



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018

No. 83

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who fills us with hope even in challenging times, use us to bring Your Kingdom to Earth.

Give to our lawmakers the inner strength to seek the truth and live by Your precepts. Help them to see eternal things amid the tempests of the temporal. Use them to help create a more nonviolent nation and world. Free them from towering self-sufficiency as they habitually place their hope in You. Lord, make them tall enough in moral and spiritual stature to rise above the petty prejudices of our day, depending on You to direct their steps.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Nation watched in horror Friday as a senseless act of violence changed a community forever. The Senate and all Americans stand in mourning, sorrow, and sympathy with the students, fac-

ulty, staff, and families of Santa Fe High School in Texas.

No community should ever be subjected to such horror and heartbreak. Our hearts go out to the families of those killed, to the wounded who continue to battle injuries, to the first responders who leapt into action, and to the Santa Fe community that rallies around them.

VA MISSION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, in the coming days, the Senate will take up landmark legislation on one of our top priorities: providing more options and better care to America's veterans.

The VA MISSION Act is a major milestone in an ongoing effort by Chairman ISAKSON and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to ensure that our Nation fulfills its promises to our men and women in uniform, including more than 300,000 veterans in my home State of Kentucky.

What Senator ISAKSON and his colleagues have put together is one of the most comprehensive reform packages for veterans' healthcare since the VA was created in 1930. It builds on the substantial success of the Veterans Choice Act and harnesses provisions of 15 different Senate-introduced bills. This bill streamlines support systems, expands access to care, and provides new tools for attracting and retraining top caregivers.

The veteran who lives far from a VA facility but needs frequent followup care will now have easier access to local providers and walk-in clinics. The wounded warrior navigating difficult pain management routines will now be served by providers with clearer guidelines for opioid prescriptions. The retired servicemember who relies on a family caregiver will rest assured of expanded eligibility and program benefits for veterans of all eras.

It is hardly surprising that this bill has such a broad bipartisan coalition of

support, including the endorsement of 38 of the Nation's leading veterans advocacy organizations. I look forward enthusiastically to considering it in the coming days.

I urge every one of my colleagues to support this legislation and send it to the President for his signature. It is not merely our duty but our privilege to improve and enhance the care available to those who have given so much.

NOMINATION OF DANA BAIOCO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, later today we will consider the nomination of Dana Baiocco, the President's choice to join the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Ms. Baiocco's résumé speaks for itself. After receiving her J.D. cum laude from Duquesne University, she clerked in the Western District of Pennsylvania before launching an impressive career in private practice.

For two decades she has stood at the center of complicated cases and gained national recognition for her mastery of the legal questions surrounding consumer safety. This experience makes Ms. Baiocco an ideal candidate to help the CPSC protect consumers effectively and efficiently without imposing unnecessary barriers to free enterprise.

Testifying before our colleagues on the Commerce Committee, she pledged to seek that balance with "transparency" and an "open door policy" and to remain "guided by the rule of law."

I look forward to advancing this qualified nominee when we vote this afternoon and urge all of my colleagues to join me.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2781

CRA RESOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, earlier today, President Trump signed into law a Congressional Review Act resolution that repealed a particularly egregious overreach by President Obama's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Federal regulators found a loophole, skipped the standard period for review and public comment, and issued unilateral guidance that made life needlessly complicated for the American auto industry and its customers.

Thanks to Senator TOOMEY's tenacity, the GAO ruled that this intrusion did indeed constitute rulemaking that ought to be subject to congressional review. So Congress got to have its say. Accountability won out in the end. Thanks to this resolution from Senator MORAN, yet another onerous regulation is now headed to the wastebasket.

Our record use of CRAs is just one of the tools Republicans are using to get Washington out of the way of American workers and job creators. Republican tax reform is providing historic tax cuts for middle-class families and small businesses, and it repealed the individual mandate penalty at the heart of ObamaCare.

Tomorrow, the House will vote on the Senate-passed legislation championed by Senator CRAPO, which will give community banks and credit unions relief from the crushing burden of complying with Dodd-Frank.

Of course, in the executive branch, the President's team has turned the page on the last administration's hostility toward American business. The result is a palpable shift that is improving the entire economy.

