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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source and ground of all truth, give our Senators the grace of reflection that will unite the scattered forces of their souls. May life's frenetic pace not hinder them from thinking about its meaning and its end. Grant that Your truth will take root within their souls, providing them with wisdom to know when to abstain and when to persevere. As they read Your sacred Scriptures, may they feel the stirring of Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, bless all human hearts that today are lifted up to You. Accept their prayers and praise, as You guide them on the road that leads to eternal life.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30. Senators during that period of time will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 we have two rollcall votes, the first on the confirmation of the Krause circuit court judge and the next will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2562

I am told S. 2562 is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2562) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring back jobs to America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

WASTING TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a lot of people within the sound of my voice will not understand what I speak about, which is having an emergency brake or a parking brake on a car. It used to be standard procedure. People would pull out the emergency brake, and 99 percent of the time people would remember to release it before they took off, but sometimes people would forget and that car would still go forward, but it didn't go forward very well. In fact, it would start smoking—''Oh, I forgot to turn that off.''

So emergency brakes, what do they have to do with us in the Senate? What it has to do with us is that it appears the Republicans in the Senate have intentionally left on the emergency brake. For everything we try to do, it is similar to when we used to drive a car and have the emergency brake on. It doesn't move right. It moves very slowly.

Throughout President Obama's time in office, the Republican leadership in the Senate has done its best to keep the brakes engaged, slowing any effort to legislate on even the most bipartisan bills. We should be passing legislation that strengthens our economy and protects working families instead of wasting hundreds of hours—hundreds of hours—as we struggle to perform one of our most basic duties, confirming Presidential nominees.

Last year, in response to unprecedented—I repeat, unprecedented—Republican obstruction, the Senate was forced to change its rules to ensure that some of the President's nominees received the up-or-down vote they deserve. I am so happy that change was made. It has allowed the Senate to make substantial progress on one of its primary functions. Positions that were once vacant for months—even years—are now staffed with qualified and competent public servants.

In spite of our having changed the rules, the Republicans are still continuing to try to slow everything down.

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

Again, the brakes are on, and they only have one reason I can come up with for doing this. It is not that they dislike the President's nominees; it is that they want to do everything they can to slow down his administration, to make him look bad and to make Senate Democrats look bad, because they believe that even though they are the cause of the obstruction everybody will say: The Democrats control the Senate, why aren't they doing more?

We can't do more because they have put on the brakes, even though we changed the rules and are moving through judges especially very quickly.

For the viewing audience, on a judge they can only stall for 1 hour, and they usually do. On circuit court judges they get 30 hours, and they take up all of those 30 hours, even though they wind up voting for the judge. On Cabinet nominations they get 30 hours. On subcabinet officers they get 8 hours. That is in the rules. We changed some of the rules, but we didn't change that. In hindsight—we will have to wait and see. If they are going to continue this, we will have to take another look at that. It is outrageous what they have done.

We have made substantial progress, as I have said, on one of our primary functions. The Senate is continuing its progress confirming these nominees in spite of the Republicans putting up roadblock after roadblock. Instead of seeing how their needless obstruction has hurt our country and working with us to confirm these vital nominations, the Republican leadership has responded with what can only be described as a temper tantrum, I guess. I don't know what else to call it. We have already established that they are trying to do it to make us look bad and the President look bad, but think what it is doing and what it has done to our country.

They are mad about a lot of things, I guess. The No. 1 thing they are mad about is Obama was reelected. Remember, Frank Luntz called a meeting here 3 days after Obama was first elected. He said: We have two things we are going to do—and all the Republican big shots were here—No. 1, we are going to make sure Obama isn't reelected. That was a flop. No. 2, we are going to oppose everything the President wants, and that is what they have done and continue to do.

I have said this before and I will say it again. The first Congress we had a lot of Democrats—58, 59, and for a short period of time we had 60—and we had some moderate Republicans with whom we could work, but they are gone except SUSAN COLLINS. They are gone. So even though that first Congress was extremely productive, the next two have been thwarted by the obstructionism we have encountered for everything we have tried to do.

The Republican leader is obviously now resorting to a tactic that I guess they decided to do in the Frank Luntz meeting; that is, just trying to run out the clock. As in a football game, if there is only 1 minute left to go, they say let's just run out the clock or a basketball game or, as we saw over the last few weeks, a soccer game. Stall it. We are ahead. It is tied. That is where we need to stay.

They are just trying to run out the clock. Instead of killing time on the scoreboard, the Republican leader is using the cloture clock to kill the remaining 6 months of this Congress. They want just to go away, preventing nominees from getting confirmed and thwarting Democrats from passing legislation that is good for the middle class.

Would it be good for the middle class to raise the minimum wage? Of course. It would be great. Would it be good for the American public to have it so my daughter, for instance, if she does the same job your son does, that they get paid the same amount of money? They filibustered that. They stopped that. How about student loans? Student loans are the highest debt in America today—almost $1.3 trillion—and we tried to remedy that, make it better for students and of course their families who are paying and have paid over the years for these large loans. Filibuster; extended unemployment benefits, filibuster.

So they are doing this to make the President look bad, make us look bad, but they are still running out the clock. That is what they are trying to do.

Again, so people understand, we get cloture with a simple majority. They can stall for many hours. As I said, circuit court judges get 30 hours, nominees for Cabinet posts get 30 hours, 8 hours for subcabinet, and only an hour on other judges. If we take a close look at how they have utilized the time we have wasted—let's say the last 2 months the Senate has been in session—Senate Republicans have forced us to waste almost 10 days, more than half the time we have been in session. They have wasted 236 hours in order to slow the confirmation of President Obama's nominations—236 hours. Of those 236 hours, Senate Republicans have used 5 hours to actually come to the Senate floor and debate the qualifications of these nominees. The rest of the time we sit, as the viewing public sees, in these quorum calls, where we do nothing. For every hour they have debated these nominations, the Senate Republicans have wasted 46 hours just killing time. Mr. President, 5 hours out of 236 hours is the time they have actually used.

To further highlight the absurdity of their obstruction, the Republicans have voted overwhelmingly to confirm most all of these same nominees they have obstructed and filibustered. So far this year Republicans have blocked immediate confirmation of 22 nominations they later voted unanimously to confirm.

Why are they blocking these nominations they all support? They just want to slow things down. They want everybody to look bad. They know they are not in control—that is what the American public feels—even though they have all of these rules they force procedural gimmicks we have to work our way through. There is no other way to look at what Republicans are doing. This is obstruction for obstruction's sake. The Republican leader is desperate to keep this emergency brake on, hoping that by slowing down every Senate process imaginable, he can run out the remaining 6 months and damage Obama. The harm it does to our country, I guess, is not in their calculation. He is playing a very dangerous political game at the expense of this great country and of course the American taxpayer.

The Senate currently has a backlog of 131 nominees who have been languishing on the Senate calendar for an average of 281 days—281 days. It is particularly outrageous that they are stopping us from confirming noncontroversial career Foreign Service officers and ambassadors.

What does this mean, a career Foreign Service officer? The Presiding Officer has been in government a number of years. He has been Governor of one of the larger populated States in the country. He has been in the U.S. Senate. The Presiding Officer has seen—I am convinced of this—young men and women who decide they want to go into the Foreign Service. They are the brightest of the brightest. They do extremely well in school. They have these tests they have to pass, written and oral. They speak and learn many different languages. They have been waiting their whole career to be named an ambassador. It is a huge thing. It is like being selected to go to the Super Bowl or to be on the Pro Bowl team. But when it comes time to get this position they have worked for for their whole career, they are being held up.

These are ambassadors to places that need American diplomats. You need a boss. Twenty, 25 percent of the ambassadorial spots in Africa they have blocked. These are not political nominees. Most of them are career nominees. They are Republicans and Democrats. When these ambassadors are chosen, they are not chosen based on their political party. They are chosen on merit. We have places such as Honduras, Qatar, Vietnam where we do not have ambassadors.

They are even blocking the Department of Defense, the Navy, the Air Force. They are at the mercy of the Republican leader's clock-killing obstruction. American interests abroad and the defense of our Nation are forced to take a back seat while Republican leadership hopes to make political gains by running out this clock.

So after having returned from the Fourth of July—this country's birthday—I urge Republicans to stop this needless obstruction. What is to be gained by needlessly grinding the Senate to a halt? The only thing I can see

is they think they are going to hurt President Obama, who they are so upset because he got reelected and reelected very easily.

I say to them, if you oppose a nominee, let's have a debate on the nomination and then vote. Do not delay a vote on a career Foreign Service officer who has worked his or her entire life to become an ambassador. Do not delay national security personnel who are needed to protect our Nation. Do not delay key staff people at the Cabinet level from doing their work for the American people.

I do not expect Republicans to give their unanimous consent to every nominee on the calendar. Rather, Senate Democrats are asking that Republicans legislate in good faith. Let's look at these. If there is something wrong with them, let's debate them. If nominees are deserving of their unanimous support—and most of them come out of the committees unanimously—why waste the Senate's time by blocking confirmation of these individuals? There is no reason for doing that.

We have so much to address over the coming weeks. We are going to vote on the sportsmen's bill tonight. We have the highway bill, the emergency supplemental, manufacturing legislation. We are going to do something about the Hobby Lobby legislation we need to correct. There is so much we have to do. We have terrorism insurance. We have to do that. The Export-Import Bank, we have to do that. But we are being stopped from doing all of that.

We have more than enough to keep us busy. That is an understatement. So what we are doing, instead of doing the things necessary for the American people, is we are being forced, because of the obstruction of the Republicans, to sit here and struggle through a few nominations that we can work out by spending 8 hours on this one, 4 hours on that one, 30 hours on this one. It is really unfair to the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the crisis at our border continues unabated. It is a crisis that should never ever have occurred. It occurred as a direct result of the failure of the leadership of the United States, the clarity of our message, and our willingness to enforce simple, plain immigration laws.

Last week, we reached the point where the President of the United States—who is directly responsible for sending messages and effecting policies that encourage the flow of immigration to the United States, announced he would be asking Congress—us—to cooperate with him and provide him with $2 billion in additional funds to deal with the humanitarian crisis—a crisis, as I indicated, that was produced as a result of his activities.

In the same breath at that moment when he asked for more money to take care of the crisis, he announced he will deliberately and openly go around the Congress of the United States and the Constitution and unilaterally change immigration law again through an executive policy.

The President said:

. . . today, I'm beginning a new effort to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress. As a first step, I'm directing the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General [directing them] to move available and appropriate resources from our interior to the border.

He further said:

I have also directed Secretary Johnson and Attorney General Holder to identify additional actions my administration can take on our own, within my existing legal authorities, to do what Congress refuses to do and fix as much of our immigration system as we can. I expect their recommendations before the end of the summer and I intend to adopt those recommendations without further delay.

The problem is that we have laws. Congress has established laws. The President wanted to change those laws, and Congress made a decision. The decision was not to change those laws, and those laws remain in effect. As President of the United States of America, he has the highest duty to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed.

Remember now, the President is the chief law enforcement officer in America. The FBI answers to him, the Drug Enforcement Administration answers to him, the Department of Justice—he appoints the top officials, and they answer to him. So does Border Patrol, and so do Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, immigration officers throughout, and the Secretary of Homeland Security. It is his administration, and he has used powers to go beyond—that I am aware of—what any President has used to basically declare: I will not enforce the laws passed by Congress. I am going to change those laws—I don't have to change them; I am just going to direct my officers not to carry them out, not to enforce them.

Another thing he said was that young people here would not be deported. He invited a number of them to the White House. As a result, the word got out in Central America particularly that if you come to the United States as a young person—a parent could bring them or brother and sister—and you get into the United States, you will not be deported; you will be allowed to stay, and you could get a permiso—that is, you would be released on bail into some family member's custody and you could show up at some point in the future to have a hearing. I have heard it is maybe as many as 500 days before a hearing occurs. And who is going to go and look for these individuals when they don't show up for court, as is continuously happening in high numbers, not showing up for court?

So to me it is disturbing that we are in this situation. And make no mistake about it—$2 billion is a lot of money. We work hard around here to try to pay for things we need to by saving money here and saving money there, and now the President just sends over a message: I am going to demand $2 billion.

We have to take care of the children. We can't leave them in a circumstance where they are not fed or taken care of or in a safe condition. I guess we will have to find some money to do that. But the question is, How did it happen? Why did it happen? And $2 billion is more than the general fund budget of the State of Alabama, which is where I am from. An extra $2 billion is a lot of money—extra money this year. Why? Because in 2011 we had 6,000 unaccompanied children apprehended at the border, and this year we are projected to have 90,000. That is why the President says we need $2 billion more—because the message got out, the word got out: You can come to America and, as a young person, you won't be deported.

In fact—and Congress doesn't know it fully at this point, but, in fact, that is true. Young people coming to America unlawfully from Central and South America, other than Mexico, are being allowed to stay, and it encourages more.

We have to have a lawful system of immigration, a system that serves the national interests. A lawful system means one that is carried out effectively and efficiently. It is wrong and it is immoral to create a system in which there is no law, where laws are violated willy-nilly and nothing is ever done about it. That is not healthy at all for any nation, and I would submit clearly that any nation must maintain the integrity of its borders. Failing to do so undermines the very sovereignty of that nation. No nation in the world that I am aware of maintains open borders. If you are not going to maintain open borders, then you have to set up standards for application and admission, and then if you establish those standards, you have to carry them out fairly and objectively.

There are millions of people who have applied to come to America who are waiting in line, people with college degrees and relatives here, who have applied lawfully and are waiting their turn. And how is it right, how can it be justified morally, religiously, as a matter of public policy, as a matter of law that we just ignore them and let people come through by the hundreds of thousands?

Indeed, it has been projected that unless something changes—and I think it could change if we have leadership—unless changes occur, we could have as many as 140,000 young people come next year. I guess that would be $4 billion extra that would have to be funded next year to take care of the costs. It is an unbelievable turn of events.

My staff and I did a time line months ago, before this crisis became so imminent, and we documented a series of actions in which the President of the United States has directed his agencies to conduct their operations in such a way that it undermines the laws of the United States. This is 39 pages.

One of the first ones—and I talked about it at the time and the ramifications that would occur from it, and nobody paid much attention. Back in January of 2009 President Obama took office. He had talked to activist groups throughout the country and he had made a promise to them. Not long after he took office, immigration enforcement officers executed a raid—which they had been doing over a period of years and always been able to do—on an engine machine shop in Bellingham, WA, and detained 28 illegal immigrants who were using fake Social Security numbers and identity documents.

Shortly thereafter, pro-amnesty groups—these activist groups—criticized the administration for enforcing the law. An unidentified official at the Department of Homeland Security was quoted in the Washington Times as saying this about the new Secretary of Homeland Security: ''The secretary is not happy and this is not her policy . . . '' Instead of enforcing the law, the Secretary investigated the ICE officers, who were simply doing their jobs.

Esther Olavarria, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, said on a phone call with employers and pro-amnesty groups that ''we're not doing raids or audits under this administration.'' That was a huge abandonment of a normal and natural law enforcement procedure to create a lawful system of immigration right out of the chute—a direct result, in my opinion, of promises made during the campaign, not for law enforcement reasons, not for the national interests of the United States.

It goes on.

In January 2009 the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, delayed an E-Verify compliance deadline. She delayed the E-Verify deadline a second time. She delayed the E-Verify a third time.

It goes on, page after page of activities in which they took steps to undermine law.

In June 2010 the Obama administration sued Arizona. The State was trying to help enforce Federal immigration law, and they sued the State of Arizona. They sued any other State that attempted to do anything that would enhance law enforcement.

In January 2010 the Obama administration ignored the dangerous ''sanctuary cities'' policy. Amazingly, in this country we have cities that are providing sanctuary to people who are illegally in the country. Law enforcement arrests someone who is here illegally, they convict them of a crime—I was a Federal prosecutor for many years—they hold them and then turn them over to the Federal law enforcement officers for deportation. But then these cities refuse to do that. Nothing was done about it, and this administration took no action—in fact, seemed to encourage it, frankly.

In March 2011, ICE Director John Morton issued the first of a series of memoranda systematically weakening their enforcement deportation procedures, essentially implementing an ''administrative amnesty.'' He issued two more amnesty memos in July 2011.

In December 2011 reports surfaced that the Obama administration would reduce the National Guard at the border. President Bush had beefed up our enforcement and sent a pretty good message that we were getting serious about the border. We were making some progress when he was doing that, but by December 2011 the Obama administration had begun to reduce the National Guard's presence, which has now been eliminated at the border.

On June 15, 2012, President Obama bypassed Congress and in effect unilaterally implemented the DREAM Act—legislation that had twice or three times been brought before this Congress and failed to pass—dealing with children who enter the country before the age of 16 and who can prove how old they were when they entered, who can prove how long they have been here. The legislation was poorly drafted, it was rejected by Congress on more than one occasion, and the President just said to his officers: Don't enforce it with regard to these young people. Don't deport anybody you apprehend who claims they entered the country before they were age 16 or 17 or 18.

Who knows what year it would be.

This was really the beginning of the message to the people in Central America particularly that young people weren't going to be deported—the direct action that led to the crisis we have today—and I pointed that out at the time and others did.

Chris Crane, president of the National ICE Council, wrote a letter last May warning: We are seeing a surge of young people.

As I said, there are 39 pages with multiple actions on some of those pages—actions that were taken by the President's staff and underlings that undermined and weakened the ability of our immigration laws to be carried out effectively, consistently, and fairly. It is a terrible thing, and now we have this crisis today.

According to a new report from the Los Angeles Times—which, I have to say, is probably one of the more knowledgeable papers, if not the most knowledgeable paper in America concerning immigration issues. They issued a report that deportation of illegal immigrant youth has fallen dramatically under the current administration even as the flow of illegal youth into the United States has exponentially increased.

Just this weekend, they wrote this:

> President Obama and his aides have repeatedly sought to dispel the rumors driving thousands of children and teens from Central America to cross the U.S. border each month with the expectation they will be given a permiso and allowed to stay.
>
> But under the Obama administration, those reports have proved increasingly true.

Data from the paper shows that the number of illegal youth from Central America who were apprehended averaged around 4,000 per year over the last decade. So the newspaper points out that over the last decade we have apprehended about 4,000 youth per year. Some reports suggest that the number could reach 90,000 this year—an increase of more than 2,000 percent. Yet since 2008 deportation of illegal youth has dropped roughly 80 percent. So we have an 80 percent drop in the deportation while we have seen a 2000 percent increase in the number coming unlawfully. Does this not tell us something? Is this acceptable? Isn't this a guarantee that we will see more people attempt to come to America unlawfully in the future? In May of last year, 2013, Chris Crane, the president of the ICE union, wrote a letter and he warned about the increasing number of young people coming in as a result of the President's unilateral imposition of rules to block enforcement of immigration law with regard to young people. In October 2013 numbers were already beginning to surge. That was obvious.

In January of this year, the Department of Homeland Security laid out proposals for bids for a contract to private companies that would handle as many as 65,000 young people coming into the country unlawfully. So in January they were well aware of what was happening. Was any action taken in May of last year or October of last year or January of this year to confront honestly what it was that was causing such an increase of immigration from our Latin American countries and Central America, primarily? The answer is no. So now what we have is an emergency demand for $2 billion to deal with the crisis—just a sad event, really. I wish it hadn't happened.

