standardize civilian death gratuities. There's been too much disparity across departments for too long. Federal employees who are killed in the line of duty deserve to be recognized by their government for their sacrifice. Their families deserve certainty and a uniform policy they can rely on if the worst should happen to their loved ones. These hardworking employees are wearing the USA team jersey every day. This bill lets them know the government is on their side, that their service is valued, and that everyone is equal under the law.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3474. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 3474

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 "American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PRIORITIZING HIRING AND TRAINING OF VETERANS.

Section 1701(b)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "including by prioritizing the hiring and training of veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)" after "Nation".

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3475. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to address a pending change to privacy protection contained in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. But before I proceed to the details, the sometimes wonky details of what we actually do here legislatively, let me just start by speaking to concerns I have heard. As early as this morning, on my train ride down from Wilmington, DE, in the halls here in Congress, by email, text, and by phone from friends from my State of Delaware and all over the country, folks are concerned about what this election means and about whether we can work together in ways that defend the fundamental liberties on which this country rests.

I wish to start by remarking that Senator WYDEN and I are on the floor today talking about a bill that we have crafted and we are introducing in partnership with other Senators—with Senators MIKE LEE, STEVE DAINES, and AL FRANKEN who represent, literally, the farthest edges of this Chamber in terms of ideology. If you look at the top five issues on which we agree, we agree on relatively little. But as a group of Republicans and Democrats, we have agreed to work together to restrain an attempt—frankly, initiated by the current Department of Justice—to modify the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure in a way that we are concerned implicates or invades our Fourth Amendment constitutional protections. I hope those who watch what happens on this floor find encouragement in the fact that Republicans and Democrats before this election's outcome had come together to craft this bill, this approach, and to move forward in a way that shows the bipartisan commitment to protecting our constitutional liberties remains alive and well in this Chamber.

Let me briefly address what it is I am talking about because I think it has serious and far-reaching implications for the privacy of ordinary Americans. These rules, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, govern the procedures for investigation and prosecution of individuals within our American criminal justice system, and it is essential that these rules strike a careful balance, giving law enforcement the tools they need to investigate crimes and keep us safe while also protecting Americans' constitutional rights to freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, our rights to privacy.

Earlier this year on April 30, the Supreme Court approved changes to the Federal rules that would shift this balance, potentially greatly expanding the scope of search warrants. Neither the Senate nor the House held a hearing or a markup in the relevant committees to make these changes. The body of government closest to the people has failed to weigh in at all on an issue that immediately and directly impacts

our constituents' rights. If we in the Congress do nothing, the proposed rule changes will go into effect December 1 of this year.

While the proposed changes are not necessarily good or bad, they are serious, and they present significant policy concerns that I think warrant careful consideration and debate. I wish to quickly outline two of them today.

One change would allow any magistrate judge in any district in America to issue a warrant for information outside that magistrate's district if the location of the information that law enforcement is seeking has been concealed. This change ensures investigators have a jurisdiction to go to where they can seek a warrant, particularly for cyber information that is concealed and where it is impossible to know the district in which the attack originated.

Another change would allow a judge to issue a warrant for information on devices located in five or more judicial districts. While the Department of Justice argues this change will improve the efficiency of investigations by eliminating the need to seek multiple warrants to reach all the devices that are suspected of being the same cyber criminal network, this represents a sweeping change to how search warrants are traditionally reviewed, issued, and executed.

I think all Americans should want criminal investigations to proceed quickly and thoroughly, but I am concerned these changes could remove important judicial safeguards by allowing one judge—one judge—to decide on a search that would give the government the ability to search and possibly alter hundreds or even thousands of computers owned by innocent Americans across the country.

These changes would also incentivize investigators to forum shop—to seek a multijurisdictional warrant from the official most likely to approve a sweeping search. So, in October, a bipartisan group of 23 Members of Congress wrote Attorney General Lynch to request more information about these changes to Rule XLI, and we are still waiting for a response. With so many complex questions unanswered, it is important the Department of Justice and this body have time to carefully answer these questions. So today we are introducing legislation that gives Congress that time, and Senators DAINES, LEE, and FRANKEN have joined Senators WYDEN and me to delay these changes until July 1 of next year.

We all want to ensure the American people are kept safe from cyber hackers and online criminal activity. We all want law enforcement to have the tools they need to keep us safe, but our desire for safety and our desire for an efficient criminal justice system should not require us to forfeit our fundamental constitutional rights to privacy and protection from searches and seizures.

Let me now yield the floor to my friend and colleague Senator WYDEN,

who has been such a tireless, effective, and engaged advocate on exactly these issues.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank Senator COONS for his work, his very thoughtful statement, and I particularly appreciate his emphasizing the fact that this effort began long before November 8. This has been a bipartisan effort for some time, with Democrats and Republicans across the political spectrum saying: Look, the country wants policies that make us safer and protect our liberties, and if we are not careful, we are going to get policies that don't do much of either and in fact set us back.

I very much appreciate what my colleague is doing. It is a simple proposition that Senator COONS advances today; that is, when you are talking about a monumental change—one judge with one warrant making it possible to hack thousands of computers—this is not just a modest alteration in the way business is done in Washington, DC, this is an enormous public policy shift. The idea the Congress—without even one hearing, without even one debate, without even one opportunity for Members to weigh in formally, in my view just defies common sense and our responsibilities. I very much appreciate what my colleague is doing.

Suffice it to say, this was important before the election, but right now, when we have scores of Americans wondering about the very future of the core constitutional protections they rely on, the bill Senator COONS is offering makes it clear those basic values and the sanctity of the courts and due process and the rule of law are not going to be values that are going to be set aside because of what happened on November 8, and there are going to be Democrats and Republicans working together in the Senate.