Back in 2013, more than three-quarters of U.S. manufacturers said that a hostile climate due to taxes and regulation was a major business obstacle. Three-quarters of the U.S. manufacturers said that in 2013. Today, 16 months into the unified Republican government, fewer than 20 percent say that. It went from 75 percent who were concerned about taxes and regulations in 2013 down to 20 percent today. Nearly 95 percent are optimistic about their future economic prospects.

Everyone is taking notice. Here is a New York Times headline from a few months ago: "The Trump Effect: Business, Anticipating Less Regulation, Loosens Purse Strings." That is from the New York Times.

One Texas homebuilder told reporters, "It's an overall sense that you are not going to face any new regulatory fights."

There is more investment, more prosperity, more job openings, and higher wages all across the country. Good things happen when Republican policies get Washington out of the American people's way.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NAFTA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am here today to discuss new legislation to help Puerto Rico gain a stronger fiscal footing, but before turning to that, I would like to make a few comments regarding the current NAFTA trade talks.

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of discussion in the press about potential deadlines for concluding negotiations on NAFTA. While speculation about timelines is natural, let me be clear. As I have said from the beginning of these talks, the most important thing for determining when and how Congress will vote on an eventual North American Free Trade Agreement outcome is the quality of the agreement.

I understand that the current negotiations are about an existing agreement that American businesses and workers rely on in dealing with two of our largest trading partners. I understand that continuing negotiations means a level of uncertainty about these important relationships will continue to persist. Nevertheless, it is critical that the administration take the time necessary to get these negotiations right. I believe the administration understands that.

A modernized NAFTA will help American businesses and workers only if it includes strong and enforceable protections for America's creators and innovators, supports cross-border data flows, and maintains and expands market access for American goods and services exporters to the Canadian and Mexican markets.

The bottom line: Substance is what matters, and we should not allow other considerations to impede achieving our goals.

I am confident that with continued discussions between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, we can create a strong agreement that will meet the high standards set by Congress in trade promotion authority. I will continue to support the administration in achieving that outcome.

PUERTO RICO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ACT

Mr. President, having said my piece about NAFTA, I would like to turn to

the main purpose for which I am standing here.

Last Thursday, I introduced a bill, cosponsored by Senator RUBIO, titled the Puerto Rico Economic Empowerment Act of 2018. The bill works to help the people in Puerto Rico as they continue to face a stagnant economy and recover from massive damage caused by recent hurricanes.

This bill will be a critical step toward resurrecting growth in Puerto Rico. It directly targets relief to Puerto Ricans themselves and small businesses on the island.

In brief, the bill provides the following: First, the bill provides a payroll tax holiday for employees in Puerto Rico for 2 years, cutting their payroll taxes in half in order to give economic relief to the hard-working people of Puerto Rico who face an economy that has been stagnant and mismanaged for far too long.

Second, the bill provides equal treatment with respect to the Federal child tax credit for Puerto Rican families with one or two children, not just for those who have three or more. This will provide more equitable treatment for Puerto Rican families with respect to the Federal child tax credit, to help families to reduce child poverty.

Third, the bill provides greater flexibility for Puerto Rico in various Small Business Administration programs to assist Puerto Rico's small business owners during a time of prolonged economic downturn.

Fourth, the bill confronts the long-standing problem in trying to monitor Puerto Rico's economy, which stems from lack of inclusion of Puerto Rico in many Federal statistical surveys. The bill also calls for the establishment of a Federal statistical research data center in Puerto Rico.

These and other provisions in the bill follow recommendations of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico. I had the opportunity of chairing that task force with four Members from the House and four Members from the Senate. We also made sure the task force was evenly split with regard to political affiliation. I know such even-handed bipartisanship and compromise is rare around here, but we were able to do it, and we came up with a 125-page report that made many different suggestions. Not wanting that work to go to waste, Senator RUBIO and I have been working hard to draft those proposals into this bill, and I am confident it truly embodies the purpose and bipartisan spirit of that bicameral task force. Although I do not have a score on the bill yet, previous scores on similar provisions would add up to over \$3.25 billion in relief, largely in tax relief to our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico. Once I obtain an updated score, I will recalibrate the offset accordingly, if necessary.

In the meantime, the fiscal cost of the bill is entirely offset by redirecting funds from the Prevention and Public

Health Fund established under the so-called Affordable Care Act. Redirecting from that fund helped provide offsets for the 21st Century Cures Act and for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, both of which received bipartisan support.