But you cannot play games with law enforcement. I spent too many years as a federal prosecutor—almost 15, really. You have to have clarity of law. People have to understand it, and they have to believe that if they violate the law they will be apprehended. So we have

this bizarre event where noncitizens can come into the country in violation of our laws, plain and simple, and they are given amnesty and forgiven and not prosecuted. But a citizen who doesn't pay a few dollars of our taxes or violates a speeding ticket or gets a DUI can go to jail. So how can this possibly be justified in any moral or legal sense? I just don't think it can.

The situation is so bad and so sad that we had Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson before the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, and I pressed him. He said: Well, we don't want young people coming to America because it is dangerous. I said: ''What about it being a violation of the law?'' He sort of avoided that. I asked him again and I pressed him. He finally said: Well, it would be against the law. But he didn't clearly state that if you come to the United States unlawfully you will be deported if you are apprehended. He didn't deny that people who come to the country today—young people—if they are entering in they are given to HHS, they are released to the custody of some adult relative that may show up or housed by the government and eventually are unlikely to ever leave the country under their policies.

The moderator of ''Meet The Press'' pressed him about this. Mr. Gregory said:

Critics say you are not stemming the tide fast enough. This number's going to grow wherever it ends up. The bottom line is what happens now? Are you prepared to deport these children, young mothers. . . . Are you prepared to deport them?

Isn't that a good question to the man that heads Homeland Security, whose responsibility it is to enforce our immigration law?

Now, I will acknowledge I opposed Mr. Johnson's confirmation. I don't think he had ever met an immigration officer in his life or a Border Patrol officer in his life and never had any experience in this. He was active politically with counsel for Department of Defense, but he had no experience in these matters. So did Mr. Johnson give us straight answers to this question? His answer was this:

Our message to those who come here illegally: Our border is not open to illegal migration. And we are taking a number of steps to address it, including turning people around faster. We've already dramatically reduced the turnaround time, the deportation time. For the adults we're asking this week for a supplement for Congress, from Congress, to bring on additional capacity. And we're cracking down on the smuggling organizations.

Mr. Gregory said:

Do they need to be deported? Or I've seen some reporting suggesting that more than half of them could end up staying in the United States.

That is a plain question.

Secretary Johnson said:

The law requires that, when DHS identifies somebody as a child, as an unaccompanied child, we turn them over to the Department of Health and Human Services. But there is a deportation proceeding that is commenced against the child. Now that proceeding can take some time. And so we are looking at options, added flexibility, to deal with the children in particular, but in a humanitarian and fair way.

Mr. Gregory:

Well, I'm sorry. . . . I mean it sounds like a very careful response. Are they going to be deported or not?

Secretary Johnson:

There is a deportation proceeding that is commenced against illegal migrants, including children. We are looking at ways to create additional options for dealing with the children in particular, consistent with our laws and values.

Mr. Gregory: ''I'm trying to get an answer to, 'Will most of them end up staying, in your judgment?' ''

Mr. Johnson:

I think we need to find more efficient effective ways to turn this tide around, generally. And we've already begun to do that.

Mr. Gregory:

But what does that mean? Are you saying it is impractical to deport all of them who are here now?

Secretary Johnson, our chief law enforcement officer, still does not say they will be deported.

I'm saying that we've already dramatically reduced the turnaround time for adults and we are in the process of doing that for the adults with the kids. We're looking at additional options for the kids in particular.

Mr. Gregory:

To deport them or to settle them here in America? Is the goal of the administration to settle as many of these kids in America as possible? What about those who are here now? What is the goal of the administration, to settle them in America or deport them . . . ?

Secretary Johnson: ''There is a deportation proceeding pending against everyone who comes into the country illegally and apprehended at the border.''

Look, this is a top law enforcement officer. This is the top law enforcement officer with regard to immigration in America. He is the Secretary of Homeland Security and answers directly to the President of the United States. He could not say: Do not come to America unlawfully. It violates our laws. We cannot accept that. If you do so you will be deported. If you bring children, you both are going to be deported. Why couldn't he say that? He couldn't say it because they have had no serious policy to effectuate the law which is current law since he has been in office and before, really. They just don't want to say it. It is just stunning to me that you cannot have clarity and leadership in the top people in our government, and I am concerned about it.

So this Congress is going to have to wrestle with how to participate in doing something positive about the unlawfulness at our border. I wish we had a partner in the chief law enforcement officer of America, the President of the United States and his assistant, Secretary Jeh Johnson, but we do not. They have no intention of enforcing the law effectively and consistently. It demeans the respect this Nation should have in the world. It undermines one of the most remarkable valuable characteristics of America, and that is our commitment to the rule of law. It is a direct affront to the rule of law. They directly undermine the sovereignty of our Nation. If you don't control your border, you don't control your sovereignty, and it is just wrong. It is not right. We are not able to accept everybody that would like to come to America—we just cannot.

We have the most generous immigration system in the world. We admit a million each year under lawful application processes. We admit another 600,000-plus under the guest worker program to come and take jobs that we need to put Americans in. Over half a million of these are not just farm workers—only 20 percent of that 600,000-plus are farm workers. Most of them are taking jobs throughout the economy. At this point in time with high unemployment and falling wages, this is not a policy that serves our national interest. We just simply cannot do that. It makes businesses happy. They like an overflow of workers that helps keep wages lower, but it is not the right thing to be doing for working Americans.

So as a nation we have a challenge, and Congress is going to have to assert itself. Congress passes laws. The President executes the laws. It is his duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and they are not being faithfully executed. In fact, they are being eviscerated by policy after policy after policy.

One of the top immigration officials declared: ''If somebody gets into America and passes the border, they are virtually unlikely ever to be deported, adult or child.''

This is a direct result of the President's policies. We do not need to continue them. In the course of this crisis, I hope we will act with concern for those young people who are here, but I hope we will use this opportunity as a Congress to assert our legitimate rights as the lawmaking branch, and in a bipartisan way, the Republicans and Democrats will defend and assert to the President that he must enforce the laws that we, the Congress, pass. He does not get to on his own execute alterations in the fundamental law of America.

There was an internal memorandum, I believe, and this internal memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security said people with children were asked why they were coming. You have heard it said because there is more violence and crime in Central America this year than last year. That is not so. They interviewed these people and what did they tell them? According to this memorandum 95 percent of them said they came because they heard if they came to America with children they would be able to stay and they would be given a permiso—in other words, released on

bail—and they wouldn't have to come back for a hearing and they would be in the country.

The stories are quite clear from the investigative officers that people are crossing the border with children and they go right up to the Border Patrol officers and turn themselves in. The Border Patrol officers turn them over to Homeland Security, and Homeland Security doesn't deport them. They set them up for some sort of trial or hearing, which may take up to 500 days. Then they find a place for them and they take care of them. It is just the kind of process that makes no sense for a serious Nation. That is all I am saying.

Why are we seeing this large number again? It is because they believe it works. And in fact it is working. In fact, young people who are coming in with their parents or brothers or uncles or aunts are coming into the country and both of them are staying. Nobody is really being deported, and they don't intend to leave.

The President created this policy, and now it has caused a national crisis. I hope we can do better. I hope in the course of the discussion we can improve on our law and find some strength for the President and put some strength behind our law enforcement in America.

Chairman GOODLATTE, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House, has made a strong statement. He said he simply cannot provide money until we have clarity that we are going to be taking action in this country that will keep this from happening in the future. We certainly need to do that, and if we do, I am more optimistic than a lot of people.

I truly believe if we follow up aggressively and start promptly reporting people who come here illegally instead of talking about it and not releasing them on bail on permisos, the word will get out in Central America just as it got out that they could come and stay. The message that will get out will tell them: Don't come here or you will take a risk. You will lose your money, you will lose everything you invested in this attempt, and you will be sent back. If we do that, the numbers will start to fall, and we might be surprised how fast those numbers would fall. It would be good for public policy and the rule of law.

I thank the Chair, yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to address the Senate as in morning business and take such time as I may consume.

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

EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, at a time when vital defense programs are threatened due to a lack of funding, the Federal Government has wasted billions of dollars attempting to procure new large information technology systems, consistently disregarding lessons learned from past failures and well-established acquisition best practices.

Even with a current annual budget of $80 billion for information technology projects, the Federal Government struggles to make those systems work. The American people can still remember the embarrassing failure of healthcare.gov, the Obama administration's most recent information technology fiasco. What they may not realize is the Health and Human Services' healthcare.gov mess is not unique and is, in an important sense, merely business as usual in how the government, particularly the Department of Defense, acquires large information technology systems.

The Pentagon is responsible for many of the most egregious cases of wasted taxpayer dollars when it comes to government information technology programs. Lack of planning for these acquisitions within the Armed Forces has made the adoption of new information technology systems an expensive and risky endeavor. The Air Force's Expeditionary Combat Support System, or ECSS, is a prime example of how a system designed to save money can actually waste billions of taxpayer dollars without producing any usable capability.

Today the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations issued a bipartisan report on the failed acquisition of the ECSS, a program that was supposed to decrease costs and increase efficiencies by consolidating the Air Force's hundreds of legacy logistic systems into a single new system.

It is important to recognize that what happened with ECSS is not an isolated case of incompetence. Unfortunately, it is one of the many examples that show how billions of dollars can be wasted if the intended acquisition is not started off right with a detailed plan that includes clear, stable requirements and achievable milestones supported by realistic original cost estimates and reliable assessments of risk.

The subcommittee's report notes that the Air Force started the ECSS acquisition in 2004 with the goal of obtaining a single ''transformational'' unified logistics and supply chain management system that would allow the Air Force to track all of its physical assets worldwide, from airplanes, to fuel, to spare parts. These types of computer platforms; that is, large business systems that companies use to make their businesses operate more efficiently, are known as enterprise resource planning systems or ERPs. Basically, ECSS was supposed to be an enterprise resource planning system that would have combined all of the Air Force's global logistics and its associated supply chain management activities under one streamlined management information technology system.

As the Department of Defense's overall strategy to become fully auditable hinges on how successfully it procures and integrates these systems into its business enterprises, failures such as the ECSS are not only costly to the taxpayer but also disastrous to the Department's larger financial improvement efforts.

To keep costs down, the Air Force intended to build its new ERP system using already available commercial software instead of a software system designed from scratch. That type of commercial software, however, works best when the organization using it follows efficient business processes. In order to take advantage of the commercial software that supported ECSS, the Air Force needed to dramatically change longstanding internal business processes that supported how it managed global logistics and its associated supply chain.

That never happened. Unfortunately, the culture of resistance to change in the Air Force made it difficult to make those changes. The Air Force needed strong leaders who could communicate not only the goals of ECSS to end users and get their buy-in but also develop sound program management strategies to overcome resistance to change among those lower level personnel. Ultimately, the leaders of the ECSS Program did not effectively communicate with the end users. Without their buy-in, ECSS was doomed to fail before it even started.

Because the Air Force had not adequately planned what needed to be done to procure ECSS effectively, it was easier for program managers to order changes in configuration that in effect customized the commercial software on the fly rather than alter the Air Force's own culture. That caused costs to skyrocket and delivery schedules to slip.

The Air Force's eagerness for expensive customization was especially troubling given that as early as 2004, the Air Force identified the need to avoid customizing the commercial software lest costs explode. But in the end, it failed to heed its own advice. The subcommittee report finds that the Air Force's customization of the commercial software was a major root cause of ECSS's failure.

Such customization could have been avoided had the Air Force fully and timely implemented a congressionally mandated procedure for improving its operations called business process reengineering. Business process reengineering, which is a proven private

sector management approach, offers a structured way to introduce major new changes into an organization to help it run more efficiently and ensures that careful planning goes into every stage. Not infrequently, Fortune 500 companies use business process reengineering to, for example, restructure existing business units to work more efficiently, passing resulting savings on to consumers and to absorb effectively new business units from companies they have acquired or merged with to maintain overall competitiveness in the marketplace.

Had the Air Force actually used business process reengineering in connection with the ECSS; that is, redesigned those business processes that needed to be changed for the Air Force to absorb its commercial off-the-shelf software effectively, the risk identified in 2004 would have been consciously addressed at each stage of the procurement, not essentially disregarded for 8 years.

In its 2004 risk assessment, the Air Force also identified a lack of stable program requirements as a risk to the program. That risk, too, was not accounted for. From the beginning of the ECSS procurement, the Air Force failed to properly define and stabilize the program's requirements, what the system would do, and how it would do it. Even those who were going to use ECSS felt as though they were in the dark. In 2008, 4 years later, a technician stated: ''My [number one] complaint is that E.C.S.S. has yet to identify . . . any time line [for when] we can expect to receive detailed information [or] requirements about what E.C.S.S. will provide.'' This user's complaint reflects the lack of planning that went into the Air Force's attempt to procure ECSS.

To this day, the Air Force still does not know how many legacy systems it actually has on hand, let alone the number that ECSS was to replace. The Air Force's lack of knowledge about its current information technology systems led to confusion when it tried to construct a replacement. That is why I offered an amendment to the NDAA—the National Defense Authorization Act—for fiscal year 2015 that would require program personnel to have a proper understanding of existing legacy systems and clear goals in connection with its efforts to procure new information technology systems, but more has to be done.

The subcommittee's report recommends the Department of Defense should also start assessing how much BPR would need to be done—and how feasibly it can be done—earlier in the acquisition lifecycle of these ERPs. Also, investment review boards, which are critically important governance tools used in connection with the Department's efforts to procure ERPs, should be integrated into the budgeting process when these programs begin. That would help make sure that not only is BPR being implemented early and effectively but also that the large information technology system being procured lines up with the Department of Defense's broader efforts to modernize its business systems. Collectively, these initiatives would help these programs start off right and allow both the Department of Defense and Congress to conduct better oversight and hold leadership accountable for future failures.

In this case no one within the Air Force and the Department of Defense has been held accountable for ECSS's appalling mismanagement. No one has been fired and not a single government employee has been held responsible for wasting over $1 billion in taxpayer funds. With six program managers and five program executive officers over 8 years having transitioned in and out of the program, the Air Force has had trouble determining who should be held responsible. On scores of other failed programs, this of course is a study we are all familiar with. Let me repeat: Not a single government employee has been held responsible for wasting over $1 billion—six program managers and five program executive officers over 8 years in and out of the program.

This is a chronic lack of accountability, and I think efforts in the National Defense Authorization Act amendments to align the tenure of program managers with key decision points in the acquisition process is badly needed. That provision would allow us to not only hold accountable those responsible for blunders such as ECSS but also to reward those involved with successful acquisition strategies.

The subcommittee's report details many leadership failures within the Air Force and the Department of Defense in the ECSS Program that should serve as a warning for current and future information technology acquisitions. Since 1995 the Government Accountability Office has placed the Department of Defense business systems modernization efforts; that is, its efforts to replace its existing information technology systems to improve how the Department of Defense is managed, on its high-risk list every year. It has been on that list for many of the same reasons ECSS failed, including inadequate management controls to oversee how it acquires these large systems.

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Defense ''has not fully defined and established business systems modernization management controls.'' It further noted that these management controls are ''vital to ensuring that [DOD] can effectively and efficiently manage an undertaking with the size, complexity, and significance of its business systems modernization and minimize the associated risks.'' I challenge the new Deputy Secretary of Defense, who acts as the Chief Management Officer, to work with the Government Accountability Office to get the Department of Defense's business systems modernization efforts off the high-risk list, and I look forward to a plan from him on how he intends to do it.

Such a plan is clearly necessary, given the current difficulties the Department of Defense is facing in procuring major information technology programs. The Army has spent roughly $1.89 billion on its logistics modernization programs. Yet just recently, in May of this year, the Department of Defense inspector general reported that the Army will most likely miss the congressionally mandated auditability deadline in September of 2017 because it failed to properly implement the BPR.

Additionally, the defense enterprise accounting and management system, or DEAMS, is a current Air Force acquisition effort that has received roughly $425 million in funding and is scheduled to receive billions more. DEAMS has faced similar issues to those witnessed in the failed ECSS procurement program. For instance, similar to ECSS, the Air Force has been frustrated by its inability to get the buy-in it needs from DEAMS' intended end users for them to change their business processes and allow for DEAMS integration into the Air Force.

According to a December 2013 Department of Defense internal report, end users at McConnell Air Force Base indicated that the training for this program ''did not provide them with a real understanding of the system and its application to their day-to-day work process.'' Sound familiar? In this case, the Air Force and the Department of Defense are again failing to properly procure and implement a program that is crucial to its business operations and to the Air Force becoming fully auditable by 2017.

The Navy has also struggled with the procurement of large information technology as a program called Navy ERP illustrates. According to the Department of Defense's Deputy Chief Management Officer, these guidelines demand that program officers for information technology acquisitions effectively map out current legacy systems and business processes that need to be changed or retired and then lay out a new plan that would improve and transform the shortcomings of the old systems. These ''as is'' and ''to be'' process maps help guide the DOD components and agencies in how they procure large information technology systems.

But when the Department of Defense inspector general asked the program office for Navy ERP's process maps, disturbingly, the Navy said no such plan existed. This is particularly unsettling because the Under Secretary of the Navy at the time, who is now the Deputy Secretary of Defense, certified that those plans were actually completed.

In addition to the lack of process maps, the Department of Defense inspector general found that Navy ERP could not be used to track and account for the Navy's $416 billion in military equipment assets. That means the Navy's program would not even allow

the Navy to become fully auditable, as required by Congress, raising questions about why the Navy would spend $870 million on a program that would not even fulfill congressional mandates.

This lapse in oversight is unacceptable, which is why the subcommittee's bipartisan report recommends that the Department of Defense review its internal policies to make sure information technology systems that receive BPR certifications on paper are actually implementing BPR in reality.

These certifications are required for a reason: They help decisionmakers in the Department of Defense and Congress make informed decisions on whether a given program is ready to go further in the acquisition process and whether taxpayer funds should be authorized and appropriated for that purpose.

As I mentioned earlier, information technology procurement is not only a Department of Defense problem. In November of last year, in response to the disastrous healthcare.gov rollout, President Obama himself said:

> One of the things [the Federal Government] does not do well is information technology procurement. This is kind of a systematic problem that we have across the board.

I agree with him that information technology procurement in the Federal Government is in desperate need of reform. The White House's Office of Management and Budget has expressed significant concerns about 42 Federal information technology investments, totaling $2 billion. According to the Government Accountability Office: ''despite spending hundreds of billions on I.T. since 2000, the federal government has experienced failed I.T. projects and has achieved little of the productivity improvements that private industry has realized from I.T.''

The Department of Homeland Security's Secure Border Initiative Program, or SBInet, was another notable major IT procurement failure. My colleagues might remember SBInet as the high-tech surveillance program that, when it began in 2006, promised a single ''transformational'' integrated security system for hundreds of miles of border protection on our southern border. Well, I remember SBInet as a system that, according to the Government Accountability Office, cost $1.2 billion and was on a path to spend 564 percent more than its initial cost estimates when it was canceled in 2010. Once again, ever-changing requirements, a lack of internal management controls, and not really understanding what we were trying to procure, how hard it would actually be, and planning effectively for those difficulties, led to the Federal Government squandering over $1 billion with nothing to show for it.