I remember when Senator PAUL, who has made very valuable contributions on this and other issues, began to discuss some of these matters with me on the Select Committee on Intelligence. We, in effect, said: It is almost like we have a Ben Franklin caucus around here. Ben Franklin famously said: Any one who gives up their liberty to have security doesn't deserve either. It seems to me my colleague is picking up on those principles.

Mr. President and colleagues, I will be brief. The Coons bill addresses the cold fact that without urgent action this month, the government is going to have unprecedented authority to hack into the personal phones, computers, tablets, or whatever devices Americans use. This would be a massive expansion of government hacking and surveillance powers, a vast expansion of Executive power. To do it without even a congressional debate would be just a monumental mistake. What ought to be done, as Senator COONS has sug-

gested, is allowing the Congress and the American people to have a chance to weigh in on the very substantial constitutional questions surrounding government hacking.

I sit on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I think having joined before 9/11, I am now, I believe, the longest serving member in history, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, and we can tell you there is no question it is a dangerous world. Go into the Select Committee on Intelligence, and it becomes pretty clear there are a lot of people out there who do not wish the people of our great country well. It is obvious, as my colleague from Delaware has noted, that law enforcement faces very substantial challenges because technology is constantly evolving. So we want to make it clear, those of us who are supporting the Coons bill, that we don't take a backseat to anyone in giving our agents the tools they need to demonstrate that security and liberty are not mutually exclusive. We can have both.

That is why I wrote section 102 of the Freedom Act, which actually expanded the government's ability to move when there was an emergency. We have had a lot of discussions about our ability to protect our country in the event of an emergency situation. That was a provision that I added and I felt particularly strongly about because I wanted to amplify on what my colleague has said; that we are interested in both liberty and security and in coming up with policies that are compatible.

What we have seen, and why the Coons review is so important, is that too often government agencies have cast too wide a net and swept up information from millions of Americans instead of focusing on the real threats—the criminals, the terrorists, the hackers. Our point with respect to this review bill is that our job consists of more than just having a "trust us" policy from the Justice Department. Our job is to ask the tough questions.

My late father was a journalist. That is what he said. Nobody wants to ask the tough questions. It takes more time and it makes people uncomfortable, but that is what we are supposed to do, and particularly right now, when so many Americans are concerned about the threats to their liberty and the security of our personal information. What Senator COONS is talking about this morning is a more important check on the executive branch than we have had to debate in the past. That is why my colleague's work is so timely this morning.

This change would also effectively—if it were to go through in its current form, Rule 41—turn innocent victims of computer attacks into the victims of additional government hacking. Again, this was alarming before November 8, but now we need to consider the prospect of an administration led by someone who openly said he wants the power to hack his political opponents exhibited by the Russians.

It is troubling how little the Congress knows about how the government currently uses its hacking authority and what it plans to do with expanded powers under Rule 41. Is it going to clean all the botnets in the world, like the one that recently attacked the Internet backbone company? If that is the case, what is the software going to look like? This kind of good-guy hacking is risky, incredibly risky, even when you have individuals with the best of motivations in your corner.

As Senator COONS indicated, we put together a letter late in October, before the election. This is a theme Members are going to hear. Before the election, many of these concerns were raised, and we said to Attorney General Lynch that we have some basic questions, such as: How does the government intend to prevent forum shopping by prosecutors seeking court approval to hack into Americans' devices? How is the government going to prevent collateral damage to innocent Americans' devices of electronic data when it remotely searches devices such as smartphones or medical devices?

What the latest numbers indicate is that a major source of cyber attacks are our wonderful medical facilities. The questions we asked in that October 27 letter speak to that. We want to know whether the government intends to use its new authority to search and "clean" American computers? How is the government going to maintain a chain of custody when searching or removing evidence from a device? How is the government going to notify Americans who are the subject of remote government searches?

I am very troubled by the language in the current proposal, which suggests the notice process will be very different than what Americans have traditionally thought about in kind of the physical world with respect to notice.

The Coons bill is important business because we have not yet, our bipartisan group of 23, gotten answers to these questions. We are going to keep trying to learn more about why it might or might not be necessary for the government to have the authority.

I will wrap up this discussion with Senator COONS—which I thank him for leading—by way of saying that I have issued warnings before on the floor and have seen what happens when those warnings aren't heeded. I just want to say this morning that I believe if the Senate fails to stand up for our constituents now and do what Senator COONS is talking about, which is our job—vigorous oversight, asking the hard questions, getting the facts about new technological questions that are evolving—I believe there are going to be problems with Rule 41.

I believe there are going to be problems at hospitals, at power grids, at major American institutions and that if we do nothing, except what Congress does best—which is nothing—and let this go through, I think our constituents are going to come back when

there are problems, and they are going to say to each of us: What were you thinking? Why did you vote to allow policies that would permit hacking in this fashion?

Colleagues are going to say: Gee, we didn't vote at all.

They are going to say: You didn't vote at all? You must have had some meetings.

Well, we didn't have any meetings. We didn't have any debates. We didn't have any discussion.

Then they are going to say: You allowed mass hacking by just kind of dropping the ball and saying you have other stuff to do?

I think the American people are going to react very badly if that is, in fact, what happens.

So I commend Senator COONS. He consistently comes to the floor and appeals across the aisle. I so appreciate it. I hope we will see action on the Senator's very thoughtful bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as someone who spent over a decade in the private tech sector, I know firsthand the challenges our country faces when it comes to cyber criminals. Technology has made it easier than ever for bad actors to steal identities, distribute malware, and commit a whole host of other crimes, all from behind the computer screen. Law enforcement is facing tremendous challenges in tracking and stopping these criminals.