I hope all of my colleagues can join Senator RUBIO and me in support of this bill. After all, our prior efforts have not solved many of the ongoing issues in Puerto Rico. For example, toward the end of 2015, we passed PROMESA into law.

PROMESA was the result of the efforts by the Obama administration officials to share in Puerto Rico's outstanding debt obligations. It largely took their bankruptcy scheme but usefully added provisions intended to spark economic development in Puerto Rico, particularly in the energy space. One promise of PROMESA touted by the Obama administration officials was that it would circumvent a viscous and wasteful sequence of lawsuits. Theoretically, the law was going to stop creditors and the government of Puerto Rico from facing off in prolonged court battles.

I voted for PROMESA because Puerto Rico's long span of fiscal irresponsibility needed to be stopped, and a promise of limiting litigation was inviting. Unfortunately, the law has failed to prevent a tidal wave of litigation as was promised.

PROMESA also set up an oversight board to facilitate voluntary debt resolution negotiations or movement of disputes to a court-supervised, bankruptcy-like process. The promise of voluntary debt resolutions has not been fulfilled, even for a restructuring agreement between creditors and Puerto Rico's power authority called PREPA, which had been agreed upon by both sides.

The oversight board was also intended to oversee and monitor budgets for the various indebted arms of the government of Puerto Rico. On this front, I have also been disappointed as it seems the oversight board has largely been operating in the dark, often relying on the government of Puerto Rico for information of questionable validity. That said, I am not without hope. The oversight board has recently been slightly more aggressive in its demands for transparency from the government of Puerto Rico, and I hope they are successful in obtaining useful, verifiable information.

However, the government of Puerto Rico has been and remains largely opaque. As just one example, I have asked government officials in Puerto Rico for audited financial statements for nearly 3 years now. Let me repeat that. I have been waiting nearly 3 years for audited financial statements from Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, the government of Puerto Rico has not provided audited financial information since fiscal year 2014. This is obviously problematic when trying to figure out how to best help Puerto Rico, and this is

not a one-off issue. Recently, following numerous claims by government officials in Puerto Rico of severe, even crisis-level liquidity shortages, Puerto Rico finally got around to looking into hundreds of scattered government bank accounts and revealed late last year that it found nearly \$7 billion of stranded cash. This is just one of many examples of how disorganized and inconsistent accounting continues to prevail in Puerto Rico, damaging the credibility of the government, but it doesn't end there.

There have recently been attempts by the government in Puerto Rico to potentially politicize the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics. Obviously, this is concerning. In a report by the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, Members of Congress from both Chambers and both sides of the aisle expressed that the Institute of Statistics "has emerged as a highly professional, autonomous, and apolitical organization that is bringing greater transparency to economic, financial and fiscal conditions on the island." Indeed, a recommendation of the task force was for the institute to continue to protect its independence. Unfortunately, the institute has been forced to litigate its independence, given an ill-conceived effort by the government of Puerto Rico to overhaul and potentially politicize the institute.

I know there is bipartisan support for our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico. Indeed, I heard a lot of support by Members on the floor following the devastating hurricanes that hit the island. Some Members seemed genuinely concerned, while others seemed more interested in trying to cast doubts on or politicize the disaster response from the Federal Government led by the administration. Nonetheless, I remain committed to working with anyone from either side to help and support the people of Puerto Rico.

However, that work must involve compromise and mutual understanding of each other's concerns, and that has not always been the case, in my view. I have tried to work to provide tax relief to people in Puerto Rico. Yet I continue to hear from some, including former Obama administration officials, that I must include access for Puerto Rico to the earned-income tax credit.

I have been clear about my concerns that administration of such a provision carries with it many possible problems, as highlighted by a report by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation. Moreover, Puerto Rico already had its own earned-income tax credit, which it subsequently did away with. It seems to want to resurrect the idea now, and they have every right and ability to institute such a credit on the island. However, I cannot support the "advice" from some that I must support a provision involving cutting a big check from the Federal general fund to the government of Puerto Rico for them to administer such a credit.

I also cannot support the views of some in Puerto Rico, including govern-

ment officials, that they were somehow left out of our tax reform efforts because they did not receive a special carve-out unavailable to anyone else.