The Federal Government's incessant inability to procure major information technology systems is especially concerning since, in the coming months, the Department of Defense will be selecting a contractor to develop a centralized military health care information technology system. That program is supposed to provide seamless sharing of health data among the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and private sector providers. In light of the recent tragic consequences stemming from mismanagement at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and VA hospitals around the country, we cannot afford to further jeopardize veterans' health care because of information technology failures. Yet any serious effort to reform how care is delivered to our veterans will largely turn on the effective delivery and integration of this system. We need to put the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs on notice that we will monitor this program carefully throughout its acquisition.

In closing, there is still much to be done at the Department of Defense and throughout the Federal Government to ensure the acquisition of large information technology programs is improved. If we do not want to repeat past failures, the Department of Defense's attempts to procure large business IT systems must be supported by the right leadership, proper planning, and a workforce that is open to changing ''business as usual'' in order to help make sure the Department operates more efficiently, effectively, and transparently.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLARIFYING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NOMINATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 470, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

> A resolution (S. Res. 470) amending Senate Resolution 400 (94th Congress) to clarify the responsibility of committees of the Senate in the provision of the advice and consent of the Senate to nominations to positions in the intelligence community.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the resolution is agreed to, and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of Wednesday, June 11, 2014.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. CORNYN. This Wednesday, it is reported President Obama will be traveling to my State of Texas, but he will not visit the border between Texas and Mexico, the site of what he has himself called a growing humanitarian crisis. Instead, on his 2-day trip, he will fundraise and apparently deliver remarks on the economy. It is a little ironic, given the economic boom in Texas relative to the rest of the country, that the President would choose to come to Texas and to lecture us on what he thinks we should do about the economy, but my hope is he would come to learn from Texas and not just give another lecture.

Today, the White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, said the President was ''well aware'' of the crisis on the border. As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, I recently visited McAllen, TX, myself 1 week ago today, and it is heartbreaking to see these young children without their parents. It is difficult to hear the horrific stories about the journey these children made from their homes in Central America through Mexico, dodging assault, kidnapping, various and other sundry crimes, and then finally making their way into the United States. So it is easy in one sense to see why the President might prefer to stay away rather than to come, learn, and listen for himself, particularly in light of the sad stories he is going to hear or he would hear if he decided to come.

But I think the problem speaks for itself when the President, who would prefer to hang out with campaign donors and other political supporters, would decide not to have any interaction with those who are directly affected by his failed policies—in this case the failed immigration policies that led to a full-blown humanitarian crisis.

Instead of taking the easy way out, I wish the President would step up and lead—and he would learn, perhaps, something he did not already know or that he thinks he knows and which is absolutely wrong. It is puzzling, and it is frustrating that the President of the United States chooses the path he apparently is going to take rather than one that will help him solve problems.

We know the President last week stood in the Rose Garden in front of the American people and at the same time he asked for money to help address this problem—and it is reportedly on the order of $2 billion—in the very next breath he announced he is looking at expanding the very same policies that have helped create this crisis, create the impression there will be no consequences for coming to the country in violation of our laws. It is disheartening, it is disappointing, and it is extremely dangerous.

This week, during his trip to Texas, it would take the President less than 1 hour on Air Force One to visit the border and to see what I and so many of my colleagues have seen firsthand, a

very sad situation that could have been prevented. But now that it has happened, it needs to be addressed in a bipartisan way. He would see what I saw, which is children separated from their parents with no certainty about the future, children who have endured unspeakable hardships and cruelty at the hands of some of the most vile thugs on the planet, the cartels, who view them as a commodity as they do drugs and weapons. They view these children as a commodity, something to make money off of.

The Border Patrol in South Texas and along the border is doing a very professional job under very difficult circumstances, but they are simply overwhelmed. Repeatedly, we will hear of the Border Patrol—law enforcement officers—basically having to divert their attention from doing those law enforcement responsibilities and duties to basically taking care of children, making sure they are fed, their medical condition is being attended to, and they have a safe place to stay while going through the procedures there at the border.

I commend the Border Patrol and all of our Federal law enforcement agencies for making their resources and time stretch as far as possible for these children while the Commander in Chief has decided to do something else.

I realize how controversial and polarizing this issue can be, but at least in some respects it should take precedence over partisan politics and fundraisers.

What I don't understand is how the President can send us a bill for $2 billion—which he reportedly is going to do tomorrow, apparently asking us for some changes in the existing law—and then to simply be missing in action when it comes to learning for himself the very facts that are necessary for him to be able to make the case not only to Congress but to the American people for why both of those were necessary.

President Obama evidently needs a wakeup call, and visiting the border and learning firsthand about the severity and causes of this ongoing crisis will be that wakeup call.

Again, I urge the President to visit the border this week during his fundraising trip to Texas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. COATS. Madam President, the Supreme Court issued a ruling last week that I wish to discuss for a few moments today. This decision marks a very important development in the ongoing debate our country is engaged in on the subject of religious freedom.

In a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court reported that the contraception coverage mandate imposed by the Affordable Care Act on family-owned companies such as Hobby Lobby stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

These two companies are owned by individuals who have faith-based objections to providing access to contraceptives that can terminate a pregnancy.

While it is true some faith-based institutions object to the mandate on religious grounds, their insurance companies which are covering them and their employees in that business are mandated to provide support for contraception. It is also true, but not really distinguished and noticed in the media, that there are a number of institutions which are saying: You can't couch this under the umbrella of contraception, you have to understand that what we are opposed to here is not all forms of birth control.

Hobby Lobby has been clear to state that they fall under this category, although they oppose the morning-after pill and other contraceptives that induce abortions.

The Supreme Court's ruling means employers such as Hobby Lobby or Grote Industries in my home State of Indiana—a family-run auto lighting company—will not be forced to take actions contrary to their religious beliefs. I applaud this ruling issued by the Court because freedom of religion is a core American principle guaranteed by our First Amendment, and through this decision the Court has affirmed that the administration simply can't pick and choose when and how or whether to adhere to the Constitution.

While this ruling is a welcome positive step, it is important to note that religious freedom is still under attack across this country. It is under attack because the Court's ruling applies only to a very narrow rule, family-owned for-profit companies such as Hobby Lobby, when many faith-based organizations, charities, hospitals, educational institutions are still required to facilitate insurance coverage that includes contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs despite their religious beliefs and despite their moral objections. Requiring these faith-based institutions and businesses to betray the fundamental tenets of their beliefs is, I believe, unconstitutional, and the administration's so-called accommodation is far from adequate in this fundamental breach of our First Amendment rights under our Constitution. Those impacted by this mandate are a large and diverse group that includes Indiana-based institutions such as Grace College in Winona Lake, IN, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, and many other schools based on a religious foundation that find a moral and religious objection.

Despite conscious objections and the University of Notre Dame's clearly outlined standards and values, Notre Dame was told by a Federal appeals court late last year that it must comply with the ObamaCare mandate, which they are appealing.

My alma mater, one of those institutions, Wheaton College, was told by the Supreme Court only last week that it doesn't have to abide by the contraceptive coverage mandate until the judicial system determines whether the administration's requirement is valid over religious institutions and other nonprofits.

Just an aside, it was surprising to read this morning in the Wall Street Journal that—in fact, it was disappointing and highly unusual—despite the Court explicitly stating its decision to grant Wheaton College a temporary injunction ''should not be construed as an expression of the Court's views on the merits'' of Wheaton's case, having explicitly stated that, one Justice wrote a dissenting opinion in which she essentially decided on the merits of the Wheaton case herself. That is the first time, in my recollection. I don't follow every decision of the Supreme Court, but I follow many of them—but it is surprising that a Justice would allow their ideological passion on a particular issue to so mischaracterize the ruling of the Court that simply provided for an injunction to give the time for the court system to make a ruling.

Nevertheless, that is not why I came to the floor this evening. I thought in terms of thinking through this issue and what I might say that it appears to be ideological bias on the Court that raised its ugly head here, and hopefully that will be retracted.

But whether it is Wheaton College, whether it is Notre Dame or Grace College or numerous other institutions, it is important to understand that in many of these institutions a thread of faith, a stream of water, runs through everything they do in those organizations, and particularly in those schools of higher learning and those entities that provide social services through the food banks, through dealing with the homeless. The element of faith is important to their success, it is important to their results, and it is important to their beliefs.

Whether it is faith in learning as the central part of institutions such as Notre Dame, Wheaton College, or others, or whether it is a homeless shelter in South Bend, IN—that is the combination of churches, university, city, county, some Federal funding, some local funding, and some volunteer funding—it is essential, as they have told me on one of my visits, that this ribbon of faith is essential to the success of their program and to the rehabilitation of those who walk through the front door, often homeless, and leave months and years later with the capabilities of full employment, gainful employment, and become homeowners instead of homeless.

Whether it is food banks or homeless shelters or other important organizations, so many of these are meeting needs of people across this Nation. But these institutions are seeing this ribbon of faith and the free exercise of religion constrained and restricted by this administration's mandate under the Obama health care law.

What is at stake here is of extreme significance. Established in the founding of our Nation and sustained for over 200 years, religious freedom is at the very core of our system of government, and protection of religious liberty means all people of all faiths have the right to exercise their faith within the bounds of our justice system even if their belief seems to some as misguided or flawed or flatout wrong. But what is unique about America and what is guaranteed in our Constitution is that we do not have the right to dictate to those people how to express their faith so long as they are within the bounds of justice, how to express their faith, live their faith, and employ their faith.

Taking that right away from faith-based institutions is flatout wrong and I believe a violation of the most precious amendment to the Constitution. Faith-based institutions should not have to facilitate insurance coverage for products that are counter to their religious or moral beliefs. To require them to betray the fundamental tenets of their beliefs and accept this violation of their First Amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution is simply wrong.

In a joint statement released shortly after announcement of the Hobby Lobby decision, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said:

> Now is the time to redouble our effort to build a culture that fully respects religious freedom.

That is really what we are asking for. We are asking this administration to respect those institutions' and those individuals' religious freedom as guaranteed under our Constitution. Whether we agree with their tenets, whether we ideologically take a position in favor or not in favor, it is their right and it is guaranteed.

I hope in the coming days the Supreme Court will strike down the administration's mandate for all faith-based institutions and rescind this unprecedented attack on religious freedom. While we await further action from the Court, now is the time for this body—the Senate—and all Americans of faith to stand for our country's longstanding right to the freedom of religion. It was the father of our country, after all, George Washington, who once said:

> I have often expressed my sentiment, that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience.

We today know that reference to ''every man'' also includes every woman and every human being, the right to be accountable to God alone for their religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of their own conscience—not the dictates of a Federal Government that says ''We know better,'' not the dictates of those who simply say ''We will interpret that liberty to our satisfaction to accomplish our purposes.'' As in Washington's times, we must defend these rights of conscience and preserve religious liberty for all Americans regardless of their choice of belief and expression of their faith.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and 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. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, last week Target stores announced that they were going to initiate a new policy in their stores across the country. They were going to politely ask all of their consumers to refrain from bringing guns inside their stores.

This is a picture of one of their customers bringing what appears to be a semiautomatic rifle into a store in order to buy Oreos. Their statement read like this:

> As you have likely seen in the media, there has been debate about whether guests in communities that permit ''open carry'' should be allowed to bring firearms into Target stores. Our approach has always been to follow local laws, and of course we will continue to do so, but starting today we will also respectfully request that guests not bring firearms to Target—even in communities where it is permitted by law.
>
> We've listened carefully to the nuances of this debate and respect the protected rights of everyone involved. . . . This is a complicated issue, but it boils down to a simple belief: Bringing firearms to Target creates an environment that is at odds with the family-friendly shopping and work experience we strive to create.

I am thankful that Target has taken this position. I am hopeful that other retail stores across the country will follow suit. My only point of disagreement is that there is any nuance to this debate. My only point of contention is that there is anything complicated about whether this is appropriate for workers across retail stores and restaurants in the United States or the little kids who come in and shop there on a regular basis.

Here is what the NRA had to say about this. The NRA released a statement that said:

> Let's not mince words, not only is it rare, it is downright weird and certainly not a practical way to normally go about your business while being prepared to defend yourself—talking about bringing firearms into stores—to those who are not acquainted with the dubious practice of using public displays of firearms as a means to draw attention to one's self or one's cause, it can be down right scary. Using guns really to draw attention to yourself in public not only defies common sense, it shows a lack of consideration and manners.

That was the NRA's position for a couple of days, until a handful of NRA members got upset and started tearing up their membership cards, and then the NRA's top lobbyist apologized for that statement and effectively withdrew it. Luckily, Target some weeks later changed their policies.

That is weird. That is scary. That is inappropriate. It is this policy which we have perpetuated by our inaction in this place that allows for the continued diffusion of weapons, many of which are military grade such as the one displayed here that is leading to the spiraling rates of mass gun violence across this country.

We went for a stretch in January or February where there was a school shooting almost every other day that school was open. We expect now to pick up the newspaper and read about another mass slaughter somewhere in this country, and we wonder why it is happening. There are guys buying Oreos with an assault rifle strapped onto their shoulder, and that debate is nuanced and complicated about whether we should allow it.

The gun lobby's position speaks to this mythology—that is charitable, a lie to the cynics—that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. That is not what actually any of the data tells us. The data tells us if you have a gun in your home, you are much more likely to be the victim of a gunshot from that gun than you are to ever use that on an assailant. If you are a woman, for instance, you are five times more likely to die as a result of domestic violence with a gun if it is in your home rather than if you are in a home without a gun. Health Affairs came out with a study of 50 States. A longitudinal study of experience related to rates of gun violence and rates of gun ownership found that for every percentage increase of gun ownership in a community, there is a percentage increase in gun violence.

There have been 79 shootings in Walmarts in the last year—79 shootings in Walmarts, of all places, in the last year. I am glad Target made the decision to take guns out of the workplace.

Senator BLUMENTHAL will speak after me. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I sent a letter to Target asking them to make this change in policy, and I am glad they did.

It appears we will have debate this week on a piece of legislation that will allow for individuals to bring more firearms onto public property throughout this country. It is not a debate about bringing firearms into Target stores; it is a debate about bringing firearms onto public lands.

There is a perfectly legitimate debate to be had about bringing more legal guns onto public property, but there is a more important debate than that about taking illegal guns off of

our city streets. If the Senate is going to spend a week debating a bill about gun policy, then we should be talking about getting rid of illegal guns. We should be talking about keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. We should be talking about stopping the epidemic of gun violence across this country.

These are the numbers: 31,000 people are killed by guns every year, 2,600 people are killed by guns every month, and 86 people are killed by guns every day. If we are going to be talking on the floor of the Senate about guns this week, we should be talking about how to stop another Newtown, another Aurora, another bloody Chicago summer.

The bill we are being asked to debate this week is a gun bill that does nothing to stop the scourge of gun violence across our country, and I for one cannot vote for it. I cannot vote for it because there are not only families still grieving in Newtown, but every single day there are families grieving across this country, such as the families associated with a young man by the name of Michael Mayfield in Baltimore, MD. Michael was killed earlier this year. He was an outstanding student. He was passionate about being a member of the Junior ROTC. He was a gifted baseball star in Baltimore. The paramedics found Michael shot in the head inside a vehicle in Northwest Baltimore and took him to a local hospital, where he died. He left his house at about 6 o'clock, and somebody walked up to him on the street, shot him four times in the head, and then fled on foot to an awaiting car up the street. He had been accepted to college, and he was due to start there this fall, but instead of going to his graduation, his family and friends—hundreds of them—went to his funeral.

Paul Lee was killed some weeks later in another school shooting at Seattle Pacific University. A delusional young man started shooting and killed Paul, who was described as easygoing and energetic. A friend and dorm mate of his said he was adored by everyone and affectionate with everybody. He loved to dance. He was a member of Seattle Pacific University's hip-hop club, and his friend said he would walk around his dorm doing the robot. At a makeshift memorial to him outside where his funeral took place, one friend wrote, ''Keep dancing in heaven.''

Kristjan Ndoj, a 15-year-old from Connecticut, was out on his bike one night. When the clock approached 8:45, two gunshots were fired from a wooded area near his house and struck Kristjan in the head and leg, dropping him onto the driveway at Agawam Trail. He died 5 days later. Police say the shooting may have involved trouble over a teenage girl.

The casualness of violence in this country and the idea that a dispute over a teenage girl would result in the death of a 15-year-old is directly connected to our casualness about guns in this country. If we are so casual as to think someone needs to be armed when they go to buy Oreos at a Target, it stands to reason that some kids may think they can have a casualness about settling disputes with guns as well.

I will not be voting for cloture today because we are long overdue to make a statement in the Senate about the tens of thousands of deaths happening due to guns all across this country. Everyone has a role to play in trying to stem this epidemic of violence. Target has a role to play, and they stepped up last week by taking guns out of their stores. Our hospitals and our mental health professionals have a role to play. This is not just about the number of guns out in our communities, this is also about getting resources to very troubled kids. This Congress has a role to play as well. Our role is to have a debate about how we can take guns out of the hands of criminals, take military-style assault weapons off the streets, and give real resources to people who want to help these troubled individuals. That is the debate we should be having on the floor of the Senate this week if we really want to honor all of the voices of these victims.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to thank my colleague Senator MURPHY. He is my friend and partner on so many different issues but most especially on measures to stop gun violence in this country—commonsense, sensible measures he has championed so ably, and I have been very proud to work with him as a partner in spearheading this issue as well.

I wish to explain my reasons that I am unable to vote for the bill we are considering today, the bill that is presented for cloture on the motion to proceed this afternoon. People in the United States have a Second Amendment right to possess and use firearms. It is guaranteed by the Constitution. And there are legitimate ways people can use firearms in this country—recreational and sometimes commercial. Those rights are guaranteed by the Constitution, and this measure, arguably, is in service of those rights.

I cannot vote for a measure which makes owning or possessing or using guns more readily or easily useable when we have failed to act, and we have failed to act, on commonsense, sensible measures that will stop gun violence.

I voted to achieve cloture on a measure very similar to this one before Sandy Hook and before the Senate failed to produce the necessary 60 votes which were required to pass commonsense gun violence legislation a year ago April.

I can see the legitimate reasons to vote for the Sportsmen's Bill and to support cloture but not when this body has failed in its fundamental obligation to make America safer and to rid it of gun violence. We have an obligation to take first things first and protect our children and adopt the kinds of commonsense measures—background checks, mental health initiatives, school safety, and a ban on illegal trafficking—that are easily within reach and would be passed by a majority of this body if presented for another vote and if a majority of Members voting was sufficient rather than the 60 votes that is now our threshold.

I am reminded today of a victim of gun violence over this very weekend in the early morning of Sunday. A young woman in Bridgeport was gunned down by her ex-boyfriend, raging into her mother's house. First he shot her mother's boyfriend and then turned his gun on her because she had the audacity to end their relationship.

Her story puts a face on the reason I have offered a measure named after Lori Jackson, another victim of gun violence, to impose commonsense steps to take guns away from the people who are under temporary restraining orders as well as permanent restraining orders. Whether that kind of measure would have worked in this case is irrelevant. Her death was unnecessary, preventable, tragic, and painful to her family, not to mention her mom, who was in the house at the time she was gunned down and murdered.

Her death occurred within 75 minutes of another death in Bridgeport. On the east side, Abraham ''A.B.'' Davidson, a 23-year-old young man, was sitting on his house porch on Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport—gunned down.

In the case of Kiromy Fontanez—the young woman who was shot by her ex-boyfriend—the shooter, Jose Santiago, was apprehended almost immediately and gave a confession. According to Bridgeport police, the case is closed. The chief of the Bridgeport police, Chief Gaudett, had this to say:

> Three separate incidents, six people shot, two people dead. I am very proud of the work that all of our officers do every day, but especially last night. It was a really trying night last night.