The fact is, our law enforcement policies need to be updated to reflect the reality of the 21st century, but these policy changes need to be made through a process that is transparent, effective, and one that protects our civil liberties.

The changes to rule XLI of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure would allow the government to hack an unlimited number of Americans' computers—including innocent victims' computers—with a single warrant. This rule change was approved behind closed doors at the Department of Justice. Fundamental changes to the way we allow law enforcement to execute searches need to be made through a process that is fully transparent to the American people. We cannot give the Federal Government a blank check to infringe upon our civil liberties.

If Congress does not act, this rule change will automatically go into effect December 1. This bill simply delays the rule change. It is a delay which will allow Congress to consider new law enforcement tools through a process they deserve. I urge my colleagues to join my colleagues in delaying this rule.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 616—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 616

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC"), in the United States—

(1) nearly 30,000,000 individuals have diabetes; and

(2) an estimated 86,000,000 individuals aged 20 years and older have prediabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects individuals of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native American adults are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from the disease at rates that are much higher than the general population of the United States;

Whereas an individual aged 20 years or older is diagnosed with diabetes every 19 seconds;

Whereas approximately 4,660 individuals in the United States aged 20 years or older are diagnosed with diabetes each day;

Whereas the CDC estimates that approximately 1,700,000 individuals in the United States aged 20 years and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes in 2012;

Whereas a joint study carried out by the National Institutes of Health and the CDC found that in the United States during 2008 and 2009, an estimated 18,436 youth were newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and 5,089 youth were newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes;

Whereas according to the CDC, the prevalence of diabetes in the United States increased by more than 400 percent between 1980 and 2014;

Whereas the CDC reports that 27.8 percent of individuals with diabetes in the United States have not been diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas in the United States, more than 12 percent of adults aged 20 years and older and 25.9 percent of individuals aged 65 years and older have diabetes;

Whereas as many as 1 in 3 adults in the United States will have diabetes in 2050 if the present trend continues;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 7.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites, 13.2 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 12.8 percent of Hispanics, and 9.0 percent of Asian Americans suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying Hispanic individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 8.5 percent of individuals of Central and South American descent, 9.3 percent of individuals of Cuban descent, 13.9 percent of individuals of Mexican descent, and 14.8 percent of individuals of Puerto Rican descent suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas according to the American Diabetes Association, in 2012, the United States

spent an estimated \$245,000,000,000 on cases of diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas the American Diabetes Association reports that 20 percent of the funds that the United States spent on health care in 2012 went towards caring for individuals with diabetes;

Whereas a study carried out by Mathematica Policy Research found that total expenditures for individuals with diabetes receiving benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in fiscal year 2005 comprised 32.7 percent of the budget for the Medicare program in that fiscal year;

Whereas according to the CDC, in the United States in 2010, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death and contributed to the death of more than 234,051 individuals;

Whereas as of November 2016, a cure for diabetes does not exist;

Whereas there are successful means to reduce the incidence or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas with proper management and treatment, individuals with diabetes live healthy, productive lives; and

Whereas individuals in the United States celebrate American Diabetes Month in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging individuals in the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness of prevention and treatment options; and

(B) enhancing diabetes education;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms, and understanding the risk factors of diabetes, including—

(A) being over the age of 45 years;

(B) having a specific racial and ethnic background;

(C) being overweight;

(D) having a low level of physical activity;

(E) having high blood pressure; and

(F) having a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through increased research, treatment, and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 617—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 27, 2016, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

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

S. RES. 617

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day through use of the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

(F) all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 27, 2016, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 618—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 2016 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COATS, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 618

Whereas, on November 2, 2016, the Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series with an 8-7 victory over the Cleveland Indians;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in Game 7 at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs came back from a 3-1 World Series deficit to win 3 thrilling games in a row and became World Series Champions for the first time in 108 years;

Whereas all 25 players on the World Series roster of the Chicago Cubs should be congratulated, including Albert Almora Jr., Jake Arrieta, Javier Baez, Kris Bryant, Aroldis Chapman, Chris Coghlan, Willson Contreras, Carl Edwards Jr., Dexter Fowler, Justin Grimm, Kyle Hendricks, Jason Heyward, John Lackey, Jon Lester, Miguel Montero, Mike Montgomery, Anthony Rizzo, Hector Rondon, David Ross, Addison Russell, Kyle Schwarber, Jorge Soler, Pedro Strop, Travis Wood, and Ben Zobrist;

Whereas, in addition to the World Series roster, all Chicago Cubs players who contributed to the 2016 regular season should be congratulated, including Jake Buchanan, Trevor Cahill, Jeimer Candelario, Gerardo Concepcion, Tim Federowicz, Jason Hammel, Ryan Kalish, Munenori Kawasaki, Tommy La Stella, Brian Matusz, Joe Nathan, Spencer Patton, Felix Peña, Joel Peralta, Neil Ramirez, Clayton Richard, Joe Smith, Matt Szczur, Adam Warren, and Rob Zastryzny;

Whereas the front office, the clubhouse, and all supporting staff and team members of the Chicago Cubs should be congratulated;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won an incredible 103 games during the regular season, which earned the team the best record in Major League Baseball;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs overcame the American League winning the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, which gave the Indians home field advantage for the World Series;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs had 7 players selected to the 2016 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, who should be congratulated, including Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist, Kris Bryant, Addison Russell, Dexter Fowler, Jake Arrieta, and Jon Lester;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs infield of Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist, Kris Bryant, and Addison Russell were the first foursome to start an All-Star Game since 1963 and the second one ever;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs bounced back from a disappointing loss in the 2015 playoffs to win the National League Championship pennant for the first time since 1945;