Subsidiaries of firms headquartered in the United States that are organized as controlled foreign corporations in Puerto Rico for Federal tax purposes were treated the same as similarly situated taxpayers anywhere else. In addition, if being somehow left out of tax reform means provisions to provide some sort of tax haven status, as some in Puerto Rico asked for, then I think proponents of such a view do not understand recent history. In my more than 40 years in the Senate, I have always been a proud advocate of accountability and oversight. That is why I support greater transparency in the Puerto Rican government, as well as the oversight board.

I also support ongoing Federal efforts, including those of the Treasury Department, to carefully and closely monitor Federal funds provided to Puerto Rico for disaster and other relief. As always, we owe a duty to taxpayers to prudently safeguard their hard-earned dollars from being channeled to inefficient or wasteful uses.

These and other reasons are why, in conjunction with Senator RUBIO and anyone else here who wishes to join us, I am advocating for the provisions contained in the Puerto Rico Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 that I introduced.

Let me end by reiterating that I want to work on a bipartisan basis and in the spirit of compromise with anyone in this Chamber to help our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico. Truly, theirs is an uphill battle as they continue to face many different adversities. That has been the case for years, and I hope we can set our troublesome partisan politicking aside and get to work.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Friday morning there was yet another shooting in a school in America. Another community was torn apart by senseless violence. It was another week when parents must bury their children. We are still learning the tragic details of what happened in Santa Fe, but the basic reality in America remains unchanged: Far too many people are dying from gun violence.

What we need now more than ever is real, substantive debate on gun violence in America—a real debate about universal background checks, a real debate about protective orders, and a real

debate on regulating assault weapons, which are often the weapon of choice in the most deadly mass shootings.

In the wake of Parkland, it looked like President Trump would finally get religion on this issue. He promised a serious debate on gun violence, but as soon as the NRA and their special interest cronies closed ranks around him, he backed off. That seems to be the pattern of this administration. The President says something one day, and then some powerful interest says: Don't do it, and he backs right off. That is not the kind of strength he wishes to show, and he sure hasn't shown it on this issue.

After this most recent tragedy in Santa Fe, we have heard no new calls for commonsense gun safety from the White House, but this Chamber can still act. I implore my friends across the aisle to take up this debate. We owe it to the people of Santa Fe, TX, to the people of Parkland, FL, and to every other community that lives at the mercy of the gaping loopholes in our gun laws.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Mr. President, on the matter of ongoing trade negotiations with China, as I have said many times, when it comes to being tough on China's trading practices, I am closer to President Trump than to either President Obama or President Bush. I think the President recognized that fact in a tweet this morning.

When President Trump threatened tariffs and investment restrictions in the face of China's blatant theft and extortion of our intellectual property, I gave the President a pat on the back. Our companies need to be able to sell our goods and services in China without having to turn over intellectual property.

I have mentioned this before, but here is one example that pains me, and it is so typical. GE employs thousands in Schenectady. They have intellectual property and know-how to make turbines spin very fast and not overheat, but China wouldn't let them sell them. So what did they do? The Chinese blackmailed them, and GE went along. There is a 51-49 company that now makes those turbines in China. That is great for the heads of GE, great for their board, and great for the stock for a few years. But after that, once China—now in this 51-49 company—has learned how to make these turbines themselves, we are gone. More good-paying jobs could be lost in upstate New York, as they have been throughout America.

President Trump's actions at first helped bring China to the table, but now President Trump and his team have to stick with it, be strong, and negotiate a strong, concrete agreement. The worst thing to do would be to sell out for a one-time, temporary purchase of goods without addressing the real issue: the theft of intellectual property and know-how, which costs us millions of American jobs.

Unfortunately, it seems too strong a possibility that President Trump is headed down the road of not being strong. The President said this morning: "China has agreed to buy massive amounts of ADDITIONAL Farm/Agricultural products." Secretary Mnuchin, hardly a tower of strength on this issue, has said that the administration would "follow this up" on this vague commitment and that \$150 billion in proposed tariffs would be put "on hold."

It is deeply disappointing that thus far President Trump has won no concessions on intellectual property and has locked in no new market access. In reality, there were not even specific commitments of U.S. good purchases, not that such a commitment would undo the damage China continues to do to us in its other activities.