Chief Gaudett committed himself to begin a renewed effort against domestic violence inspired by the death of this young woman, Kiromy Fontanez.

In Connecticut we have already exceeded the number of domestic violence deaths that occurred in all of last year. Her death was the 10th in 2014 alone. Domestic violence takes a terrible, awful, unacceptable toll in lives and injuries, heartbreak and pain, and it is so avoidable and unnecessary.

We need to do more about domestic violence, but, as my colleague Senator MURPHY has commented so well, the chances of death as a result of domestic violence are increased by five times when there is a gun in the house. Guns and domestic violence are a dangerous toxic mix, and that is the reason for our legislation, the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act. The legislation we have offered takes away guns, stops purchases and ownership of guns when there are restraining orders, when there is an objective reason to think there will be

this kind of threat of violence and rage and wrath.

The memory of these two people—who died just yesterday morning in the early hours of the Sunday following Independence Day—should focus our attention again on what is important, what should be our priority, what should be our first steps when it comes to guns. That is to make America safer.

Four months after the brutal murders in Sandy Hook, this body said no to the grieving Newtown families, to the people of Connecticut, and to the vast majority of American people who continue to support commonsense measures such as background checks. This body voted to prevent gun violence legislation from getting a final vote.

Today we will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's bill. The fact that we are now considering this legislation to expand recreational shooting on Federal lands without addressing the scourge of gun violence is a stark reminder of the Congress's misplaced priorities and unfulfilled obligations.

I sympathize with what my great colleague Senator HAGAN is trying to do. If the legislation we are considering were part of a broader national discussion and conversation about who should possess guns and how we should keep them out of the hands of dangerous people—criminals and mentally troubled people who are dangerous to themselves or others—it would be a different debate on the floor and the considerations for me would be different on this vote.

I spent last week going from town to town in Connecticut listening to constituents who asked me, What are you doing in Washington? What I heard a lot was, What are you doing in Washington to stop gun violence? When will you bring back the measures to stop gun violence that are the legacy and the lesson of Sandy Hook—a tragedy that still causes so much pain to so many people, thinking of those families, the 20 beautiful children and brave educators whose lives were lost that day. I cannot go back to Connecticut and tell those people who asked me about what we are doing about guns in America that what we have done is made it easier for Americans to shoot at targets, made it easier for big game trophy hunters to bring their polar bear rugs back from Canadian hunting grounds, and reduced regulations that govern shell cases. That is not my idea of where our priorities should be.

First things first. Let's stop gun violence. Let's at least take steps to reduce its horrific toll of death and injury, its cost in dollars. Let's try to find that bipartisan ground on reducing domestic violence or reaching out to people who need mental health treatment, and let's find common ground on making America safer. That common ground serves our best instincts—what makes our Nation the greatest Nation in the history of the world, a nation whose independence we celebrated this weekend, with pride and joy, even as the terrible toll of gun violence continued in yesterday's early morning, over the weekend throughout America, where tens of thousands of deaths have followed the tragic, horrific, unspeakable tragedy of Sandy Hook.

I will vote against this legislation, against invoking cloture, with sadness and regret that that obligation and promise is as yet unfulfilled.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, in a few minutes the Senate will vote on whether to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014, a bill I introduced earlier this year with my friend and colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI.

I am proud that by working alongside our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have crafted a package of 12 provisions that have broad bipartisan support. I will be back on the floor at a later time to give a much more thorough, open, and indepth presentation on our bill, but I wish to take a couple of minutes to highlight a couple of the key provisions.

One is to ensure that future generations do have an opportunity to enjoy our great outdoors as we do today. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act reauthorizes several landmark conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Our bill also includes regulatory reforms and enhancements that will benefit sportsmen and women across our country. For example, States will be able to allocate a greater portion of the Federal Pittman-Robertson funding to create and maintain shooting ranges on public land. This is important because we are currently facing a shortage of public shooting ranges across the country.

We will also enable hunters to purchase an electronic duck stamp. I can personally vouch for the benefits of this provision. Our son-in-law came to visit one year. My husband planned to take him duck hunting toward the end of the season. Unfortunately, three different places had sold out of duck stamps. When my husband buys his duck stamp for the season, he actually purchases extra ones, just in case family or friends come to visit during duck season. Senator WICKER's electronic duck stamp provision will allow my husband and other hunters to purchase duck stamps online—this is 2014—instead of traveling from post office to post office in search of a duck stamp.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act will also help improve access for hunting and fishing on public lands and will require 1.5 percent, or $10 million, of annual Land and Water Conservation Fund money to be used to improve the access on our public lands.

It is important to note that we accomplish all of this without adding anything to the deficit. In fact, this act actually reduces the deficit by $5 million over the next 10 years.

I believe we have assembled a strong bill that is going to benefit the anglers, the outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and the hunters in North Carolina and nationwide. I am proud to say this bipartisan act has 45 cosponsors—18 Democrats, 26 Republicans, and one Independent. We have cosponsors of all ideological backgrounds from every region of the country.

The list of organizations supporting our bill is also long and diverse. Over 40 organizations have endorsed the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, ranging from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, to Ducks Unlimited.

Outdoor recreation activities are part of the fabric of so many States, including North Carolina. From the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the west to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in the east, North Carolinians are passionate about the outdoors. Hunting, fishing, and hiking are a way of life, and many of these traditions have been handed down through my own family.

I am glad the Senate will debate the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. In putting our bill together, Senator MURKOWSKI and I tried to pull the best ideas from Members of both of our parties. However, I do recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas for how to strengthen this bill. It is my hope we can take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen's-related amendments this week. I encourage my colleagues who have amendments to file them and come to the floor to discuss them.

In closing, this Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 is a balanced bipartisan plan that is endorsed by 40 stakeholders, and it is fiscally responsible. I urge my colleagues to vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill so we can start debating steps we can take to benefit the more than 90 million sportsmen and women across the country.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

REFORMING FOSTER CARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for many years I have been an advocate for reforming the foster care system and making sure the government is doing the best it can to protect and care for those who are abused, neglected, and particularly when they are removed from their families. That is why Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana and I started the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. We wanted a forum to discuss policies and practices and to learn more about the challenges foster young people face. We want to make a

difference in the lives of vulnerable young people who don't have a permanent place to call home.

The caucus cannot function without the input and the insight from foster young people. These young people are the experts on the foster care system. They have been through it. They know the challenges. They tell us in this caucus what works and what needs to change. They share the experiences and provide us with real-world stories about how our policies truly affect them.

I wish to highlight the story of one particular person whom I have had the privilege of getting to know. Amnoni Myers is an intern in my office this summer. She is participating in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Foster Youth Internship Program. I wish to tell her story because it is important not to forget there are young people in this country such as Amnoni who don't have a permanent family or a place to call home. Despite her circumstances, Amnoni has risen up and made a better life for herself. So allow me to share her story.

Amnoni Myers, a native of Boston, became a ward of the State on the day she was born. She was abandoned at birth. When she was 6 months old, Amnoni's great aunt learned of Amnoni and her two other siblings and decided to take care of them by taking them into her home. She lived in her great aunt's care for 10 years. Even though she had a better family environment, life still presented her with many challenges. Amnoni struggled with rejection and trauma at a very young age, resulting from different types of abuse.

At the age of 10, Amnoni was reunited with her biological mother because the State granted her temporary custody. Amnoni thought her life was finally secure. Wouldn't we think so, being at home with our birth mother? Her mother promised to care for her and never give her up again. Unfortunately, after 2 short years, Amnoni's mother voluntarily returned her and her siblings back to the State.

So at the age of 12, Amnoni was separated from her siblings and placed with foster families until the age of 18. Although Amnoni and her brother were placed together for a short period of time, they were later separated as Amnoni moved around in the system. During her time in foster care, she was moved several times, never experiencing permanency or stability. That is one of the things I learned through the work of this caucus; that when we talk to people who are in foster care, what do they want? They want permanency. They want a real mom and dad, and they would like to have a place to call home.

To Amnoni, foster parents seemed more interested in cash benefits for parenting rather than human investment. She experienced emotional and verbal abuse in places she stayed. She didn't know unconditional love. Her foster families didn't take the time to manage her trauma but instead added to it.

One of the most difficult experiences Amnoni faced was aging out of the foster care system, and aging out issues with these young people is exactly why Senator LANDRIEU and I established the caucus I have already spoken about.

During the summer, while still in care, Amnoni entered an intense college preparation program that would determine if she was adequately prepared to enroll in a postsecondary institution. Already anxious about the future of her success and if she would be able to handle the workload of the program, she received a phone call from her social worker that afternoon. The bad news came that she was aging out. She was told that her foster mother was no longer being paid for Amnoni's bed. Because the money was running out for her foster parents, Amnoni was forced to leave the home immediately.

The shock and devastation of those words crushed Amnoni. She lived in that home with that family for 3 years. She considered it a long-term living situation. Amnoni returned to find her belongings packed in garbage bags waiting for her at the door. That is a story our caucus often hears.

Amnoni aged out of the system in a way no person should have to experience. She left a place she considered home, not knowing what her future would hold. She was on her own, shoved into independence with no family, support or a place to call home.

Amnoni's aging-out experience left her feeling shattered and confused. She felt betrayed by both her foster mother, who claimed to love her, and the child welfare system—in other words, the State she lived in—that claimed to protect her. While this experience quickly taught Amnoni the value of independence, she would have preferred to have a smoother transition into that independence.

When Amnoni left her so-called home at age 18, she was taken in by a former mentor and her family. She resided there for 5 years. Living there was a reminder that love, family, and support do exist.

In 2008 Amnoni learned she had posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety. These diagnoses led her to take a break from school to gain control over these disruptions. Amnoni entered into a Christian residential program, Mercy Ministries, where she was able to gain a better understanding of herself. This experience motivated her to attend Gordon College, a Christian institution outside of Boston.

Today she is working in my office, sitting in this Chamber with me, learning how government works. She is becoming an advocate for foster youth who face the same experiences she faced.

Despite the challenges, Amnoni feels very fortunate. She has been able to attend college, graduate this year, and hopes to pursue a meaningful career. Knowing that many children and youth do not have adequate support systems in their life to help them along their life journey, Amnoni pursued an education in social work and sociology.

Many people who have gone through similar experiences resort to other paths because of the lack of support and services. Many foster children age out of the system without supportive services in place to ensure healthier lives. Thankfully, Amnoni has had a network of support to guide and direct her through difficult times.

Amnoni's experience has fueled her passion to advocate for those who do not have a voice to fight for themselves. As Amnoni looks back on her life, she realizes her past does not have to determine her future. She is on her way to becoming a monumental figure for those who have suffered, giving youth across the country a voice and making a difference in this world.

I appreciate her willingness to let me share her story. It is so typical of so much that we hear in the caucus that Senator LANDRIEU and I formed. This young girl is a very brave woman. She knows we can learn from her. We will learn from her. We must do right by her and others in the foster care system.

I hope my colleagues have a chance to say hello to Amnoni while she is here in Washington, DC, and take a minute to commend her for being an advocate for other youth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask to speak on the nomination that is pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

KRAUSE NOMINATION

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to speak just for a couple moments—because we are limited in time to speak—about Cheryl Ann Krause who is the nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

I want to review her credentials, some of which the Members of the Senate are familiar with in preparing for the vote.

Cheryl Ann Krause is a graduate of the Stanford Law School. She got her juris doctorate degree with distinction in 1993. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania summa cum laude. Of course, I am especially proud of that as a Pennsylvanian.

She has an extensive career both as a member of law firms in the private sector as well as a prosecutor. Before I get to that, I want to mention her clerkships.

She clerked in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for Judge Alex Kozinski. That was followed by a clerkship in the Supreme Court of the United States for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Later she became a prosecutor, as I mentioned, in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where she worked for 5 years. In that capacity as a prosecutor, she handled the investigation, prosecution, and appeals of domestic and international bank fraud, securities fraud, money laundering, and public corruption cases.

She has a broad and deep experience in the law, both on the civil and criminal side of it. She is an excellent student, as you can tell from her academic credentials and her educational background. She has been a member of so many organizations which would be directly relevant and connected to her work as a judge. I will not read all of those today.

But I also want to say that Cheryl is someone I know. I know her to be a person of character and integrity, someone who has not just broad experience but the kind of integrity and judicial temperament that we will want from a member of any Federal district court or, in this case, an appeals court.

Finally, I will mention something about her own family background. Her husband is Col. Bradford R. Everman, who currently serves as the Operations Group commander of the 177th Fighter Wing with the New Jersey National Guard. He served, as well, as a fighter pilot in tours of duty the world over. So she has both her own credentials but also has as a member of her family a real commitment to our country above and beyond her excellent work as a lawyer, as a scholar, as a lecturer, and, of course, as a prosecutor. So I could not say anything more today to recommend her to Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle when we have the vote to move her forward so she can become a circuit court judge on the U.S. Circuit Court for the Third Circuit, which, of course, includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware as States in that circuit.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL ANN KRAUSE TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''yea.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Bennet	Hagan	Paul
Blumenthal	Harkin	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Pryor
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rubio
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Chambliss	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Coburn	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lee	Tester
Coons	Levin	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	Markey	Udall (CO)
Crapo	McCain	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Enzi	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Flake	Landrieu	
Isakson	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Richard J. Durbin, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Patrick J. Leahy, Angus S. King, Jr., Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Heidi Heitkamp.

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 Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Boozman	Chambliss
Ayotte	Brown	Coats
Baldwin	Burr	Cochran
Barrasso	Cantwell	Collins
Bennet	Carper	Coons
Blunt	Casey	Corker

Cornyn	Kaine	Roberts
Crapo	King	Rockefeller
Cruz	Kirk	Rubio
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Sanders
Durbin	Leahy	Schumer
Enzi	Lee	Scott
Fischer	Levin	Sessions
Franken	Manchin	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McCain	Shelby
Graham	McCaskill	Stabenow
Grassley	McConnell	Tester
Hagan	Merkley	Thune
Harkin	Mikulski	Toomey
Hatch	Moran	Udall (CO)
Heinrich	Murkowski	Udall (NM)
Heitkamp	Murray	Walsh
Heller	Nelson	Warner
Hoeven	Paul	Whitehouse
Inhofe	Portman	Wicker
Johanns	Pryor	Wyden
Johnson (SD)	Reid	
Johnson (WI)	Risch	

NAYS—12

Blumenthal	Coburn	Menendez
Booker	Feinstein	Murphy
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Cardin	Markey	Warren

NOT VOTING—6

Begich	Isakson	Schatz
Flake	Landrieu	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 12. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I voted in support of cloture on the motion to proceed to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. This is a procedural vote to begin debate on this bill, which has been introduced by Senator HAGAN of North Carolina and is cosponsored by 45 Senators, including 26 Republicans.

Senator HAGAN's bill seeks to enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. It also reauthorizes key conservation programs that support outdoor recreation. It is no secret that I strongly support efforts to combat violent gun crime and to reduce the high number of gun deaths and injuries that occur each year, but I recognize the distinction between legitimate hunting and target shooting activity, as opposed to irresponsible or criminal gun use. I believe there are ways to support the former without undermining efforts to reduce the latter.

If, during debate on this bill, Senators try to add provisions to weaken the laws on the books when it comes to keeping our citizens safe from gun violence, I will strongly oppose those provisions, but for purposes of today's procedural vote, I support moving forward on this bipartisan legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

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

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

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have a number of topics to go over, and I will do this as briefly as I can because I know colleagues want to put forward a unanimous consent request.

In our work every day something happens, and I feel compelled to talk about a few of these things. But before I begin my remarks, I wish to send a message of condolence to all those parents who have lost their children to violence in our country, in the Middle East, and all over the world. Children and all innocents must be protected in a truly civilized world. We need to work toward that day, we have to pray for that day, and it is going to take people who care in order to make that happen.

When somebody said you have to walk and chew gum at the same time when you are a Senator, they were more than right. There are so many issues coming at us, and I am going to speak about a few of them.

I will start off with the crisis we face in the highway trust fund. I wish to call attention to a transportation government shutdown which will happen in 25 days unless we save the highway trust fund. In August we have a slowdown in payments to the States, and it is very serious. Unless Congress takes action, billions of dollars in transportation funding to the States will be delayed or stopped.

I see Senator CORKER is here and I know he is here on another topic, but I thank him for his courage in working across the aisle and saying: We need to pay for our roads and our bridges.

I see Senator KLOBUCHAR is on the floor. She knows what it means when a bridge collapses, for goodness sake. You have to be able to pay for certain things in this country. We could argue about frills around the edges, but I don't think anyone would disagree with you if you went out on the street and asked whether the United States of America should have a grade A transportation system.

DOT, the Department of Transportation, sent out letters to all of our States warning that the fund is in a dire situation and we have to act. In 74 days the trust fund goes completely bankrupt if we don't come up with the additional revenue. Here is where we are. In 85 days, we actually have to reauthorize the whole program, and in 25 days, the payments slow down.

Why is this happening? It is because Federal gas tax receipts that are paid into the trust fund have not kept pace with inflation or the rising cost of building our bridges and highways. There are thousands of businesses and millions of jobs at risk if we do not act, and that is why we have so many people supporting the reauthorization of the trust fund and figuring out a way to pay for that.

We have the Chamber of Commerce, and they are aligned with the AFL–CIO. This is a rarity. Usually those groups are fighting each other, but we have unanimity here: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Associated General Contractors. As I said, the AFL–CIO. The Associated Equipment Distributors, the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Unions of Operating Engineers.

We have 70,000 bridges in disrepair, which are called structurally deficient. We have 50 percent of our highways which are not up to par. What are we doing? I can tell my colleagues what we are not doing. We are not doing our job.

Now, I can brag just for a minute. Senator VITTER and I were able to get a bill unanimously through the Environment and Public Works Committee—not one dissenting vote. I have to say to my colleagues who are listening, that committee is an object in the diversity we bring here. We have BERNIE SANDERS. We have JIM INHOFE. We have BARBARA BOXER. We have DAVID VITTER. We have JOHN BARRASSO. We have SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. We have BEN CARDIN and we have Senator FISCHER. So we have a broad diversity. I have to mention Senator SESSIONS and Senator GILLIBRAND and Senator BOOKER. This is a committee that represents the ideological spectrum of the Senate.

I will tell my colleagues we passed a bill out for 6 years. We know it has to be paid for, but I think we were very reasonable in what we said. We said, look, this isn't the time for a giant new increase. We kept it at current levels of spending, plus inflation. God bless Senator WYDEN and Senator HATCH. They are working on a plan to pay for this bill. We have colleagues, as I mentioned, including Senator MURPHY and Senator CORKER, who came together and said: Look, the Chamber of Commerce makes a good point. We haven't raised the gas tax in a very long time. If we do a few cents a year, we will be able to patch up this trust fund—and more than patch it up—get it going for 6 years.

Today, leading groups representing bipartisan State and local officials sent a letter urging Congressional leaders to find a fix for the Highway Trust Fund and to pass a long-term surface transportation bill. The organizations include the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Nation's surface transportation system is in a critical condition and significant funding is needed to simply maintain the current system. Nationwide there are 70,000 bridges that are structurally deficient, and 50 percent of our Nation's roads are in less than good condition.