Whereas Chicago Cubs outfielder Dexter Fowler became the first African-American Chicago Cubs player to play in a World Series and went on to hit a lead-off home run in Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Chicago Cubs catcher Miguel Montero hit a grand slam in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series and drove in the final, winning Chicago Cubs run in the 10th inning of Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Chicago Cubs shortstop Addison Russell tied the single-game record for runs batted in (referred to in this preamble as “RBI”) for a World Series game after he batted in 6 runs in Game 6 of the World Series, including a grand slam in the third inning;

Whereas Chicago Cubs catcher David Ross, in the final game of his 15-year Major League Baseball career, hit a home run in Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Kyle Schwarber, after severely injuring his knee during the third game of the regular season, recovered through perseverance and determination and was added to the World Series roster, where, in one of the greatest sports comeback stories of all time, he—

(1) hit .412 and had a .500 on-base-percentage in the World Series; and

(2) following a 17-minute rain delay, ignited the 10th inning rally in Game 7 of the World Series with a lead-off single;

Whereas Chicago Cubs second baseman Javier Baez and pitcher Jon Lester were corecipients of the National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player Award, after—

(1) Javier Baez hit .318 in the 6-game National League Championship Series, stole 2 bases, including home plate, and made a number of incredible defensive plays; and

(2) Jon Lester had a 1.38 earned run average in 2 starts against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the National League Championship Series, allowing just 2 runs over 13 innings and striking out 9 batters;

Whereas Chicago Cubs utility man and Eureka, Illinois, native Ben Zobrist received unanimous support for and won the World Series Most Valuable Player Award, the first Chicago Cub ever to win the award, after—

(1) hitting .357 in the World Series;

(2) driving in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning of Game 7 with an RBI double; and

(3) leading the Chicago Cubs to an eventual World Series win;

Whereas Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and outfielder Jason Heyward received Gold Glove Awards for their 2016 defensive accomplishments;

Whereas Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and pitcher Jake Arrieta received Silver Slugger Awards for their 2016 offensive accomplishments;

Whereas Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant received the 2016 National League Hank Aaron Award for his offensive accomplishments and is a candidate for the 2016 National League Most Valuable Player Award after having been unanimously named the 2015 National League Rookie of the Year;

Whereas Chicago Cubs pitchers Kyle Hendricks and Jon Lester were candidates for the 2016 National League Cy Young Award, following pitcher Jake Arrieta having received the 2015 National League Cy Young Award;

Whereas Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon was a candidate for the 2016 National League Manager of the Year Award, after having received the 2015 National League Manager of the Year Award;

Whereas Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein joined the Chicago Cubs front office in 2011 and succeeded in building a World Series Champion team;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs fell short in the 2015 National League Championship Series, fueling a determination—

(1) to return to the playoffs; and

(2) to win a World Series in 2016;

Whereas Chicago Cubs fans followed the triumphs of the 2016 season by tuning into games called by Chicago Cubs television broadcasters Len Kasper and Jim Deshaies and Chicago Cubs radio broadcasters Pat Hughes and Ron Coomer;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs played 3 excellent teams in the 2016 postseason that deserve congratulations for their achievements, including—

(1) the San Francisco Giants in the National League Division Series;

(2) the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Championship Series; and

(3) the Cleveland Indians in the World Series;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won their first World Series since 1908, filling people in Chicago and Chicago Cubs fans everywhere with pride;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs showed extraordinary steadiness, teamwork, focus, and love of the game in proving again to be an organization of great character, determination, and heart, a reflection of the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois;

Whereas on November 4, 2016, an estimated 5,000,000 fans gathered in Chicago to fly the W flag and celebrate the Chicago Cubs victory in the largest parade and rally in United States history; and

Whereas the Chicago Cubs are the 2016 World Series champions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Chicago Cubs on their—
(A) 2016 World Series championship title; and

(B) outstanding performance during the 2016 Major League Baseball season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, management, and support staff of the Chicago Cubs and the operations staff of Wrigley Field, the dedication and persistence of whom made victory possible;

(3) congratulates—

(A) the city of Chicago;

(B) the entire Chicagoland area;

(C) Chicago Cubs fans everywhere;

(D) the mayor of the City of Chicago, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel;

(E) Chicago Cubs Chairman, Mr. Tom Ricketts, and the Ricketts family;

(F) Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations, Mr. Theo Epstein;

(G) Chicago Cubs Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mr. Jed Hoyer;

(H) Chicago Cubs President of Business Operations, Mr. Crane Kenney; and

(I) Executive Vice President of Community and Government Affairs and Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Michael Lufrano; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Chicago Cubs Chairman, Mr. Tom Ricketts;

(B) Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations, Mr. Theo Epstein; and

(C) Chicago Cubs Manager, Mr. Joe Maddon.

SENATE RESOLUTION 619—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 619

Whereas, from November 1, 2016, through November 30, 2016, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimated that, in 2010, there were more than 5,000,000 individuals of Native American descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources; and

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that the United States has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2016 as “National Native American Heritage Month”;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5110. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2873, to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5111. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3471, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5110. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2873, to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act” or the “ECHO Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.**—The term “health professional shortage area” means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4

of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.**—The term “medically underserved area” has the meaning given the term “medically underserved community” in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

(4) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.**—The term “medically underserved population” has the meaning given the term in section 330(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)).

(5) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—The term “Native Americans” has the meaning given the term in section 736 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293) and includes Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL.**—The term “technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building model” means a distance health education model that connects specialists with multiple other health care professionals through simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the purpose of facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices, and evaluating outcomes.

(8) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

SEC. 3. EXAMINATION AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODELS.