If nothing else changes, this deal is a win-win for China. They avoid tough actions on intellectual property and give us some temporary and relatively small relief by buying some goods. China's trade negotiators must be laughing themselves all the way back to Beijing. They know what they are doing. They are playing us for fools. A temporary purchase of some goods, while China continues to steal our family jewels, the things that have made America great, the intellectual property, the know-how in the highest end industries—it makes no sense. China is pushing the President around, and he seems to accept it.

Worse still, the President's team is still talking about giving relief to China's state-backed telecommunications giant, ZTE, a company that violated our sanctions laws and is considered a national security threat. It is totally backward. The way to win real concessions from China is to stay tough, not to bluster and then back off at the first sign of friction.

So I say to President Trump, who knows I genuinely want him to succeed with China: Stay strong. Don't back off sanctions on ZTE. You have to pursue the course, or China will continue to enjoy the upper hand.

Congress also has a say on this issue. I was gratified to see that last week, Democrats and Republicans, in a House Appropriations subcommittee, approved a measure that would block the President from weakening sanctions on ZTE. Senate Democrats will also consider additional measures, if necessary, to block relief for ZTE, and we hope our Republican colleagues will join us in that effort.

The United States cannot let China continue to steal America's lifeblood, our intellectual property, and flout international trade laws. If President Trump doesn't get tough with them now, China will know he is willing to back down at the first sign of resistance. It will be a sad day for America—for America's workers, for our future wealth, and for our future prosperity. It will help make China replace us as No. 1. It is crucial.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Finally, Mr. President, on the probe into Putin's interference in our elections, in a series of tweets yesterday, President Trump demanded that the Justice Department start a counterinvestigation of the Russia investigation itself. That he would issue such an absurd and abusive demand based on no evidence shows just how little regard the President has for the rule of law.

President Trump seems to have the terribly misguided view that the Department of Justice is there to protect his political interests and prosecute his enemies. It is not. The Department of Justice is required to follow the law, not the political bidding of the President's, particularly when they are investigating him.

The President's demand is a blatant abuse of Executive power, an ill-informed, sloppy attempt to discredit a duly-constituted investigation led by the special counsel. As we speak, the President is reportedly meeting with Justice Department officials to press his case, even after they have already called on the inspector general to look into this matter. The President's behavior is the kind of grossly autocratic behavior we would expect in a banana republic, not a mature democracy. By now, we should all recognize that President Trump's latest demand is just another example of a relentless campaign to distract from the serious wrongdoing being uncovered by the Russia probe.

This weekend, it was reported that members of President Trump's inner circle met with emissaries and companies from several other foreign countries during the campaign to discuss manipulation of American voters in order to sway the election. This is exactly what our Founding Fathers feared—attempts by foreign capitals to influence American elections. As a reaction, the President does what he always does when faced with alarming news about the conduct of his campaign and the people in it: He kicks up dust. He tries to distract. He issues a flurry of tweets pointing people in every direction. That is all this demand for a counterinvestigation is—another distraction.

With sadness and some reluctance, I must add that a good deal of the blame for the President's undemocratic behavior lies with congressional Republicans who have engaged in a scorched-earth campaign to discredit the Justice Department broadly and the special investigation specifically. Representative NUNES has been at the center of much of this campaign, but the circle of blame is widening. PAUL RYAN is not doing his duty when he just stands aside and lets NUNES and his cohorts do what they are doing.

Members of the majority here in the Senate have recently demanded that the DOJ hand over copious amounts of information and documents—including potential evidence—about an ongoing criminal investigation. Any prosecutor

would tell you that is not how criminal investigations operate. It is hard to view these requests as anything but a coordinated campaign with the White House to interfere with or impede Mr. Mueller's investigation. Frankly, these kinds of actions are enabling and encouraging the President to test the bounds of the rule of law in this country. When the President sees Republicans in Congress go after the special counsel investigation, he feels even more emboldened, and that is a shame for our country, broadly defined in history.

There is a disturbing trend emerging. Chairman NUNES and the Republicans on the Hill concoct a plan to tear down the chain of command of the Mueller investigation. They feed it to the right-wing press, which churns out innuendo-laden and often factually inaccurate story after story. The President tweets, and the fringe conspiracy theories of far-right Republicans in Congress land themselves on the front pages of mainstream media outlets, all in the service of the President's despicable attempt to distract and deflect from the legitimate probe into Russia's interference in our elections.