Delaying a long-term bill just prolongs uncertainty. An extension into 2015 would create another crisis, just before the next construction season. To allow the Trust Fund to become insolvent would be unprecedented and further delay simply extends the uncertainty. We need a long-term bill no later than December and a short-term

patch for the Trust Fund now. Failure is not an option.

I will say this: The clock is ticking, however we look at it. One more time: The clock is ticking. There are 25 days until a slowdown of payments to the States. In 25 days our States are going to be howling because they won't be able to pay for work that has already been done. The way it works is they do the work and then we repay them for, in many cases, 75 percent of the work; in some cases, 50 percent of the work.

So I call on all of my colleagues: Let's set politics aside.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON BIRTH CONTROL

I wish to speak briefly about two other issues. One of them has to do with the Supreme Court decision on birth control. I hope every woman in America is paying attention to what this Court did. Five men, all Republican appointees, basically said a corporation can put its religion above all of its employees. It is just astounding.

I voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and I know why I voted for it. It was a very important piece of legislation which said that individuals can't have their freedom of religion stepped upon. It didn't say corporations. So here we have a situation where one family doesn't believe in birth control, and now they are telling every woman who works there: Sorry, you are out of luck. It is really unbelievable. To me, the Court siding with the corporation over the thousands of people who work there is just shocking. What happened to individual freedom here?

We are going to try our best to fix it.

Let's remember this: 99 percent of women have used birth control at some point in their lifetime. Let me say that again: 99 percent of women have used birth control at some point in their lifetime, and 1.5 million women take birth control solely for a painful condition. Sixty percent of the women on birth control take it in part for painful and difficult conditions.

So the Supreme Court, in an ideological, political decision, in my view, said to the women of America: Corporations are more important than you.

We are going to try to fix this. We are going to do everything we can. I hope we can reach across the aisle. I have hopes that we can, to fix this.

POLITICAL BLAME GAME

Now I will conclude my remarks on another topic. The week we were away I was working in the State. I went to some highway projects. I went to a national park. But all through the time I was working in the State, I was hearing a continuum of the blame game going toward our President.

Republicans blame President Obama for every single thing that happens. Not enough jobs? They blame the President, even though since his policies have been in place, we have had 52 straight months of job growth. Last month alone, 288,000 jobs were created. Remember, at the end of George Bush's time in office, we were bleeding 700,000 jobs a month. The unemployment rate has dropped from 10 percent to 6.1 percent, and we could be doing even better if Republicans hadn't blocked the President's jobs bills.

The Obama recovery even includes a record-breaking stock market which helps everybody. Everybody has a 401(k), a retirement account. When the President took office, the Dow Jones average was under $8,000. Now it has more than doubled, and the Dow hit 17,000 for the first time last week. Yet and still the President is to blame for not enough jobs.

Deficits. Republicans blame the President, even though since he took office, the deficit has been cut by more than half, and deficits would be lower still if our friends on the other side stopped fighting with us when we try to close tax loopholes such as ending the tax policy that rewards companies for shipping jobs overseas or passing more equitable income tax rules which would allow people such as Warren Buffett to pay the same effective tax rate as his secretary—not a bad idea—and would really help us. We would get rid of that deficit. Remember when Bill Clinton was President. We wound up not only not having a deficit, we had a surplus. When George Bush came in, he started a couple of wars, put them on the credit card; tax cuts to the rich, put that on the credit card, and we have been battling it ever since.

Now we have an influx of immigrants from Central America. Republicans blame the President, even though it is House Republicans who are blocking immigration reform the Senate already passed in a bipartisan way which will greatly enhance border protections, spends tens of billions of dollars on that, and sets out clear and fair rules for immigrants. And they blame President Obama even though the guidelines for how we treat unaccompanied immigrant children from countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, those guidelines were sent to and signed by George W. Bush.

Then we have the civil war in Iraq. Republicans blame President Obama even though he opposed the disastrous Iraq war. I have to say that Senator PAUL is not in that category, and I appreciate that. For the most part, Republicans blame President Obama, even though he opposed the disastrous Iraq war which sowed the seeds for the sectarian warfare we are seeing today. How proud I was to vote with then Senator BIDEN, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and along with 74 of my colleagues, we voted to say there ought to be a federation in Iraq—semi-autonomous regions—the Kurds, the Shias, the Sunnis. Seventy-four of us voted for that, and the Bush administration laughed it off, including Condi Rice and Dick Cheney. We have them all on record. Now this thing happens and who gets the blame? The President gets the blame from the Republicans.

How about Benghazi. We have heard about Benghazi. Republicans blame the President and they continue to politicize this tragedy, even though under President Obama's leadership the United States has captured the suspected terrorist who is believed to be one of the masterminds behind the killing of these four extremely brave Americans. Benghazi is a tragedy. It is not about a scandal.

Now, how about the release of Sergeant Bergdahl. Republicans cried foul when the President got him released, even though many of them right in this Chamber—and they are on videotape—were calling for Sergeant Bergdahl's release. And they also have insisted that no soldier ever be left behind.

I have to say, it is just getting old. Republicans blame the President for everything, including issuing Executive orders. The Speaker of the House is suing the President for abusing his Executive power. President Obama has issued the fewest Executive orders per year of any President since Grover Cleveland. It is just getting to be too much.

I wouldn't be surprised if the Republicans blame President Obama for America's recent loss in the World Cup or even for their own six consecutive losses in the annual congressional baseball game.

Enough. We all need to work together. Stop the finger pointing. The people need us to work together, not to play the blame game. I am very hopeful that we will have a little introspection around here. It might be a little too much to ask for. But I think if we did it—there are so many good people here on both sides of the aisle, and if we just decided once and for all to put politics aside—the President won election twice. It wasn't even contested. So deal with it. Work with him.

I have served with five Presidents—a couple of Republicans, several. I battled with them, didn't agree with them. I remember Ronald Reagan, if we beat him in the conversation, would say, OK, let's move on. So, yes, sometimes Democrats win; sometimes Republicans win. We have to work together and move forward and solve the problems of this great Nation because the people expect it of us.

I thank my colleagues very much, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2265

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I don't believe that foreign aid should go to countries that persecute Christians. I also don't believe that foreign aid should go to countries that host terrorists within their government. I have had this belief for some time, but I have met with a great deal of resistance in the Senate.

Last week, in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I introduced an amendment which said that any country that persecutes Christians by law—Pakistan has a Christian woman

named Asia Bibi; she is on death row for the crime, some say, of blasphemy. Others say she never said a word. She is really on death row for being a Christian. She has been there for 5 years. I say Pakistan shouldn't get any American money and that no taxpayer money should go to countries that are persecuting Christians.

In the Sudan, another country that receives money from the American taxpayer, Meriam Ibrahim is on death row for the crime of changing religion. She married a man who is a Christian. She is now being detained. She tried to escape recently. She was redetained.

The only thing that is consistent about foreign aid is that it continues to flow, regardless of restriction, regardless of window dressing to say, Oh, if a country does this, we will take it back. It never happens. Our foreign aid, our hard-earned American tax dollars continue to flow to these countries, no matter what their behavior is.

So two weeks ago I came to the floor and I said, in Israel Hamas is now joining with the Palestinian Authority. Hamas is a terrorist group that does not recognize Israel and attacks Israel on a routine basis. Now that they will be part of a unity government, they will be receiving foreign aid from America. So I said, for goodness sakes, would we not want restrictions on this aid? Would we not want to say that our money shouldn't flow to Hamas?

They should have to recognize Israel's right to exist. They should have to renounce violence. On a daily basis they lob missiles from Gaza into Israel. Yet in the Foreign Relations Committee only one other Member had the guts to vote against this foreign aid, because foreign aid is so entrenched in our national psyche that it goes on regardless of the behavior.

Now, some will say: There are rules. If Hamas becomes a big part of this government, they won't get any money. Guess what. Hamas can read. They have read our legislation. They are purposely setting up their unity government to evade our restrictions.

There are already people who say the President has a waiver. So in my legislation, the Stand With Israel Act, we would get rid of the Presidential waiver and say that if Hamas joins a government with the Palestinian Authority, they should get no American taxpayer money. I said this two weeks ago. The Democrats said: No, President Obama doesn't want to give up the authority to continue sending money to these countries.

A week ago we had another disaster. In Israel three young teenagers were killed: Gilad Shaar, Eyal Yifrah, and Naftali Fraenkel, who was also an American citizen as well—killed in cold blood.

Do you know what the response of Hamas was? To stand up and cheer. In fact, I can give you the direct response of Hamas. Khaled Meshal, their political director, said: ''Blessed be the hands that capture them.'' They stood with glee and cheered when these three teenage boys were killed in cold blood. These were not soldiers, these were civilians.

The news reports are that Hamas has joined this unity government precisely because they are bankrupt. They want to get our money. That is why they are joining the unity government.

What is ours? Ours is the tepid ''oh, please don't behave that way.'' But we have no teeth. The same thing has happened in Egypt, the same thing in Pakistan, country after country. The only consistent is the money never stops and the behavior never changes.

Some will argue that foreign aid is a way to project American power. Well, if it is, we ought to be projecting American values. We should project what America stands for. We should not be saying: Here is some money. Do with it what you will.

So this has real teeth. This act is called the Stand with Israel Act. It says: No money to terrorists, no money to Hamas unless they are willing to give up the war and begin to find peaceful means of coexisting.

So this evening I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2265 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to say that I appreciate so much the point of view the Senator from Kentucky brings to the committee and his focus on foreign aid. No doubt there are issues relative to aid to many countries around the world that we need to be looking at. This is an issue, though, that I really believe the committee itself should deal with first.

While I appreciate his desire to deal with this and bring it directly to the floor, on behalf of myself and the chairman of the committee, I am going to object, but I am going to object because I really would like for this issue to be heard in an appropriate way—this issue and many others the great Senator has brought forth on the floor today.

I thank him for his concern. I thank him for the issues he has brought up. I hope the committee itself will deal with this important issue, as it should, through regular order. For that reason, I object to this particular unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I was proud to be an original cosponsor for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which protects American women against violence and human trafficking. I am especially proud of the tribal provisions we included in VAWA, which are critical because nearly 40 percent of American Indian women will endure domestic violence in their lifetime, compared to 24 percent in the general population. VAWA ensures that violence prevention programs receive strong Federal funding and gives law enforcement powerful tools to fight violence and trafficking.

Violence against women is not just a problem in the United States; it is a challenge around the world. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act.

One key step to empowering women around the world is through access to education. Unfortunately, for many young women around the world today, educational opportunities are limited. According to the United Nations, only 35 percent of young women in Sub-Saharan Africa will receive a secondary education, let alone the college degree that opens up new opportunities for women in the workplace and in leadership positions around the world.

But even though gender disparities in education remain high, especially in the developing world, countries and nongovernmental organizations are stepping up to the plate to make a difference. Today, I want to share the story of an organization which empowers young women in Rwanda by helping them receive a strong secondary-school education.

Rwanda was devastated by the war and genocide in 1994, but against all odds Rwandans have managed to rebuild their country and become a model of low corruption, economic growth, and gender parity in government. The constitution mandates a minimum 30 percent representation for women in Parliament, and today, remarkably, it is 64 percent women. These women have been instrumental in the reconciliation and rebuilding of the country and continue to lead today. However, women are not represented at this level in all sectors, and in the rural areas many parents are skeptical of the value of educating their girls. As is typical in many developing countries, if parents have limited money to send their children to school, many will send only their boys and

keep the girls at home to help with household chores like collecting wood and tending to younger siblings. In Rwanda, 97 percent of girls attend primary school, but less than 13 percent attend secondary school, meaning that only a small fraction of Rwanda's young women will have the opportunity to go to university.

Rwanda Girls Initiative, RGI was founded in 2008 in Seattle, WA, with the mission of educating and empowering girls of Rwanda to reach their highest potential. RGI believes that education is the foundation on which all other development is built, and educating girls can exponentially increase this impact. With this belief and with a strong partnership with the Government of Rwanda, RGI started the Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in 2011. Gashora Girls Academy is an upper-secondary university prep boarding school for 270 girls in grades 10–12 located in the Gashora sector of Bugesera District, a poor, agricultural area located an hour to the south of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. This area was particularly devastated during the country's genocide in 1994. Gashora Girls Academy offers a curriculum that focuses on STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math—with an underlying belief in the importance of educating and nurturing the ''whole girl.'' Beyond the STEM coursework, students focus on developing life skills, leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Crucially, they get an education in a safe environment, free from the violence that is all too common for many young women in Rwanda and around the world.

In October 2013, Gashora Girls Academy graduated their first class of seniors. Of 85 graduates, 25 are admitted to schools in the United States, including Harvard, Yale, Smith, the University of Pennsylvania, and Seattle University. Two more girls are going to McGill University in Canada. These 27 girls coming to North America will be receiving approximately $4.8 million in financial aid in order to attend world-class institutions. Other graduating students are attending schools in Costa Rica, China, South Africa, Ghana, and right at home in Rwanda. These girls will become national leaders, doctors, scientists, teachers, and more, each contributing to the success of their country.

Enatha Ntirandekura is a recent graduate from Gashora Girls Academy. Both of her parents are subsistence farmers and the very little income they make is from a small plot of land. Though Enatha was always a strong student, some in her village discouraged her parents from allowing her to continue her studies. They said that a girl shouldn't be educated. At one point, someone in the village burned her family's coffee trees, their sole source of income. But her parents continued to send her to school, and she had the top score in her district on the national exam after middle school. She was offered a scholarship by the Rwanda Girls Initiative to attend Gashora Girls Academy. Enatha is a tenacious student and scored perfectly on the national exam she took after graduating this past year. Because of her success, she has been selected as a Presidential Scholar and will receive a full scholarship to an American university this fall. She hopes to study agriculture and then go back to Rwanda to work on the problem of malnutrition and food scarcity to help her community.

As we can see from Enatha, educating a woman is a tremendous investment. When Enatha returns home with her degree in agricultural science, that one scholarship to Gashora Girls Academy will empower her to help many more people in Rwanda. And Enatha's story is not unique; in fact, it is the norm. One extra year of secondary school increases a girl's future wages by 15 to 25 percent. When a woman in the developing world receives 7 or more years of education, she marries later and has fewer children. When women and girls earn income, they reinvest 90 percent of it into their families, creating a ripple effect for coming generations. Helping Enatha and the young women like her become doctors, teachers, and leaders will transform not only individuals, but entire communities.

Educating girls and young women is the surest way to empower them. Education empowers them to teach, to lead, and to stand up against violence. I am honored to stand with my female colleagues to draw attention to this important issue. A great education transforms lives and can lift up entire communities and countries. I look forward to working with my colleagues to empower women and girls around the world.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. It is my pleasure to be joined in this effort by my colleague and fellow member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, Senator BOB CASEY, Jr.

Brain injuries are among the most frequent reasons for visits to physicians and emergency rooms, and contribute to about thirty percent of all injury deaths. A critical health issue for military personnel, TBI has also become a signature wound of war. According to a Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DVBIC, analysis of surveillance data released by the Department of Defense, DoD, 33,149 U.S. military personnel were diagnosed with a TBI in 2011 alone.

People who survive a TBI can face observable effects lasting just a few days, or serious lifelong disability. A survivor of a severe brain injury typically faces five to 10 years of intensive services and estimated lifetime costs in the millions. TBI affects not only the person living with TBI, but also the family and community of which the individual is a part. Families are the primary caregivers for a person with brain injury.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act is the only Federal legislation that specifically addresses issues faced by the millions of American children and adults who live with a long-term disability as a result of TBI. I first introduced the TBI Act with the late Senator Ted Kennedy nearly 20 years ago. The TBI Act of 1996 launched an effort to conduct expanded studies and to establish innovative programs for TBI.

Three agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, administer the TBI program: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, carries out projects relate to prevention, surveillance, and education about TBI; the National Institutes of Health, NIH, funds basic and applied research; and the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, assists states in improving access to health and other services, including protection and advocacy services. The TBI Reauthorization Act of 2014 will continue these vital supports for an extremely vulnerable population. This bill also continues to encourage interagency coordination and requires HHS to develop a coordination plan for all Federal activities with respect to TBI.

According to the CDC, in 2009, nearly a quarter of a million children age 19 or younger were treated in emergency departments for sports and recreation-related injuries that included a diagnosis of concussion or TBI. This legislation also requires the review of scientific evidence regarding brain injury management in children and adolescents, including current and promising additional research.

The TBI program offers balanced and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, research, education, and community-based services and supports for individuals living with traumatic brain injury and their families and I ask my colleagues' support for the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2014.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE McLAUGHLIN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Katherine ''Kay'' McLaughlin.

Kay was born in South Boston, MA, on July 11, 1921. She is the middle child of the five children of Francis Pucci and Mary O'Donnell.

Kay grew up a short walk from Boston Harbor near Castle Island, a Revolutionary War-era fort that still stands today, and spent many days walking from her home to Castle Island and back, a lifelong habit that has contributed greatly to her long life. She graduated from Boston Girls High School

and would take great joy in telling her children of the day she and her friends skipped school to see Frank Sinatra perform.

After high school, she attended Boston Secretarial School and went to work at Submarine Signal Company located in Boston. By that time, she had already caught the eye of a young man in the neighborhood named Leo McLaughlin. In 1944 they were married.

Leo and Kay's first child, a girl, arrived in 1946 and there were more to come. In 1957, Kay and her family moved to Bedford, NH. By 1961, there were six girls and seven boys in the McLaughlin family. Included in this group were the children of Kay's deceased sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

At the age of 36, Kay was a mother of 13 with another child to come in the immediate future. With wisdom beyond her years, Kay arbitrated disputes between rival factions amongst her children. She provided what was needed to solve their problems and keep the family moving in the right direction.

Though Kay endured many losses—the death of a baby in childbirth, losing a talented daughter in the prime of her life, and losing her husband—they were not enough to stifle her spirit. As time passed and her children produced children of their own, she once again became a resource to her 16 grandchildren, keeping secrets and providing aid and comfort.

Should Kay somehow find a way to live forever, we are all sure she will provide the same aid and comfort to her 17 great-grandchildren. While she is with us today in person, she will always be with us in spirit.●

REMEMBERING ELLA KIRK, MICHAEL MAHL, ELLA MYERS, AND DR. PETER HOCHLA

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, with deep regret I wish to speak about a very tragic event that occurred recently in my State. On Friday afternoon, May 23, a plane crashed in Arenas Valley, just outside Silver City. It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to four New Mexicans: Ella Kirk; 14, Michael Mahl, 16; Ella Myers, 16; all of Silver City, NM; and Dr. Peter Hochla, 67, of Albuquerque.

Ella Kirk, Michael Mahl, and Ella Myers were talented, gifted students. They had just finished their sophomore year at Aldo Leopold Charter School in Silver City. They were not only fellow classmates, they were close friends, and they were also dedicated to protecting the environment. Each served on the Youth Conservation Corps ecological monitoring crew, which won first place at the New Mexico EnviroThon competition earlier this year.

On Sunday, June 1, friends and families gathered at a memorial service in Silver City. Their recollections, as reported in the Silver City Sun-News, recall the three remarkable young people taken so suddenly from our midst.

Ella Kirk, despite her youth, was a passionate advocate for protecting the Gila River. Her tireless work to save the Gila from a diversion project resulted in a petition of over 6,400 signatures from New Mexico and around the world. She delivered that petition to the Governor and she testified before the New Mexico State Legislature. Ella played the fiddle, loved dance and music, and was talented in both. At the memorial service, Patrice Mutchnick paid tribute to her daughter, saying, ''She thought every choice she made affected others, and that's the kind of caring individual she was.''