(a) **EXAMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall examine technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models and their impact on—

(A) addressing mental and substance use disorders, chronic diseases and conditions, prenatal and maternal health, pediatric care, pain management, and palliative care;

(B) addressing health care workforce issues, such as specialty care shortages and primary care workforce recruitment, retention, and support for lifelong learning;

(C) the implementation of public health programs, including those related to disease prevention, infectious disease outbreaks, and public health surveillance;

(D) the delivery of health care services in rural areas, frontier areas, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas, and to medically underserved populations and Native Americans; and

(E) addressing other issues the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In the examination required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult public and private stakeholders with expertise in using technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models in health care settings.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and post on the appropriate website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a report based on the examination under subsection (a).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include findings from the examination under subsection (a) and each of the following:

(A) An analysis of—

(i) the use and integration of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models by health care providers;

(ii) the impact of such models on health care provider retention, including in health professional shortage areas in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iii) the impact of such models on the quality of, and access to, care for patients in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iv) the barriers faced by health care providers, States, and communities in adopting such models;

(v) the impact of such models on the ability of local health care providers and specialists to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and licensure, including the effects on patient wait times for specialty care; and

(vi) efficient and effective practices used by States and communities that have adopted such models, including potential cost-effectiveness of such models.

(B) A list of such models that have been funded by the Secretary in the 5 years immediately preceding such report, including the Federal programs that have provided funding for such models.

(C) Recommendations to reduce barriers for using and integrating such models, and opportunities to improve adoption of, and support for, such models as appropriate.

(D) Opportunities for increased adoption of such models into programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are in existence as of the report.

(E) Recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education and lifelong learning, including the role of academic medical centers, provider organizations, and community providers in such education and lifelong learning.

SA 5111. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3471, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PERSONAL SELECTIONS OF AUTOMOBILES AND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT.

Section 3903(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Except” and inserting “(1) Except”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that to the extent practicable an eligible person who is provided an automobile or other conveyance under this chapter is given the opportunity to make personal selections relating to such automobile or other conveyance.”

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR THE AUTOMOBILES ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE POLICY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a comprehensive policy regarding quality standards for providers who provide modification services to veterans under the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The policy developed under subsection (a) shall cover each of the following:

(1) The Department of Veterans Affairs-wide management of the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(2) The development of standards for safety and quality of equipment and installation of equipment through the automobile adaptive equipment program, including with respect to the defined differentiations in levels of modification complexity.

(3) The consistent application of standards for safety and quality of both equipment and installation throughout the Department.

(4) In accordance with subsection (c)(1), the certification of a provider by a manufacturer if the Secretary designates the quality standards of such manufacturer as meeting or exceeding the standards developed under this section.

(5) In accordance with subsection (c)(2), the certification of a provider by a third party, nonprofit organization if the Secretary designates the quality standards of such organization as meeting or exceeding the standards developed under this section.

(6) The education and training of personnel of the Department who administer the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(7) The compliance of the provider with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) when furnishing automobile adaptive equipment at the facility of the provider.

(8) The allowance, where technically appropriate, for veterans to receive modifications at their residence or location of choice, including standards that ensure such receipt and notification to veterans of the availability of such receipt.

(c) CERTIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS AND THIRD PARTY, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) **CERTIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS.**—The Secretary shall approve a manufacturer as a certifying manufacturer for purposes of subsection (b)(4), if the manufacturer demonstrates that its certification standards meet or exceed the quality standards developed under this section.

(2) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD PARTY, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may approve two or more private, nonprofit organizations as third party, nonprofit certifying organizations for purposes of subsection (b)(5).

(B) **LIMITATION.**—If at any time there is only one third party, nonprofit certifying organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of subsection (b)(5), such organization shall not be permitted to provide certifications under such subsection until such time as the Secretary approves a second third party, nonprofit certifying organization for purposes of such subsection.

(d) **UPDATES.**—

(1) **INITIAL UPDATES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1173.4, or any successor handbook or directive, in accordance with the policy developed under subsection (a).

(2) **SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.**—Not less frequently than once every 6 years thereafter, the Secretary shall update such handbook, or any successor handbook or directive.

(e) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall develop the policy under subsection (a), and revise such policy under subsection (d), in consultation with veterans service organizations, the National Highway Transportation Administration, industry representatives, manufacturers of automobile adaptive equipment, and other entities with expertise in installing, repairing, replacing, or manufacturing mobility equipment or developing mobility accreditation standards for automobile adaptive equipment.

(f) **CONFLICTS.**—In developing and implementing the policy under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) minimize the possibility of conflicts of interest, to the extent practicable; and

(2) establish procedures that ensure against the use of a certifying organization referred to in subsection (b)(5) that has a financial conflict of interest regarding the certification of an eligible provider.

(g) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary updates Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1173.4, or any successor handbook or directive, under subsection (d), and not less frequently than once every other year thereafter through 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation and facility compliance with the policy developed under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the implementation plan for the policy developed under subsection (a) and any revisions to such policy under subsection (d).

(B) A description of the performance measures used to determine the effectiveness of such policy in ensuring the safety of veterans enrolled in the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(C) An assessment of safety issues due to improper installations based on a survey of recipients of adaptive equipment from the Department.

(D) An assessment of the adequacy of the adaptive equipment services of the Department based on a survey of recipients of adaptive equipment from the Department.

(E) An assessment of the training provided to the personnel of the Department with respect to administering the program.

(F) An assessment of the certified providers of the Department of adaptive equipment with respect to meeting the minimum standards developed under subsection (b)(2).