Republican, Democrat, Independent—it shouldn't matter—all Americans should want Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and Special Counsel Mueller to continue the Russia probe and follow the facts to their conclusion without interference and without intimidation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, to my shock and surprise, 10 people were killed Friday in a little town outside of Houston known as Santa Fe, at Santa Fe High School, about 20 miles northwest of Galveston, TX. As we know now, a male student walked into an art class with a pistol and a shotgun that he got from his parents, perhaps without their knowledge. After stashing makeshift explosives elsewhere, he then engaged in a killing spree. The dead included eight students and two teachers. A brave police officer was among the 13 wounded.

When I heard of the shooting, I made plans to immediately go to Santa Fe, where I met with Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Senator CRUZ, and others, and we spoke to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the FBI representatives, as well as the Santa Fe Independent School District officials to find out what happened. The families there, of

course, remain in shock that something so terrible could happen in their small, tucked away little community—one that was recently shaken by Hurricane Harvey last fall and had previously seemed far removed from the violence that has touched other parts of the country.

As I said last Friday, we have seen this before. Just last fall, we saw a similar story unfold in Sutherland Springs, outside of San Antonio, when a man opened fire at a Sunday church service. Then we saw it in Florida earlier this year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland. Unfortunately, in recent years there have been plenty of examples—too many examples, actually—with too many lives lost and far too few solutions for families reeling from the aftermath.

There are two things that strike me are clear, though. The first is that we need to better protect our students, secure our schools, and keep weapons out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves and others. The second thing is to acknowledge that we haven't yet been able to do this effectively. Something is wrong, because these school shootings keep happening.

It is no coincidence that these shootings mostly happen at public schools—or soft targets—and the shooters are usually male teenagers who attended these schools. These young people, I should add, are surrounded by a culture that condemns violence, on one hand, excoriating public officials for not doing more to prevent it, but celebrating violence on television, in movies, and in video games, which at least has the potential to desensitize especially vulnerable young people.

Many proposals on how to address this pervasive problem focus on the guns themselves, not on the individuals who actually use them. They focus on restricting access to guns or banning specific firearm components for even law-abiding citizens. But any proposed fixes must also consider the root nature of the problem; that is, the deranged minds, the twisted rationalizations, and the tragic decisions of the people who commit these terrible acts of violence.

These shooters are obviously incapable of self-regulating their own behavior. How could we possibly address that? That is part of what we need to be thinking about. A gun can kill someone only if a person—a very sick or a very bad person—pulls the trigger.

So what have we done here in Congress to try to respond, as incompletely as I know we have? Well, last year, we introduced a bill called the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act, which was signed by President Obama in 2016. It is part of the answer. It provides more resources for communities and schools and mental health providers to deal with people before they become a danger to themselves or others. But there is more we can do, certainly in that space. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Cen-

ter has expanded the use of technology that can help us better utilize telemedicine to reach out to those in a mental health crisis and offer them an alternative course of treatment when they don't otherwise have access. We should consider that and other ideas in the days ahead.

The parents that lost their sons and daughters at Santa Fe High School are obviously still grieving today, and we should be grieving as well, not only for the people who lost their lives but also for the state of our Nation—one that continues to watch its young people self-destruct, engaging in violence that takes the lives of brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, friends, and classmates.

We have been told in recent days that grief and prayers are not enough. I agree. It is not enough to send our condolences to communities like Santa Fe. We need to look the families of the victims in the eyes and say: Here are the concrete steps we have taken and intend to take to make sure something like this never happens again.

I believe we did that earlier this year on a broad, bipartisan basis by passing legislation called the Fix NICS Act. Passing that bill was important because the last time I saw a major shooting in my State, it was at Sutherland Springs, where a man who had been discharged less than honorably from the Air Force for domestic violence convictions fell through the cracks of our background check system. He was able to lie and buy a firearm, even though, under existing law, he was disqualified and prohibited from doing so. But because of the broken background check system, he was able to get away with it. Our Fix NICS Act will help to fix that broken background check system. It was widely supported by Republicans and Democrats. We had 78 cosponsors in the Senate alone, demonstrating that solutions can enjoy broad bipartisan support if they actually make sense as opposed to engaging in ideological battles.

I am glad Congress worked together also to pass the STOP School Violence Act earlier this year, which I was proud to cosponsor. This legislation will help to provide our schools with the tools and resources they need to prevent violence through better equipment, planning, training, safety infrastructure, and law enforcement presence on campus. In this year's appropriations bill, we were able to allocate \$75 million to start getting this initiative off the ground.