Michael Mahl was an honor student. He also was a musician. Michael performed at his first open mic night at Diane's Parlor in Silver City just 1 month earlier. Michael's father, John Mahl, also performed that night. He recalled later to the Sun-News that his son was a tough act to follow. Michael was also a student leader, and was elected by his classmates to be their next student body president.

Like Michael, Ella Myers was an honor student. She was a prolific writer and an athlete. Ella was looking forward to attending the summer arts program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. At the memorial service, her father, Brian Myers, said simply, ''She was a remarkable, gifted, talented artist. She had poise, grace, and elegance.''

Jim McIntosh, a teacher at Aldo Leopold, noted the talents and distinction of these students. ''Michael had a little bit of Elvis in him. Ella Jaz was polite and razor sharp. Ella Myers wanted to know what she was made of and proved that when she rode the 31-mile Tour of the Gila with a borrowed bike with me.''

We remember these gifted young people, who left us far too soon. We honor who they were, and we mourn who they might have become and what they might have accomplished. But even in their tragically short time in this world, they touched many lives and inspired all who knew them.

We also remember Dr. Peter Hochla, and his legacy of service to our nation and our State. Dr. Hochla was born in Slovakia and immigrated to the United States as a child. He was a physician for the New Mexico Veterans Administration, and a retired Air Force colonel. As a psychiatrist with the Albuquerque VA hospital, he piloted his own plane to provide care to veterans throughout New Mexico. He leaves behind his wife of 35 years, Dr. Cheryl Greene Hochla, a son, and a daughter. Dr. Hochla dedicated his life to defending the freedoms that we hold dear and to caring for his fellow veterans.

The memory of those we have lost is ever with us, and so is the sorrow. We do not know why this tragedy occurred. We do not know why these lives were taken so suddenly. But what we do know is that in Silver City and in Albuquerque, there are families and friends whose hearts are breaking, who are dealing with grief that is so hard to bear, and almost impossible to comprehend.

Words cannot alter, cannot change, this profound loss. My wife Jill and I wish to extend our deepest condolences. We share in your sorrow, and we pray that you will find comfort in memories of your loved ones and in the mercy of time and God's grace.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 3, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of Maryland) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2388. An act to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2014, the enrolled bill was signed on July 3, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARPER).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

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–6269. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Section 737 Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer Among Members of Armed Forces Serving on Active Duty''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6270. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Senior

Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6271. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6272. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to South Africa; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6273. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6274. A communication from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report and statement of the system of internal control; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6275. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6276. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a prospectus that supports additional design for the Columbus, New Mexico, Land Port of Entry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6277. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine and New Hampshire; Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9912–51–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6278. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9912–57–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6279. 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 for North Carolina: State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions'' (FRL No. 9912–83–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6280. 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; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9912–56–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6281. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Listing of Trustee Designations'' (FRL No. 9739–9–OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6282. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oklahoma: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program'' (FRL No. 9911–76–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6283. 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, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9912–64–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6284. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Revision 0 to Fitness-for-Duty—Construction'' (NRC–2014–0099) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6285. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Manual Operator Actions in Diversity and Defense-in-Depth Analyses'' (NRC–2009–0515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6286. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Revision to Physical Security Early Site Permit and Reactor Siting Criteria'' (NRC–2014–0101) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6287. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6288. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6289. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Substitutions for SSA–538'' (RIN0960–AH02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6290. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6291. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Third Rule Implementing Export Control Reform; Correction'' (RIN1400–AD46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6292. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''CLIA Program and HIPAA Privacy Rule; Patients' Access to Test Reports'' ((RIN0938–AQ38) (CMS–2319–F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6293. A communication from the Deputy Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Occupational Safety and Health Investigations of Places of Employment; Technical Amendments'' (RIN0920–AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6294. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6295. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Federally Assisted Programs or Activities'' (RIN3136–AA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6296. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6297. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6298. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2013 Wiretap Report''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6299. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces'' (RIN2900–AP07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6300. A communication from the Executive Director of the Office of Privacy and

Disclosure, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Agency Biennial Computer Matching Report''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6301. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–357, ''Special Event Waste Diversion Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6302. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–356, ''Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6303. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–355, ''Educator Evaluation Data Collection Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6304. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–354, ''Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6305. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Council Resolution 20–502, ''Transfer of Jurisdiction Over Lot 802, Square 4325 within Fort Lincoln New Town Emergency Approval Resolution of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6306. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6307. A communication from the Acting Inspector General of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification that the audit of the financial statements of the Federal Trade Commission for fiscal year 2014 has commenced; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6308. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions'' ((GN Docket No. 12–268) (FCC 14–50)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6309. 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 ''Final Specifications for the 2014–2015 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries'' (RIN0648–XD094) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6310. 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 ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20A'' (RIN0648–BD83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6311. 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 ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Off the Atlantic States; Amendment 5'' (RIN0648–BD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6312. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Re-establishing the Sanctuary Nomination Process'' (RIN0648–BD20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6313. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules Governing Qualifying Examination Systems and Other Matters'' ((WT Docket No. 12–283) (FCC 14–74)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6314. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions'' ((WT Docket Nos. 12–268 and 12–269) (FCC 14–63)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6315. A communication from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Amtrak's Executive Level 1 salary for 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6316. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Finance.

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–267. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1076

Whereas, Insurance protects the United States economy from the adverse effects of the risks inherent in economic growth and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 produced insured losses larger than any natural or man-made event in history; claims paid by insurers to their policyholders eventually totaled some $32.5 billion, making this the second most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, The sheer enormity of the terrorist-induced loss, combined with the possibility of haute attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets, causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, The lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, The United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107–297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109–144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110–160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, Under TRIPRA, the federal government provides such reinsurance after industry-wide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed $100 million; and

Whereas, Coverage under TRIPRA is provided to an individual insurer after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism equal to 20% of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, After an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays 15% of residual losses and the federal government pays the remaining 85%, and

Whereas, The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of $100 billion of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup 100% of the benefits provided under the program via policy holder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than $27.5 billion and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, Without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism Insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, The presence of a robust private/public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, Without a program such as TRIPRA, many citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, Without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, Unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counterterrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM–268. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the Secretary of the Interior to immediately take all necessary measures to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, under a treaty agreement entered into in 1973. the United States is required to ensure that water delivered to Mexico as part of Mexico's allocation of Colorado River water meets certain water quality standards; and

Whereas, in accordance with this agreement, the United States Congress enacted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974. which directed and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain a desalting plant to treat drainage water from the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and deliver the treated water to Mexico; and

Whereas, construction of the Yuma Desalting Plant was completed in 1992; and

Whereas, the Yuma Desalting Plant is capable of treating 100,000 acre-feet of water annually; and

Whereas, except for limited, initial operations in 1993, a demonstration run completed in 2007 and a nine-month pilot run completed in 2011, the federal government has failed to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant for most of its 30 years of existence; and

Whereas, the Department of the Interior is using 100.000 acre-feet of water from Lake Mead to fulfill its water quality obligations to Mexico, rather than conserving an equivalent amount of water through the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant; and

Whereas, the Colorado River system is in its 14th consecutive year of drought; and

Whereas, as a result of these drought conditions, the Department of the Interior is projecting that a shortage on the Colorado River is increasingly likely, with the probability that the shortage will exceed 50% in 2017; and

Whereas, the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study released by the Bureau of Reclamation in December 2012 concluded that there will be a future imbalance between the supply and demand for Colorado River water and cited measures such as water conservation, reuse and augmentation to stave off future shortages on the Colorado River; and

Whereas, the Central Arizona Project is a junior priority rights holder to Colorado River water and would bear the largest reduction of Colorado River water in times of shortage: and

Whereas, by abdicating its obligation to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant, the federal government has caused the loss of more than 1,300.000 acre-feet from Lake Mead, placing the State of Arizona at increased risk of water shortage; and

Whereas, if the federal government were to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant, it would conserve 100.000 acre-feet per year. equivalent to the water needed to supply more than 250.000 Arizona homes with water annually.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior immediately take all necessary measures to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies 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 and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–269. A memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to recognize that open-air burn pits impose significant health risks and enact a presumption of a service connection between open-air burn pit exposure and subsequent illnesses that is similar to the presumption in place for exposure to Agent Orange; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2002

Whereas, during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, open-air burn pits were widely used for the disposal of waste in place of incinerators until bases became more established. The military burned nearly everything in the open-air burn pits, including plastic, styrofoam, electronics, metal cans, rubber, ammunition, explosives, human waste and lithium batteries: and

Whereas, in 2011. an Institute of Medicine study, requested by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, concluded that there was insufficient data to determine whether burn pit emissions had long-term health consequences. However, some United States military personnel that were stationed near burn pits have stated that burn pit exposure has led to a litany of medical problems: and

Whereas, after careful review of the Institute of Medicine report, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has directed the Veterans Health Administration to conduct a long-term prospective study on all adverse health effects potentially related to military deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, including health effects potentially related to exposure to airborne hazards and burn pits; and

Whereas, congressional lawmakers passed, and President Obama signed, a bill in 2013 that creates a registry similar to the Agent Orange and Gulf War registries to help patients, doctors and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs determine the extent to which air pollution caused by open-air burn pits has led to medical diseases among service members.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the United States Congress recognize that open-air burn pits impose significant health risks and enact a presumption of a service connection between open-air burn pit exposure and subsequent illnesses that is similar to the presumption in place for exposure to Agent Orange.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies 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 and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–270. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California supporting the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and respectfully memorializing the United States Congress to promptly renew the extension of unemployment benefits that will tremendously aid millions of people; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, In 2008, the United States suffered its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression; and

Whereas, The economic downturn resulted in a 10 percent unemployment rate nationwide by 2009, and a rate as high as 12.4 percent in California; and

Whereas, When unemployment benefits were first authorized, the national unemployment rate was only 5.6 percent; and

Whereas, Now the current unemployment rate is at 7 percent and 36 states, including California, have higher rates of unemployment; and

Whereas, California's unemployed workers currently face one of the toughest job markets in the country, with statewide unemployment at 8.5 percent and three unemployed workers for every available job; and

Whereas, In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program which extended benefits to those out of work for up to 99 weeks to give relief to many that have endured an extended period of unemployment. Unemployed workers in California receive 37 weeks of EUC, and 26 weeks of state benefits, averaging just two hundred ninety-two dollars ($292) a week; and

Whereas, On December 28, 2013, the EUC program expired without an extension from Congress. On that day, 214,000 unemployed workers ran out of EUC in California and 12,500 more will be doing so daily; and

Whereas, As of February 24, 2014, close to 1,273,100 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available unemployment benefits; and

Whereas, The EUC program brought $4.5 billion in benefits to the California economy in 2013 alone; and

Whereas, It is crucial for the United States government to take action in renewing the EUC program and extending the unemployment benefits that millions of people direly need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and respectfully memorializes the United States Congress to promptly renew the extension of unemployment benefits that will tremendously aid millions of people; 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 and Minority Leaders of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–271. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to repeal the requirement that physicians who have a National Provider Identifier enroll in or opt out of Medicare as a condition for payment of claims for ordered or provided covered services under federal health care programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), collectively known as the Affordable Care Act, expands the role of federal health care programs and regulations over the private health care market; and

Whereas, the Affordable Care Act makes many changes to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, some of which involve strengthening tools for quality and integrity; and

Whereas, the Affordable Care Act has resulted in numerous regulations for health care providers; and

Whereas, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requires physicians to enroll in Medicare or opt out of Medicare in order for health care providers to receive payment for services; and

Whereas, wrong addresses, telephone numbers and licensing information for physicians have been found throughout Medicare enrollment systems that are used to approve claims; and

Whereas, an estimated 58% of enrollment records in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System were inaccurate, and 48% of records in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System had errors; and

Whereas, more and more physicians are choosing not to accept Medicare or Medicaid due to increased government regulations and reduced levels of reimbursement; and

Whereas, the federal Medicare enrollment requirement has the unintended consequence of limiting facility options for physicians to admit and treat their patients.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona. the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress repeal the requirement that physicians who have a National Provider Identifier enroll in or opt out of Medicare as a condition for payment of claims for ordered or provided covered services under federal health care programs.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies 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 and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM–272. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013, which eliminates the personal income tax, the alternative minimum tax, the inheritance tax, the gift tax, the capital gains tax, the corporate income tax, the self-employment tax, and the employee and employer payroll tax and replaces them with a national retail sales tax; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE MEMORIAL 118

Whereas, our Founding Fathers, being mindful that history has demonstrated that income taxes give government too much power over citizens, specifically forbade such taxes in the Constitution of the United States, and

Whereas, Alexander Hamilton wrote in The Federalist No. 21 that ''it is a signal advantage of taxes on articles of consumption, that they contain in their own nature a security against excess,'' and

Whereas, the current income tax system requires individual taxpayers to prepare annual tax returns using many complicated forms, causing innocent errors that are heavily punished, and

Whereas, the current income tax system actually penalizes marriage, and

Whereas, the federal income tax:

(1) Retards economic growth and has reduced the standard of living of the American public;

(2) Impedes the international competiveness of United States industry;

(3) Reduces savings and investment in the United States by taxing income multiple times;

(4) Slows the capital formation necessary for real wages to steadily increase;

(5) Lowers productivity;

(6) Imposes unacceptable and unnecessary administrative and compliance costs on individual and business taxpayers;

(7) Is unfair and inequitable;

(8) Unnecessarily intrudes upon the privacy and civil rights of United States citizens;

(9) Hides the true costs of government by embedding taxes in the costs of everything that Americans buy;

(10) Is not being complied with at satisfactory levels and, therefore, raises the tax burden on law-abiding citizens; and

(11) Impedes upward social mobility, and

Whereas, federal payroll taxes, including social security and Medicare payroll taxes and self-employment taxes:

(1) Raise the cost of employment;

(2) Destroy jobs and cause unemployment; and

(3) Have a disproportionately adverse impact on lower-income Americans, and

Whereas, the federal estate and gift taxes:

(1) Force family businesses and farms to be sold by the family in order to pay taxes;

(2) Discourage capital formation and entrepreneurship;

(3) Foster the continued dominance of large enterprises over small family-owned companies and farms; and

(4) Impose unacceptably high tax-planning costs on small businesses and farms, and

Whereas, a broad-based national sales tax on goods and services purchased for final consumption:

(1) Is similar in many respects to the sales and use taxes that are authorized in 45 of the 50 states;

(2) Will promote savings and investment;

(3) Will promote fairness;

(4) Will promote economic growth;

(5) Will raise the standard of living;

(6) Will enhance productivity and international competiveness;

(7) Will reduce administrative burdens on the American taxpayer;

(8) Will improve upward social mobility; and

(9) Will respect the privacy interests and civil rights of taxpayers, and

Whereas, Congress should consider when implementing the administration of a national sales tax that:

(1) Most of the practical experience in administering sales taxes is found at the state level;

(2) It is desirable to harmonize federal and state collection and enforcement efforts to the maximum extent possible;

(3) It is sound tax administration policy to foster administration and collection of the federal sales tax at the state level in return for a reasonable administration fee to the states; and

(4) A business that must collect and remit taxes should receive reasonable compensation for the cost of doing so, and

Whereas, the 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution should be repealed: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida: That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due respect, does hereby urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013, which eliminates the personal income tax, the alternative minimum tax, the inheritance tax, the gift tax, the capital gains tax, the corporate income tax, the self-employment tax, and the employee and employer payroll tax and replaces them with a national retail sales tax, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–273. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California calling upon the Congress and the President of the United States to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people constituted genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, During the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descent lost their lives at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Empire in its attempt to systematically eliminate the Armenian race; and

Whereas, Despite Armenians' historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy in the region, Turkish' rulers of the Ottoman Empire subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality including, but not limited to, widespread and wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890s, most notably the Hamidian Massacres from 1894 to 1896 and the Adana Massacre of 1909; and

Whereas, The earlier massacres and subsequent genocide of the Armenians constitute one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

Whereas, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other people would. bring no retribution, declared, ''Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?''; and

Whereas, Unlike other people and governments that have admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers. Those denials compound the grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the descendants of the victims; and

Whereas, The Republic of Turkey has escalated its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained its blockade of Armenia and increased its pressure on the small but growing movement in Turkey acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and seeking justice for this systematic campaign of destruction of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Pontians, Syriacs, and other Christians upon their biblical-era homelands; and

Whereas, Those citizens of Turkey. both Armenian and non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide, such as human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means; and

Whereas, The accelerated level and scope of denial and revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of the indescribable brutality and the lives that were tormented, compel a sense of urgency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

Whereas, The United States is on record as having officially recognized the Armenian

Genocide in the United States government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's April. 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838, and by Congressional legislation/including House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10,1984; and

Whereas, Even prior to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United States has a record of having sought to justly and constructively address the consequence's of the Ottoman Empire's intentional destruction of the Armenian people, including through Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 adopted on February 9, 1916, Senate Resolution 359 adopted on May 11, 1920, and President Woodrow Wilson's November 22, 1920, decision entitled, The Frontier between Armenia and Turkey; and

Whereas, By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of history; and

Whereas, This measure would declare that the Legislature deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person, in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and

Whereas, California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

Whereas, The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent the recurrence of genocide; and

Whereas, On April 24, 2013, the President of the United States stated, ''A full, frank, and just acknowledgment of the facts is in all of our interests. Nations grow stronger by acknowledging and reckoning with painful elements of the past, thereby building a foundation for a more just and tolerant future''; and

Whereas, President Obama entered office having stated his ''firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence'' and affirmed his record of ''calling for Turkey's acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide''; and

Whereas, The United States' national interests in establishing equitable, constructive, stable, and durable relations between Armenians and Turks cannot be meaningfully advanced by circumventing or otherwise seeking to avoid the central political, legal, security, and meal issue between these two nations: Turkey's denial of truth and justice for the Armenian Genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of April 2014, as ''California Month of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923''; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully calls upon the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people constituted genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work toward a just resolution; 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, the Governor, and the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.