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.—The term “automobile adaptive equipment program” means the program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to chapter 39 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term “veterans service organization” means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 4. APPOINTMENT OF LICENSED HEARING AID SPECIALISTS IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) LICENSED HEARING AID SPECIALISTS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “licensed hearing aid specialists,” after “Audiologists.”.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 7402(b)(14) of such title is amended by inserting “, hearing aid specialist” after “dental technologist”.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to appointing hearing aid specialists under sections 7401 and 7402 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), and providing services furnished by such specialists, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) a hearing aid specialist may only perform hearing services consistent with the hearing aid specialist's State license related to the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids without excluding other qualified professionals, including audiologists, from rendering services in overlapping practice areas;

(2) services provided to veterans by hearing aid specialists shall be provided as part of

the non-medical treatment plan developed by an audiologist; and

(3) the medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs provide to veterans access to the full range of professional services provided by an audiologist.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In determining the qualifications required for hearing aid specialists and in carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations, audiologists, otolaryngologists, hearing aid specialists, and other stakeholder and industry groups as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the following:

(A) Timely access of veterans to hearing health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Contracting policies of the Department with respect to providing hearing health services to veterans in facilities that are not facilities of the Department.

(2) TIMELY ACCESS TO SERVICES.—Each report shall, with respect to the matter specified in paragraph (1)(A) for the 1-year period preceding the submittal of such report, include the following:

(A) The staffing levels of audiologists, hearing aid specialists, and health technicians in audiology in the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) A description of the metrics used by the Secretary in measuring performance with respect to appointments and care relating to hearing health.

(C) The average time that a veteran waits to receive an appointment, beginning on the date on which the veteran makes the request, for the following:

(i) A disability rating evaluation for a hearing-related disability.

(ii) A hearing aid evaluation.

(iii) Dispensing of hearing aids.

(iv) Any follow-up hearing health appointment.

(D) The percentage of veterans whose total wait time for appointments described in subparagraph (C), including an initial and follow-up appointment, if applicable, is more than 30 days.

(3) CONTRACTING POLICIES.—Each report shall, with respect to the matter specified in paragraph (1)(B) for the 1-year period preceding the submittal of such report, include the following:

(A) The number of veterans that the Secretary refers to non-Department audiologists for hearing health care appointments.

(B) The number of veterans that the Secretary refers to non-Department hearing aid specialists for follow-up appointments for a hearing aid evaluation, the dispensing of hearing aids, or any other purpose relating to hearing health.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2016, at 11:55 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee On Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sophia Vogt and Emily Douglas, legislative fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

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

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Major—Lieutenant Colonel-select—Chivis, our defense fellow, be granted the privileges of the floor for the rest of this session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2873

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2873 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the Alexander substitute amendment No. 5110 be agreed to, that there be up to 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and following the use or yielding back of that time, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

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

TOM STAGG FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 2754.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2754) entitled “An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the ‘Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse’.”, do pass with amendments.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and the House title amendment. I further ask unanimous consent that the motions be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

R.E. THOMASON FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5873 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5873) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5873) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PRESCRIBED BURN APPROVAL ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of S. 3395 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3395) to require limitations on prescribed burns.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be 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. 3395) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3395

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 "Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM.—The term "national fire danger rating system" means the national system used to

provide a measure of fire danger according to a range of low to moderate to high to very high to extreme.

(2) PRESCRIBED BURN.—The term "prescribed burn" means a planned fire intentionally ignited.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON PRESCRIBED BURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall not authorize a prescribed burn on Forest Service land if, for the county or contiguous county in which the land is located, the national fire danger rating system indicates an extreme fire danger level.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may authorize a prescribed burn under a condition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary coordinates with the applicable State government and local fire officials.

(c) REPORT.—At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) the number and locations of prescribed burns during that fiscal year; and

(2) each prescribed burn during that fiscal year that was authorized by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b).

VETERANS MOBILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3471 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3471) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Moran amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be 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 amendment (No. 5111) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 3471), as amended, was passed.

AMENDING TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT AVAILABILITY PAY TO EMPLOYEES OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION'S AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4902 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4902) to amend title 5, United States Code, to expand law enforcement availability pay to employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 4902) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 453, S. 434.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 434) to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 434) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 434

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 "Security Clearance Accountability, Reform, and Enhancement Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of agency background investigations.

Sec. 103. Review and update of position designation guidance.

TITLE II—PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Limitation on contracting to prevent organizational conflicts of interest.

TITLE I—SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “agency” has the meaning given the term in Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto;

(2) the term “appropriate agency” means—
(A) in the case of a prime contractor for a covered contract, the agency with which the prime contractor entered the covered contract; or

(B) in the case of a subcontractor for a covered contract, any agency on whose behalf the subcontractor is performing work under the covered contract;

(3) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term “background investigation” means any investigation required for the purpose of determining the—

(A) eligibility of a covered individual for logical and physical access to federally controlled facilities or information systems;

(B) suitability or fitness of a covered individual for Federal employment;

(C) eligibility of a covered individual for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position; or

(D) fitness of a covered individual to perform work for or on behalf of the United States Government as a contractor employee;

(5) the term “covered contract” means a contract to conduct background investigations—

(A) between an agency and a prime contractor;

(B) between a prime contractor and a subcontractor, if the prime contractor has a contract with an agency; or

(C) between subcontractors, if one of the subcontractors has a contract with a prime contractor that has a contract with an agency;

(6) the term “covered individual” means an individual who—

(A) performs work for or on behalf of an agency; or

(B) seeks to perform work for or on behalf of an agency;

(7) the term “covered misconduct” means misconduct affecting the integrity of a background investigation conducted by or for an agency with investigative authority to conduct background investigations, including—

(A) falsification of any information relating to a background investigation; or

(B) other serious misconduct that compromises the integrity of a background investigation;

(8) the term “prime contractor” means an individual who enters into a contract with an agency; and

(9) the term “subcontractor” means an individual who has contracted with a prime

contractor or with another subcontractor to perform a contract on behalf of an agency.

SEC. 102. ACCOUNTABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN MISCONDUCT AFFECTING THE INTEGRITY OF AGENCY BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) MISCONDUCT BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(1) UNFIT FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—If an agency determines that an employee of the agency has engaged in covered misconduct, the employee shall be found unfit for Federal employment.

(2) FITNESS DETERMINATIONS.—An agency shall make a determination under paragraph (1) in accordance with any statutory, regulatory, or internal agency procedures applicable to investigating alleged misconduct by employees of the agency.

(3) PROHIBITION ON REEMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—If an agency determines under paragraph (1) that an individual is unfit for Federal employment, the individual shall not be appointed to or continue to occupy a position, as an employee of any agency, that requires its occupant to perform background investigations.

(b) MISCONDUCT BY EMPLOYEES UNDER CONTRACT.—

(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF WORK UNDER A COVERED CONTRACT.—If an appropriate agency, prime contractor, or subcontractor determines that an individual performing work under a covered contract has engaged in covered misconduct, the individual shall be ineligible to perform background investigations under a covered contract.

(2) MANDATORY DISCLOSURE.—A covered contract shall include a provision requiring a prime contractor or subcontractor to disclose to each appropriate agency any allegation of covered misconduct by an employee of the prime contractor or subcontractor not later than 24 hours after the prime contractor or subcontractor discovers the alleged covered misconduct.

(3) INVESTIGATION OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

(A) CONTRACTOR INVESTIGATION.—A covered contract shall include a provision requiring that, not later than 5 business days after the date on which a prime contractor or subcontractor discloses an allegation under paragraph (2), the prime contractor or subcontractor shall refer the allegation of covered misconduct to the agency for investigation.

(B) AGENCY INVESTIGATION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an appropriate agency from conducting its own investigation into an allegation of covered misconduct.

(4) PROHIBITION ON REEMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—If an appropriate agency determines, based on an investigation conducted under paragraph (3), that an individual is ineligible to perform work under a covered contract under paragraph (1), the individual shall be prohibited from performing background investigations under any covered contract.

(5) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, any covered contract that is in effect and was entered into before the date of enactment of this Act shall be modified to include the provisions required under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report providing—

(1) the number of individuals determined to be—

(A) unfit for Federal employment under subsection (a); or

(B) ineligible to perform work under a covered contract under subsection (b); and

(2) details of the covered misconduct that resulted in each determination described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 103. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF POSITION DESIGNATION GUIDANCE.

(a) GUIDELINES.—

(1) INITIAL REVIEW AND UPDATE OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall review and, if appropriate, update the guidance the President issues to assist agencies in determining—

(A) position sensitivity designation; and

(B) the appropriate background investigation to initiate for each position designation.

(2) REVIEWS AND REVISIONS OF POSITION DESIGNATIONS.—Not less frequently than every 5 years, the President, acting through relevant agencies (as determined by the President) and in accordance with the guidance described in paragraph (1), shall review and, if necessary, revise the position designation of positions within agencies.

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after completing a review under subsection (a)(2), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) any issues identified in the review; and

(2) the number of position designations revised as a result of the review.

(c) NO CHANGE IN AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section limits or expands the authority of any agency to designate a position as sensitive or as requiring its occupant to have access to classified information.

TITLE II—PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “agency” means—

(A) an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) a military department (as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code);

(C) an element of the intelligence community (as that term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(D) the United States Postal Service; and

(E) the Postal Regulatory Commission;

(2) the term “background investigation fieldwork services” means the investigatory fieldwork conducted to determine the eligibility of an individual for logical and physical access to federally controlled facilities or information systems, suitability or fitness for Federal employment, eligibility for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position, or fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Federal Government as a contractor or employee, including—

(A) interviews of the individual, the employer of the individual, former employers of the individual, and friends, family, and other sources who might have relevant knowledge of the individual; and

(B) reviews of—

(i) educational and employment records;

(ii) criminal and other legal records; and

(iii) credit history;

(3) the term “background investigation support services” means the clerical, administrative, and technical support services provided to various functions critical to the background investigation process, including—

(A) initial processing and scheduling of investigative requests;

(B) information technology and information technology support;

(C) file maintenance;

(D) imaging or copying of investigation documents; and

(E) mail processing; and

(4) the term "quality review process" means performing the final quality review of a background investigation to ensure investigative, administrative, and other required standards have been met before the completed background investigation is delivered to the adjudicating agency.

SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING TO PREVENT ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the date of enactment of this Act, a contract may not be entered into, and an extension of or option on a contract may not be exercised, with a contractor to conduct a quality review process relating to background investigation fieldwork services or background investigation support services if the contractor is performing the services to be reviewed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2016 AS "NATIONAL BLADDER HEALTH MONTH"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 604.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 604) expressing support for the designation of November 2016 as "National Bladder Health Month."

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 604) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 29, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 617, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 617) designating November 27, 2016, as "Drive Safer Sunday."

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon

the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 617) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 2016 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 618, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 618) commending and congratulating the Chicago Cubs on their 2016 World Series victory.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 618) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016, THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 22, at 11 a.m.; Friday, Novem-

ber 25, at 11 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 25, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, November 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the first rollcall vote following the Thanksgiving recess will occur at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 29, on passage of S. 2873, the ECHO Act.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for allowing me to speak briefly. I rise to talk about an issue that is affecting every State represented in this body; that is, this heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

Unfortunately, opioids is an issue that is very much present in my home State of Ohio right now. We have seen over the last 48 hours, 10 overdoses in one rural county in North Central Ohio, Seneca County. We are told that already in Lucas County in the Toledo area there have been 150 overdoses in the last few weeks of this month, heading toward, unfortunately, what will be a record.

This issue is affecting families, it is tearing apart families, it is affecting communities, it is causing crime. Pretty much every county in Ohio tells me that the No. 1 cause of crime now is the heroin, prescription drug, opioid issue. A lot of thefts are being reported because of it but also other crimes which result from people being torn apart from their families, from their community, from their jobs based on this addiction.