POM–274. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the President of the United States to issue final approval for construction and completion of the Keystone XL pipeline project; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 281

Whereas, Floridians consume approximately 26 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel daily and approximately 9.5 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually, and

Whereas, across party lines, Floridians have long recognized the dependence of the state's tourism and agricultural economy on access to reliable and affordable petroleum products, and

Whereas, many other Florida industries, including fertilizer, agrochemical, plastic, manufacturing, bakeries, juice processing, pulp and paper, road construction, metals, restaurants, and grocery stores, are heavily dependent on access to reliable and affordable petroleum products to transport goods, and

Whereas, Gulf state refineries produce the vast majority of the gasoline and diesel fuel crude oil delivered and consumed in Florida, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline will be capable of transporting more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil per day to 57 Gulf state refineries, and

Whereas, the crude oil transported through the Keystone XL pipeline could replace oil from unstable regions of the world with oil from Canada, a friendly and historically reliable neighbor and our principal source of imported crude oil, and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, pipelines are one of the safest and most cost-effective means to transport petroleum products, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline could reduce the large numbers of tankers and barges carrying crude oil through the Straits of Florida and across the Gulf of Mexico, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline will not encounter the disruptions experienced by tankers and barges delivering crude oil to Gulf state refineries during hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, thus enhancing Florida's energy security during emergencies, and

Whereas, the southern portion of the Keystone XL pipeline has already been approved and construction is proceeding, and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, construction of the United States portion of the Keystone XL pipeline is a $3.3 billion project that will create thousands of American jobs, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline project has been subject to the most thorough public consultation process of any proposed United States pipeline, and

Whereas, according to the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement issued by the United States Department of State, multiple environmental impact statements and studies have concluded that the Keystone XL pipeline poses the least impact to the environment and is much safer than other modes of transporting crude oil, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline project has received bipartisan support in the United States Congress, including a letter to the President signed by 53 Senators urging the President to support the pipeline, and

Whereas, a recent Pew Research Center survey has found that two-thirds of Americans support the Keystone XL pipeline project: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the President of the United States is strongly urged to issue final approval for construction and completion of the Keystone XL pipeline project; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–275. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado urging and requesting members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14–1012

Whereas, The federal minimum wage was established through the ''Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938'', in response to the Great Depression, to ensure that workers earned enough to pay for necessities and minimum monthly expenses; and

Whereas, Since then, the cost of living has steadily increased while the federal minimum wage has generally remained stagnant; and

Whereas, Congress has only raised the minimum wage twice in the past 20 years; and

Whereas, The federal minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, has declined from its peak of $10.72 in 1968 to $7.25 today, a 33% decrease in purchasing power; and

Whereas, Under the current minimum wage, it is possible to work full time and still be under the minimum federal poverty line; and

Whereas, It is virtually impossible for a minimum-wage worker to afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state while working a 40-hour week; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage would decrease American dependency on public assistance programs, such as Section 8 housing vouchers and food stamps, in order to pay for living expenses and raising families; and

Whereas, The majority of those who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are full-time workers who are supporting their families in moderate- to low-income households; and

Whereas, For the vast majority of low-skilled or unskilled workers, the minimum wage should be simply a starting salary that gets them employed and gives them a chance to advance; and

Whereas, Increasing the minimum wage would immediately boost the wages of about 15 million low-income workers; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage is projected to significantly boost the economy at large by increasing purchasing power of workers, thereby increasing the United States gross domestic product; and

Whereas, In 2006, Colorado voters decisively voted to approve Initiative 42, which raised the state minimum wage and tied it to inflation in order to preserve the purchasing power of Colorado workers and help ensure that they can support themselves and their families; and

Whereas, Colorado raised the minimum wage in 2011 and 2012 over the federal minimum, which contributed to a decrease in the unemployment rate from 8.73% to 7.2% during that two-year period; and

Whereas, Several other states have notably raised their minimum wages during times of high unemployment, including Washington, Oregon, Ohio, and Arizona, and those states all experienced decreases of at least 1.5% in unemployment during the same two-year period; and

Whereas, Raising the minimum wage not only will stimulate the economy but will also lift millions of Americans out of poverty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein, That we, the Colorado General Assembly, urge and request members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, and the Majority and Minority Whips of the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

POM–276. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois acknowledging the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 419

Whereas, Scientific research demonstrates that good nutrition beginning in utero and extending throughout the first year of life is critical to the healthy growth and development of infants and that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition by providing certain health benefits for both the mother and child; and

Whereas, The United States Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend babies be exclusively fed with breast milk for the first 6 months of life, and continue on with breast milk through the first year of life; and

Whereas, Healthy People 2020, an initiative that comprises science-based, ten-year national objectives to improve the health of all Americans, administered under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, aims to increase the percentage of women initiating breastfeeding to 81.9% and still continuing to breastfeed when their newborn is 6 months of age to 60.6%; and

Whereas, It is a mother's choice in how she feeds her baby, and the choice is often made based on the best feeding option for her infant given her and her family's life circumstance, including familial, cultural, and community issues as well as based on barriers to breastfeeding, including returning to work, medical difficulties, and lack of breastfeeding support; and

Whereas, The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other public health organizations do promote breastfeeding goals, and some go beyond this to promote other dietary guidance for feeding an infant under age 2 or identify what a mother should do if she cannot or chooses not to breastfeed, or needs to supplement breastfeeding; and

Whereas, An example of this is provided in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service publication, ''Feeding Your Baby in the first Year'', which gives participants in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) food program a basic overview of the best sources of nutrition for their babies in the first year, starting with breastfeeding, including infant formula if needed, following with the introduction of solid foods; and

Whereas, Infant nutrition research has generated a range of iron-fortified infant formulas (as well as specialized infant formulas for premature babies and for those babies with medical conditions needing sustenance to survive and thrive) that address a critical need in providing a safe and nutritious alternative to breast milk for mothers who are unable to breastfeed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we acknowledge the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize the scientific research documenting that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition and supports breastfeeding promotion policies; and be it further

Resolved, That we aspire for mothers to make informed choices about how to feed their infants by requiring that mothers receive, prior to and/or after birth, complete and balanced information on all infant nutrition options; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to publish and distribute maternal and infant nutrition information approved by the U.S. Surgeon General to mothers prior to and after birth; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge state health departments to facilitate public-private collaboration with families and communities to increase maternal and infant nutrition awareness, particularly in underserved areas, and provide access to nutritional programs for mothers and their children beginning in utero and throughout their first year of life; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, members of the Illinois Delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J. Durbin and Mark Kirk, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Surgeon General, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

POM–277. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois encouraging states that provide Medicaid coverage to examine the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 418

Whereas, Leading health and nutrition experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition and good patient health can keep people healthy and out of institutionalized health care facilities, thus reducing healthcare costs; and

Whereas, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in the U.S., and that malnutrition is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as older adults, hospitalized patients, or minority populations that statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease; and

Whereas, Illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and to a greater extent than younger adults and weight assessment (body weight and body mass index) can overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass; and

Whereas, The American Nursing Association defines therapeutic nutrition as the administration of food and fluids to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished; and

Whereas, Access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in restoring lean body mass such that it resolves malnutrition challenges and, in turn, improves clinical outcomes, reduces health care costs, and can keep people and our communities healthy; and

Whereas, Despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatments have not been incorporated as routine medical treatments across the spectrum of health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we encourage states that provide Medicaid coverage to examine the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care; and be it further

Resolved, That we support an increased emphasis on nutrition through the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, as well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their disease management and health outcomes; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage preventive and wellness services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease management, to be a part of the Essential Health Benefits package included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, members of the Illinois delegation of United States House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J. Durbin and Mark Kirk, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

POM–278. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona

urging the members of the United States Congress to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, it is a troubling fact that, over the past century, numerous American military personnel have been taken prisoner of war by enemy forces or have gone missing in action while in service to their country: and

Whereas, these men and women have diligently served the citizens of the United States through their efforts to provide for the safety, security and well-being of this state and nation. In so doing, they have sacrificed their time, dreams and often their own health or lives to preserve our liberties and freedom: and

Whereas, we owe a special debt of respect and gratitude to those who were captured and yet kept faith, even while being deprived of their freedom and possibly tortured, and to those whose fate remains unknown by their loved ones: and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that the United States attempt to determine the fate of members of the American armed forces who were taken prisoner or who went missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Cold War missions, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom: and

Whereas, a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives would be tasked with conducting a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any American personnel who are unaccounted for from these conflicts, including MIAs and POWs who are missing or were captured.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the Members of the United States Congress establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives.

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–279. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California urging the President of the United States to take executive action to suspend any further deportations of unauthorized individuals with no serious criminal history; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

Whereas, According to the Pew Hispanic Center, in 2011, there were 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States; and

Whereas, Deportations have reached record levels under President Obama, rising to an annual average of nearly 400,000 since 2009; and

Whereas, According to Congress Members Raul M. Grijalva and Yvette Clarke, although the Obama Administration reportedly prioritized deporting only criminals, many individuals with no serious criminal history consistently have been deported; and

Whereas, Increased deportations and a continuously broken immigration system exacerbate the living conditions of United States citizen children whose parents have been deported; and

Whereas, Separation of children from their parents, irrespective of immigration status, always results in severe consequences for young children who are left with no parental guidance or care and a highly unstable financial situation; and

Whereas, As immigration continues to be at the center of a national debate, President Obama and Congress must implement a more humanitarian immigration policy that keeps families together; and

Whereas, California is home to approximately 10.3 million immigrants of which approximately 2.6 million are unauthorized to live in the United States; and

Whereas, Many Members of Congress recently signed a letter requesting President Obama to suspend any further deportations; and

Whereas, Since California is home to a large number of unauthorized immigrants from all parts of the world, this state should make it a priority to keep families together and continue to press President Obama and Congress for a solution to our broken federal immigration system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges President Obama to take executive action to suspend any further deportations of unauthorized individuals with no serious criminal history; 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, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–280. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado urging and requesting members of Congress to update the formula in Section 4 of the federal ''Voting Rights Act of 1965'', as amended, as quickly as possible to ensure Section 5 of the act can be restored and every citizen's voice is heard and every vote is counted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14–1009

Whereas, The Colorado General Assembly has always supported the federal ''Voting Rights Act of 1965'', as amended, and its legacy of protecting American citizens; and

Whereas, The Voting Rights Act was one of the greatest achievements of the Civil Rights Movement and helped to not only allow equal access at the ballot box, but to facilitate advancement in other areas of life for minorities across the country; and

Whereas, Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1869, giving black men the right to vote, but attempted and actual barriers to political participation remain consistently introduced in capitols and Congress even today; and

Whereas, In 1964, fewer than seven percent of eligible black citizens were registered to vote in Mississippi and, by the end of 1966, that figure had risen to nearly 60 percent, and during the same period Alabama voter registration rates climbed from below 20 percent to over 50 percent; and

Whereas, The so-called Jim Crow laws of the South made voter registration and election rules more restrictive, intentionally reducing political participation by minority voters with the use of poll taxes, literacy tests, and record-keeping and identification requirements; and

Whereas, In 1964, only five black citizens held seats in Congress (with none from any Southern state) and a total of 94 black citizens served in all legislatures, and today the Congressional Black Caucus has 43 members while over 600 African Americans hold seats in all legislatures, with another 8,800 being mayors, sheriffs, school board members, and other elected officials; and

Whereas, Forty-seven percent of these public officials live in the seven states originally covered by the Voting Rights Act; and

Whereas, Voter turnout in the South dropped drastically due to segregation-era voting laws, and as a result, by 1910 not a single black voter was registered in 27 of 60 parishes in the state of Louisiana, and black voters were completely eliminated from the rolls in North Carolina from 1896 to 1904; and

Whereas, In a five-to-four decision in June 2013, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional, which section sets forth the formula under which states and jurisdictions must seek preclearance from the United States Department of Justice before enacting new voter laws and regulations or making changes to existing laws; and

Whereas, The preclearance provision in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act relied on the formula contained in Section 4 to protect the voting rights of all citizens; and

Whereas, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in her dissent to the *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* case, stated, ''Just as buildings in California have a greater need to be earthquake-proofed, places where there is greater racial polarization in voting have a greater need for prophylactic measures to prevent purposeful race discrimination.''; and

Whereas, Prior to the United States Supreme Court's invalidation of Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, federal district courts in several preclearance states, including Texas, Florida, and Alabama, ruled their proposed voting law changes unconstitutional; and

Whereas, Sufficient data has been established from numerous studies and surveys that could serve as the basis for a new formula, including data found from calculating the overall size of the minority population, voter turnout among all groups, the number of voting discrimination lawsuits as well as number of cases that have been lost or settled, and the prevalence of racially polarized or biased voting as a factor in voter preferences; and

Whereas, Congress has repeatedly extended the Voting Rights Act, which was first passed in 1965 and then reauthorized for five years in 1970, for seven years in 1975, and for 25 years in 1982, and Congress renewed the act in 2006 for 25 years after holding extensive hearings from which they found persistent racial discrimination at the polls; and

Whereas, When the Voting Rights Act passed in 2006, it enjoyed wide bipartisan support and was signed into law by President George W. Bush: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein, That the Colorado General Assembly urges and requests members of Congress to update the formula in Section 4 of the federal ''Voting Rights Act of 1965'', as amended, as quickly as possible to ensure Section 5 of the act can be restored and every citizen's voice is heard and every vote is counted; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

POM–281. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizing the month of May 2014 as ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 367

Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of the spinal cord; and

Whereas, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

Whereas, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

Whereas, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

Whereas, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and aware of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

Whereas, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of the general population; and

Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age of about 55, and affects both men and women without bias; and

Whereas, Annually, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed throughout the nation; and

Whereas, In Pennsylvania, there are currently more than 1,000 individuals who have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

Whereas, The $350,000 in State funding the General Assembly appropriated for ALS patient care in fiscal year 2013–2014 provided services to more than 900 constituents and provided a substantial savings to the State budget and to taxpayers; and

Whereas, The ALS Association reported in 2009 that on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

Whereas, ALS has no known cause, prevention or cure; and

Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only on patients but on their families as well and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month of May 2014 as ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month'' in Pennsylvania; 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 and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–282. A memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection between Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses to United States Vietnam War veterans who served in the waters, which is defined as the combat zone, and in the airspace over the combat; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed twenty-two million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops that the enemy used. These herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (P.L. 102–4: 105 stat 11: 38 United States code section 1116) that presumptively recognized as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. This presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans who were diagnosed with illnesses such 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 sarcomas and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, pursuant to a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had ''boots on the ground'' in-country during their time of service, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits. Moreover, personnel who served on ships in the ''Blue Water Navy'' in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, ever since this 2001 directive was implemented, the United States Navy has been excluded from receiving benefits even though Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, warships that were positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water. A 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water that was used for drinking, cooking and washing. This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that 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. When the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, herbicides containing dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, more than thirty veterans service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013. By not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying other groups without any financial, scientific or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure. The federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in 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 its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters and airspace, encompassing the entire combat zone.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the United States Congress restore the presumption of a service connection between Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses to United States Vietnam War veterans who served in the waters, which is defined as the combat zone, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies 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 and each Member of Congress from the state of Arizona.

POM–283. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri urging the President of the United States and administration officials to support the increased importation of oil from Canadian oil sands, to approve the newly routed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline, and to support and facilitate permitting for oil production off the northern coast of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, high oil prices are having a major detrimental impact on families, farms, and businesses in Missouri and are likely to undercut the prospects for an economic recovery; and

Whereas, the United States currently imports almost half of its oil and petroleum products, making it dependent on foreign sources and subject to interruptions and price fluctuations stemming from geopolitical forces; and

Whereas, such instability has damaging consequences both for our economy and our national security; and

Whereas, the United States Geological Survey estimates a resource of up to 27 billion barrels of oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas of Alaska, providing a vast domestic oil reserve, but opposition and regulatory hurdles are keeping energy producers from accessing these resources; and

Whereas, the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline project seeks to link expanded oil production from the Canadian oil sands to refineries in the United States and to facilitate the flow of oil from the Dakotas to the Gulf Coast, thereby decreasing our dependence on oil from outside of North America; and

Whereas, Canada is a close friend and ally, with whom we share links of infrastructure and energy networks and other ties, so that dollars spent on Canadian oil will likely contribute to the success of the American economy; and

Whereas, the TransCanada pipeline project is projected to create construction and manufacturing jobs in the United States, adding billions of dollars to the United States economy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby call upon President Barack Obama and administration officials to:

(1) Support the increased importation of oil from Canadian oil sands and to approve the newly routed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline to reduce our oil dependency on unstable governments, strengthen ties with an important ally, and create jobs for American workers;

(2) Support and facilitate permitting for oil production off the northern coast of Alaska to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and spur investment in the American economy: and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, United States House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2028. A bill to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–205).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled ''Report on the Legislative Activities of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation During the 112th Congress'' (Rept. No. 113–206).

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. WICKER:

S. 2564. A bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, to stop exploitation through trafficking, and to amend title 18, United States Code, by providing a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 495. A resolution designating July 2014 as ''Summer Meals Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 496. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former United States Senator for the State of Illinois; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 931, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to establish programs with respect to childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt

those articles from definition under that Act.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1599, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 1696

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1696, a bill to protect a women's right to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy by limiting restrictions on the provision of abortion services.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2436

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2436, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

S. 2562

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2562, a bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S.J. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 3241

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3241 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING JULY 2014 AS ''SUMMER MEALS AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas 1 in 5 children in the United States struggle with hunger;

Whereas research has found that more than 30 percent of low-income families do not have enough food during the summer months;

Whereas the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) exists to ensure that low-income children have access to adequate nutrition when the school year ends;

Whereas the summer food service program is designed to give hungry children a safe place to participate in fun, educational activities and to receive a meal;

Whereas thousands of schools and nonprofit organizations across the country serve as summer food service program sites;

Whereas summer programs are often under-utilized, as only 1 in 6 eligible children participate in the summer food service program, due in part to families being unaware that the summer food service program exists;

Whereas lack of transportation and other barriers often prevent children from accessing the summer food service program sites, especially in rural areas; and

Whereas almost 1 in 3 low-income children live in communities that are not eligible to participate in the summer food service program, thus reducing their ability to participate in the program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2014 as ''Summer Meals Awareness Month'';

(2) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to assist in efficient use of summer food service program sites by raising awareness of the location and availability of those sites;

(3) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to support efforts to increase the participation rate of eligible children who, without the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), may go without meals; and

(4) encourages members of Congress to visit a summer food service program site to see the importance of the program firsthand.

SENATE RESOLUTION 496—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ALAN JOHN DIXON, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr.

HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 496

Whereas Alan John Dixon was born in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois on July 7, 1927, served in the United States Navy Air Corps in 1945, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1949, graduated Washington University School of Law located in St. Louis, Missouri in 1949, passed the Illinois bar in 1949, and then commenced practice in Belleville;

Whereas Senator Dixon married his wife, Joan Louise ''Jody'' Fox, in 1954;

Whereas Senator Dixon is survived by his wife, Joan; 2 daughters, Stephanie Yearian of Waterloo, Illinois, and Elizabeth Megaw of Fairfax, Virginia; 1 son, Jeffrey Dixon of Chicago, Illinois; 8 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren;

Whereas Senator Dixon was elected Belleville, Illinois, Police Magistrate in 1949;

Whereas Senator Dixon served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1951–1963, in the Illinois Senate from 1963–1971, and as Minority Whip of the Illinois Senate from 1964–1971;

Whereas Senator Dixon served as Illinois Treasurer from 1971–1977 and Illinois Secretary of State from 1977–1981;

Whereas Senator Dixon was first elected to the United States Senate in 1980 and served until 1993;

Whereas Senator Dixon continued to serve his country as chair of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission from 1994–1995;

Whereas Senator Dixon served the State of Illinois for 42 years;

Whereas Senator Dixon was the first statewide Democrat in Illinois to make full disclosure of his net financial worth and began the tradition in Washington of bipartisan Illinois Congressional lunches; and

Whereas his impeccable honesty, willingness to reach across the aisle and across Illinois, and leadership in the State earned him the nickname ''Al the Pal'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former member of the United States Senate;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Alan John Dixon.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3444. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3445. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3446. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3447. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3448. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. WICKER)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3449. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3450. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3451. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3452. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3453. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3444. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.

(a) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking '', United States Code'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e)(1) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall report to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this section. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(2)(A) The report required by paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(f) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

''(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

''(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

''(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(5) The amount of the award.

''(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).''.

(b) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in each controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(B)(i) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether

the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(C) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall include and clearly identify in the annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

''(i) any amounts paid from section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

''(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

''(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

''(6) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection:

''(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

''(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(D) A description of the claims in the case.

''(E) The amount of the award.

''(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(8) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), including the Attorney General of the United States and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking ''United States Code,''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,'' and inserting ''of this section''; and

(B) by striking ''of such title'' and inserting ''of this title''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall first apply with respect to awards of fees and other expenses that are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL REPORTS.—The first reports required by section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, shall be submitted not later than March 31 of the calendar year following the first calendar year in which a fiscal year begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) ONLINE DATABASES.—The online databases required by section 504(f) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be established as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but in no case later than the date on which the first reports under section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are required to be submitted under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

SA 3445. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 37, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(10) MOTORIZED VESSELS IN THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS.—The Secretary of the Interior—

(A) shall manage the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to allow the use of motorized vessels in a manner that is not more restrictive than the use restrictions in effect on November 21, 2013; and

(B) may manage the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to allow the use of motorized vessels in a manner that is less restrictive than the use restrictions in effect on November 21, 2013.

SA 3446. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, line 1, strike ''in November 2014'' and insert ''on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section''.

SA 3447. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 384, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

PART III—AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT

SEC. 1078A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(c)) is amended by striking ''Not later than 90 days'' and inserting the following:

''(1) PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 43 days before any election for Federal office held in a State, the chief State election official of such State shall submit a report containing the information in subparagraph (B) to the Attorney General and the Presidential designee, and make that report publicly available that same day.

''(B) INFORMATION REPORTED.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall consist of the following:

''(i) The total number of absentee ballots validly requested by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters whose requests were received by the 47th day before the election.

''(ii) The total number of ballots transmitted to such voters by the 46th day before the election by each unit of local government within the State that will administer the election.

''(iii) If the chief State election official has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, an explanation of what information is incomplete information and efforts made to acquire such information, including the identity of any unit of local government that failed to provide required information to the State.

''(C) REQUIREMENT TO SUPPLEMENT INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.—If the report under subparagraph (A) has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, the chief State election official shall make all reasonable efforts to expeditiously supplement the report with complete information.

''(D) FORMAT.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall be in a format prescribed by the Attorney General in consultation with the chief State election officials of each State.

''(2) POST ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED.—Not later than 90 days''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for subsection (c) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(c)) is amended by striking ''REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED'' and inserting ''REPORTS ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS''.

SEC. 1078B. TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS; REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(8) transmit a validly requested absentee ballot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter by the date and in the manner determined under subsection (g);''.

(b) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.—Subsection (g) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(g)) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received at least 47 days before an election for Federal office, the following rules shall apply:

''(A) TRANSMISSION DEADLINE.—The State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 46 days before the election.

''(B) SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF FAILURE TO TRANSMIT ON TIME.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A) and the absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter did not request electronic ballot transmission pursuant to subsection (f), the State shall transmit such ballot by express delivery.

''(ii) EXTENDED FAILURE.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 41st day before the election, in addition to transmitting the ballot as provided in clause (i), the State shall—

''(I) in the case of absentee ballots requested by absent uniformed services voters with respect to regularly scheduled general elections, notify such voters of the procedures established under section 103A for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots; and

''(II) in any other case, provide for the return of such ballot by express delivery.

''(iii) COST OF EXPRESS DELIVERY.—In any case in which express delivery is required under this subparagraph, the cost of such express delivery—

''(I) shall not be paid by the voter, and

''(II) may be required by the State to be paid by a local jurisdiction if the State determines that election officials in such jurisdiction are responsible for the failure to transmit the ballot by any date required under this paragraph.

''(iv) EXCEPTION.—Clause (ii)(II) shall not apply when an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter indicates the preference to return the late sent absentee ballot by electronic transmission in a State that permits return of an absentee ballot by electronic transmission.

''(v) ENFORCEMENT.—A State's compliance with this subparagraph does not bar the Attorney General from seeking additional remedies necessary to fully resolve or prevent ongoing, future, or systematic violations of this provision.

''(C) SPECIAL PROCEDURE IN EVENT OF DISASTER.—If a disaster (hurricane, tornado, earthquake, storm, volcanic eruption, landslide, fire, flood, or explosion), or an act of terrorism prevents the State from transmitting any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A), it shall notify the Attorney General as soon as practicable and take all actions necessary, including seeking any necessary judicial relief, to ensure that affected absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters are provided a reasonable opportunity to receive and return their absentee ballots in time to be counted.

''(2) REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER 47TH DAY BEFORE ELECTION.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received less than 47 days but not less than 30 days before an election for Federal office, the State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 3 business days after such request is received.''.

SEC. 1078C. TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS TO CONFORM TO 2009 MOVE ACT AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(3) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''general elections'' and inserting ''general, special, primary, and runoff elections''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking ''general'', and

(2) in the heading thereof, by striking ''**GENERAL**''.

SEC. 1078D. TREATMENT OF POST CARD REGISTRATION REQUESTS.

Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) TREATMENT OF POST CARD REGISTRATIONS.—A State shall not remove any voter who has registered to vote using the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) except in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(a)).''.

SEC. 1078E. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.

(a) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION TO OVERSEAS VOTERS.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or overseas voter'' after ''submitted by an absent uniformed services voter''; and

(2) by striking ''members of the uniformed services'' and inserting ''absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters''.

(b) USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended—

(A) by striking ''A State'' and inserting the following:

''(a) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State'', and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(b) APPLICATION TREATED AS VALID FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and processes a request for an absentee ballot by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter and the voter requests that the application be considered an application for an absentee ballot for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election), the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to either of the following:

''(A) VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.—A voter removed from the list of official eligible voters in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(a)).

''(B) UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS.—A voter whose ballot is returned by mail to the State or local election officials as undeliverable or, in the case of a ballot delivered electronically, if the email sent to the voter was undeliverable or rejected due to an invalid email address.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 104 of such Act is amended by striking ''**PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION**'' and inserting ''**TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS**''.

(3) REVISION TO POSTCARD FORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential designee shall ensure that the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) enables a voter using the form to—

(i) request an absentee ballot for each election for Federal office held in a State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election); or

(ii) request an absentee ballot for a specific election or elections for Federal office held in a State during the period described in paragraph (1).

(B) PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ''Presidential designee'' means the individual designated under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(a)).

SEC. 1078F. APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Paragraphs (6) and (8) of section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–6(6)) are each amended by striking ''and American Samoa'' and inserting ''American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands''.

SEC. 1078G. BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105A(b) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4a(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''March 31 of each year'' and inserting ''June 30 of each odd-numbered year''; and

(B) by striking ''the following information'' and inserting ''the following information with respect to the Federal elections held during the 2 preceding calendar years'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''separate assessment'' each place it appears and inserting ''separate assessment and statistical analysis''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''section 1566a'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting ''sections 1566a and 1566b'';

(B) by striking ''such section'' each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting ''such sections''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(C) The number of completed official postcard forms prescribed under section 101(b)(2) that were completed by absent uniformed services members and accepted and transmitted.

''(D) The number of absent uniformed services members who declined to register to vote under such sections.''.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—Section 105A of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4a) is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a review of any reports submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b) with respect to elections occurring in calendar years 2014 through 2020.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after a report is submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MATTERS REVIEWED.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) shall assess—

''(A) the methodology used by the Presidential designee to prepare the report and to develop the data presented in the report, including the approach for designing, implementing, and analyzing the results of any surveys,

''(B) the effectiveness of any voting assistance covered in the report provided under subsection (b) and provided by the Presidential designee to absent overseas uniformed services voters and overseas voters who are not members of the uniformed services, including an assessment of—

''(i) any steps taken toward improving the implementation of such voting assistance; and

''(ii) the extent of collaboration between the Presidential designee and the States in providing such voting assistance; and

''(C) any other information the Comptroller General considers relevant to the review.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 101(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (6); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively.

(2) Section 102(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''101(b)(7)'' and inserting ''101(b)(6)''; and

(B) in paragraph (11), by striking ''101(b)(11)'' and inserting ''101(b)(10)''.

(3) Section 105A(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4a(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''ANNUAL REPORT'' in the subsection heading and inserting ''BIENNIAL REPORT''; and

(B) by striking ''In the case of'' in paragraph (3) and all that follows through ''a description'' and inserting ''A description''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to reports required to be issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1078H. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 1078G(d), the amendments made by this title shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

SA 3448. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. WICKER)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COASTAL WATERS.—The term ''coastal waters'' means—

(A) all waters, whether salt or fresh, of the Gulf coastal State shoreward of the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured; and

(B) the waters of the Gulf coastal State seaward from the baseline referred to in subparagraph (A) to the inner boundary of the exclusive economic zone 200 mile limit.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

(3) FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term ''fishery management plan'' means a plan for the conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper prepared and adopted by the Commission pursuant to section 304.

(4) GULF COASTAL STATE.—The term ''Gulf coastal State'' means the following States bordering the Gulf of Mexico:

(A) Alabama.

(B) Florida.

(C) Louisiana.

(D) Mississippi.

(E) Texas.

(5) GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.—The term ''Gulf of Mexico red snapper'' means members of stocks or populations of the species Lutjanis campechanus, which ordinarily are found seaward of the coastal waters.

(6) MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT.—The term ''Magnuson-Stevens Act'' means the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SEC. 303. TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.

(a) NEW FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM COMMISSION.—The Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce a fishery management plan for Gulf of Mexico red snapper adopted by the Commission pursuant to section 304.

(b) ACTIONS BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—

(1) REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

(A) review the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) to determine whether or not the plan—

(i) includes fishery management measures that are compatible to the extent practicable with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851) and other applicable provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act; and

(ii) will ensure the long-term conservation of Gulf of Mexico red snapper populations; and

(B) certify whether or not the Commission has submitted a fishery management plan to properly conserve and manage Gulf of Mexico red snapper consistent with this title.

(2) REVOCATION OF SUPERSEDED PLAN.—Upon receipt of a certification by the Commission under section 304(b)(2) that all of the Gulf coastal States will have sufficient management measures under section 304(b)(1), the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register revoking those regulations and portions of the Federal fishery management plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico that are in conflict with the fishery management plan for Gulf of Mexico red snapper, including the deletion of the species from the management unit.

(c) STATE ACTIONS.—Upon certification by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) that the fishery management plan will properly conserve and manage Gulf of Mexico red snapper consistent with this title, the Gulf coastal States shall implement all appropriate measures to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper resource in the adjacent coastal waters in accordance with the fishery management plan.

SEC. 304. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) COMMISSION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall prepare and adopt a fishery management plan to provide for the conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper and specify the requirements necessary for Gulf coastal States to be in compliance with the plan.

(2) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish standards and procedures for the preparation of the fishery management plan, including standards and procedures to ensure—

(A) the long-term sustainability of Gulf of Mexico red snapper based on the available science; and

(B) adequate opportunity for public participation in the preparation of the fishery management plan, including at least four public hearings and procedures for the submittal to the Commission of written comments on the fishery management plan.

(3) LIMITATION ON REDUCTION IN QUOTAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the fishery management plan may not reduce the overall quota of Gulf of Mexico red snapper apportioned to commercial fishing on the date of the enactment of this Act until the date that is 3 years after such date of enactment. Such plan may increase such a quota based on stock assessments.

(B) EXCEPTION IN CASE OF A REDUCTION IN STOCK.—In the event of a reduction in the stock of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, the fishery management plan shall reduce the quota described in subparagraph (A) in a manner that ensures a sustainable harvest of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) STATE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) SUBMITTAL OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—Each Gulf coastal State shall submit to the Commission management measures to ensure compliance with the conservation objectives of the fishery management plan.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon certification by the Commission that all Gulf coastal States have submitted sufficient management measures described in paragraph (1), the Commission shall certify to the Secretary of Commerce under section 303(b)(2) to revoke Federal management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, and the Gulf coastal States shall manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper in the adjacent coastal waters consistent with the fishery management plan.

SEC. 305. MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN BY GULF COASTAL STATES.

(a) DETERMINATION.—In December each year, and at any other time it considers appropriate, the Commission shall determine—

(1) whether each Gulf coastal State has adopted all regulatory measures to fully implement the fishery management plan; and

(2) whether the enforcement of the fishery management plan by each Gulf coastal State is satisfactory to maintain the long-term sustainability and abundance of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) SATISFACTORY STATE ENFORCEMENT.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), enforcement by a Gulf coastal State shall not be considered satisfactory by the Commission if, in its view, such enforcement is being carried out in such a manner that the implementation of the fishery management plan within the coastal waters of the Gulf coastal State is being, or will likely be, substantially and adversely affected.

(c) NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OF ADVERSE DETERMINATION.—The Commission shall immediately notify the Secretary of Commerce of each negative determination made with respect to a Gulf coastal State under subsection (a).

SEC. 306. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT REVIEW.

(a) COMMISSION REVIEW AND REPORT ON CERTIFICATION ON CERTAIN STATE ACTIONS.—

(1) COMMISSION REVIEW OF STATE CERTIFICATION.—Each Gulf coastal State that manages Gulf of Mexico red snapper shall submit to the Commission a certification as follows:

(A) If Gulf of Mexico red snapper is undergoing overfishing or subject to a rebuilding plan, that such Gulf coastal State shall implement immediately the necessary measures to end overfishing and rebuild the fishery.

(B) That such Gulf coastal State shall implement a program to provide for data collection adequate to monitor the harvest of Gulf of Mexico red snapper by such Gulf coastal State.

(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Upon the review of each certification submitted to the Commission under paragraph (1), the Commission shall certify to the Secretary of Commerce whether or not the Gulf coastal State concerned is fully carrying out the matters covered by the certification.

(b) ACTION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Upon receipt by the Secretary of Commerce of a notice under section 305(c) or a report under subsection (a)(2) that a Gulf Coastal State is not fully complying with the matters specified in subsection (a)(1) as certified by that State pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may declare a closure of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery within the Federal waters adjacent to the Gulf coastal State. In making such a declaration the Secretary shall fully consider and review the comments of the Gulf coastal State and the Commission.

(c) ACTIONS PROHIBITED DURING CLOSURE.—During a closure of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery under subsection (b), it is unlawful for any person—

(1) to engage in fishing for Gulf of Mexico red snapper within the Federal waters adjacent to the Gulf coastal State covered by the closure;

(2) to land, or attempt to land, the Gulf of Mexico red snapper that is subject to the closure; or

(3) to fail to return to the water the Gulf of Mexico red snapper to which the closure applies that are caught incidental to commercial harvest or in other recreational fisheries.

SEC. 307. IMPROVED STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTION FOR GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of carrying out this title, the Secretary of Commerce shall support the Gulf coastal States and the Commission in developing and implementing a comprehensive study on Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper. The study shall include the following:

(1) Annual stock assessments of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(2) The number of participants, both commercial and recreational, in the coastal waters of the Gulf coastal States that harvest Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(3) Recommendations for improved conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.—The Secretary of Commerce shall, in consultation with the Gulf coastal States and the Commission, conduct a comprehensive study and analysis of the economic impacts and benefits for the local, regional, and national economy of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. The study shall include the following:

(1) A thorough analysis of the beneficial economic impacts of industries directly related to the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery, including, but not limited to, boat sales, marina activity, boat construction and repair, fishing gear and tackle sales, and other closely associated industries.

(2) A proper economic analysis of the downstream economic impacts of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery on the economies of the Gulf coastal States, including, but not limited to, hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, related tourism, and other peripheral businesses and industries.

(c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress, the Gulf coastal States, and the Commission on a biennial basis a report on the progress and findings of studies conducted under subsections (a) and (b), and shall make each report available to the public. Each report shall, to the extent practicable, include recommendations on additional actions to be taken to encourage the sustainable conservation and management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery.

SA 3449. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

"SECTION 1__. HUNTING IN KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') may not restrict the use of dogs in deer hunting activities in Kisatchie National Forest (referred to in this section as the 'Forest'), unless the restrictions—

''(1) apply to the smallest practicable portions of the Forest; and

''(2) are necessary to reduce or control trespass onto land adjacent to the Forest.

''(b) PRIOR RESTRICTIONS.—Any restrictions regarding the use of dogs in deer hunting activities in Kisatchie National Forest in force on the date of enactment of this Act shall have no force or effect.

''(c) ADJACENT LANDOWNERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any landowner of land that abuts a unit of the Forest may petition the Secretary to restrict the use of dogs in deer hunting activities that take place on the portion of the Forest that abuts the land of the landowner.

''(2) RESTRICTIONS.—If the Secretary receives a petition from an adjacent landowner under paragraph (1), the Secretary, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, may impose restrictions on the use of dogs in deer hunting—

''(A) limited to the portion of the Forest that is located within 300 yards of the boundary of the land of the landowner; and

''(B) consistent with subsection (a).''.

SA 3450. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Recreational Land Self-Defense Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment of the Constitution provides that ''the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed''.

(2) Section 327.13 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, ''possession of loaded firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons is prohibited'' at water resources development projects administered by the Secretary of the Army.

(3) The regulations described in paragraph (2) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the Second Amendment rights of the individuals while at such water resources development projects.

(4) Federal laws should make it clear that the Second Amendment rights of an individual at a water resources development project should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS AT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—The Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under part 327 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the laws of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SA 3451. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Recreational Land Self-Defense Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

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(3) The regulations described in paragraph (2) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the Second Amendment rights of the individuals while at such water resources development projects.

(4) Federal laws should make it clear that the Second Amendment rights of an individual at a water resources development project should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS AT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—The Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under part 327 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the laws of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SA 3452. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1_____. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not—

(1) finalize the proposed directive of the Forest Service entitled ''Proposed Groundwater Management Directive, Forest Service Manual 2560'' (79 Fed. Reg. 25815 (May 6, 2014)); or

(2) use the directive described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar directive, as the basis for any decision regarding management of groundwater resources on National Forest System land or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the directive described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar directive, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacation of the rule.

SA 3453. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE,

and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1_____. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Secretary of the Army nor the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) finalize the proposed rule entitled ''Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act'' (79 Fed. Reg. 22188 (April 21, 2014)); or

(2) use the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(b) RULES.—The use of the proposed rule described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) shall be grounds for vacation of the final rule, decision, or enforcement action.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in the office of Senator AL FRANKEN, Karen Saxe, be granted floor privileges from July 7, 2014, to July 31, 2014.

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

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2014 second quarter Mass Mailing report is Friday, July 25, 2014. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states ''none.''

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510–7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224–0322.

SUMMER MEALS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 495, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 495) designating July 2014 as ''Summer Meals Awareness Month.''

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 495) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR ALAN JOHN DIXON

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 496.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 496) relative to the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former United States Senator from the State of Illinois.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 496) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2014; 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; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the final 30 minutes; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, postcloture; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and finally, that all time during adjournment, recess, and morning business count postcloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 496 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Alan John Dixon, former U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ROBERT ALAN MCDONALD, OF OHIO, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ERIC K. SHINSEKI, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES K. MCLAUGHLIN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3034:

To be general

GEN. DANIEL B. ALLYN

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

To be general

LT. GEN. MARK A. MILLEY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SEAN B. MACFARLAND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. LASTER

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by the Senate July 7, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

CHERYL ANN KRAUSE, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.