I come to the floor to talk about a report that was issued today by the U.S. Surgeon General. This report is about addiction in America. I applaud the Surgeon General for putting it out there. It is an 11-page report. If you

haven't had a chance to look at it yet, I hope you will. I hope it will raise awareness around our country of this issue.

It talks about something incredibly important as to how we approach it, which is that addiction is a disease and should be treated as such. As the Surgeon General says, this is not a moral failing but rather it is like other diseases—something that actually changes your brain and creates a problem that must be dealt with through treatment and longer term recovery just as would be the case of other diseases. I think that alone is a significant finding by the Surgeon General, to help us come up with the right policies to address it but also raise awareness in communities around the country.

The first chapter of this report talks about something this Chamber has spent a lot of time on, which is the importance of prevention and education. It talks about the need to look at this from a science perspective. It talks about the need to look at it in terms of longer term recovery. That summary in the first chapter is again something I would commend everybody to read just to sort of bring you up to speed, if you haven't been, on the importance of this issue and importance of addressing it.

The next chapter focuses on the science behind addiction. This is consistent with a conference we had in Washington, DC, almost a year ago now—Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself—in anticipation of proposing legislation in this area. We brought in experts from all over the country to talk about the science behind addiction, why it happens, how it happens. As was indicated earlier, that was something that led us to focus on the fact that addiction is a disease. It is something that impacts the brain. The brain responds to chemical substances in certain ways for certain people, and that addiction is something that has to be addressed through, again, treatment and longer term recovery.

The legislation we came up with after this, by the way, is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. That legislation was passed late in the summer. It is now in the process of being implemented by the administration. I encourage the Surgeon General, with his great 11-page report, to also focus on implementing this legislation as soon as possible, including in this area of treating it as a disease.

The next chapter talks about a key component, which is prevention and education. It talks about the need for us to use evidence-based techniques around the country. Again, this legislation—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, also known as CARA—focuses on this and starts a national awareness campaign to make this link between prescription drugs and heroin. Sadly, many people who are on heroin—probably four out of five people

who are addicted to heroin—started with prescription drugs. Sometimes it was because of an accident or an injury where someone was prescribed a painkiller that was addictive that then led to the addiction and then led to the use of heroin as a less-expensive and sometimes more accessible alternative to it.

I think that issue of prevention and education is incredibly important. The take-back programs on pharmaceuticals is also important. The anti-drug coalitions supported in our legislation are also important. This is all part of how to get people from falling into this funnel of addiction, which is to do a much better job of explaining the problem and understanding the link particularly between prescription drugs and these other opioids.

The next chapter talks about how we treat addiction. This talks about the need for us to get people out of the criminal justice system and into treatment. Our legislation helps in that as well by providing funds for diversion programs to ensure that people who are addicted are not simply locked up but are also given the opportunity to be able to get into a treatment program and into a longer term recovery program.

The next chapter of this report also talks about recovery. CARA is the first legislation to actually fund recovery. I think we need to do even more in this area, but we certainly learned again from conferences in Washington, DC, over the last few years, that the success rate is increased dramatically where you have not just a short-term treatment program but a longer term program of recovery, where people are surrounded by those who support them, and specifically sober housing arrangements and other ways to support people with a supportive environment rather than going back to the old gang or the old family or the old environment. Again, the report today does a good job of talking about that and the importance of it.

The Surgeon General has a fashion for this, a commitment to it, and I applaud him for that. I do hope again that he focuses on this legislation. We have now passed it with the support of the administration. The President has signed it. The report does not mention the legislation, but it is consistent with every aspect of this report today.

This report, I hope, will raise awareness nationally, as I said, but I hope it also raises awareness of the need to move very quickly to put in place the grant programs that need to be there to help on prevention, education, treatment, and recovery, help our law enforcement community and other first responders to be able to get access to Narcan—this miracle drug that reverses the effects of an overdose—help to provide the training, help to ensure we do have more drug take-back programs around the country. These Federal programs need to be put in place right away to allow the Federal Government to be a better partner with

State and local government and with our communities and with our families to be able to reverse the tide on this issue that has, unfortunately, gripped my State and so many other States around the country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Surgeon General on this issue. Again, I commend this report today to your attention. I hope we will be able as a Congress to continue to provide the funding, as we have in the short-term spending that is in effect right now. We provided funding to ensure this legislation can be set up so we can stand up these programs and get this started. We need to continue that effort and, I think, redouble our efforts, including passing additional legislation as it becomes apparent it is needed.

One piece of legislation I hope we move on, in addition to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, is legislation to try to stop some of these synthetic drugs from coming into our communities. Carfentanil, fentanyl, and U-4 and other synthetic heroins are coming in increasingly from overseas—China, India, and other places. They come by mail. There is a way for us to be able to reduce that simply by requiring that those who send products by mail have the same requirements you would have if you were FedEx or UPS or a private carrier—to know where it is coming from and what is in it and where it is going and have that information being provided in advance electronically. Based on law enforcement officials, that will help us to be able to stem the tide of these poisons coming into our communities and infecting our families, our children.

These are all issues this Congress has taken up over the last 6 months with legislation, with specific programs, and I hope we can continue to fund that now, to get the administration to set up these programs, and to ensure that we are in a position to respond as new dangers arise, as we have seen with synthetic heroin coming from overseas.

I thank the Presiding Officer for giving me time today to talk about this. Again, I commend this report today by the Surgeon General to be able to increase awareness and to ensure that every community in America is armed with the facts and the information to be able to push back and to help save lives and restore lives of those addicted.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 619, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 619) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and

celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 619) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 18, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.