Now, people wonder: Can we possibly do this? Can we succeed in making our schools a safe place for mothers and fathers to send their children and where they are confident that everything humanly possible is being done to protect them? Well, I am not suggesting that we turn them into an airport, but my colleagues will recall that post-9/11, we have hardened our airports and our Nation's air travel in such a way as to make it virtually impervious to terrorist attacks. I think given the proper

attention, the creative thinking, and the proper resources, we can also come together and make our schools impervious to this sort of attack in the future. If we can do it at our Nation's airports against terrorist attacks, we can do it in our communities and in our local high schools.

Finally—and thank goodness—we have seen the Justice Department prioritize firearm prosecutions with the number of defendants charged with unlawful possession increasing significantly over the past few years. This is because of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who has made this a priority, and thank goodness for that. It has long been overdue. U.S. attorneys are now focused on enforcing laws that criminalize gun buyers who lie on their Federal background check. Previously, somebody could come in and lie on the background check, get caught, and nothing would ever happen to them. Now, thanks to the Attorney General and the U.S. attorneys, people are being prosecuted for lying, acting as a further deterrent on people who are felons or otherwise disqualified from legally purchasing firearms. And vehicles like Project Safe Neighborhoods, which the Senate passed unanimously last week, would fund task forces that target serious firearm offenders and get them off the streets.

All of this is a good start, but the shooting in Santa Fe shows we have a long way to go because every one of these shootings seems to be a little bit different.

Obviously, in Sutherland Springs, the failure seemed to be a background check system which allowed the shooter to buy a firearm, lie on the background check system, and not get caught. In places like Las Vegas, the bump stock allowed the person to essentially turn a semiautomatic rifle into an automatic weapon, which was otherwise illegal. We all learned about bump stocks. As an avid shooter and hunter myself, I had never heard about it before. Now the President has taken care of that problem.

We have acted in the wake of Parkland, FL, to try to ensure we get resources to our schools so they can better protect their students and deal with other aspects of this challenge, but we need to be more methodical in figuring out the solutions, then seeing what, if any, solutions would have actually prevented a shooting, and then look to see if those same proposals would have prevented other similar events.

In the case of Santa Fe, we know the shooter was somewhat socially withdrawn, but he was also a high school athlete and involved in his church. He posted troubling pictures and statements on social media, but as Governor Abbott said, he was not your typical troubled youth who people guessed one day might snap.

We also know Santa Fe High School had lockdown drills recently and that police officers were stationed on cam-

pus. Both of these likely prevented the event from becoming much worse; so good for them for the lockdown drills and having police officers on campus. We should be grateful for that, even in the wake of so much violence that leaves us with so many unanswered questions.

One of the two officers who rushed in to stop the shooter was John Barnes, who was, himself, shot by the gunman. He is a former Houston police officer who now works for the Santa Fe Independent School District. I am told his heart stopped twice while doctors and paramedics were trying to stem his bleeding, but he is a fighter and he held on. He is now in critical but stable condition in Galveston. We, of course, appreciate him and all other first responders and the other officers who courageously confronted the shooter and saved other lives. We wish Officer Barnes and his entire family the best as he fully recovers from his injury.

Another hero who has emerged, from accounts of the shooting, is Christopher Stone, a 17-year-old junior who, once the shooting started, blocked the classroom door, protecting his fellow students from the gunman. Tragically, when the gunman shot through the door, Christopher Stone was hit, and he did not survive, but we will remember him and all the other lives which were lost this week as we pledge to do better, to work harder, to work together, and to find new ways to protect our schools and our children from harm.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I rise to speak today in the wake of another tragic school shooting. This time, it was in Texas. Ten innocent people—eight students and two teachers—were gunned down Friday when a gunman walked into a high school in East Texas and opened fire.

Tragedies such as this are becoming too common in our society. At some point, we have to say enough is enough. How many times have we said that? Just 3 months ago, I stood right here on the Senate floor after 17 people were killed at MSD High School in Parkland, FL. I pleaded with our colleagues to set aside partisan politics and work together to enact commonsense reforms that will help make what happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School a pivotal moment in our Nation's history—not because it was one of the deadliest school shootings, but because back then, 3 months ago, it was the last one. I hoped it would be the last one.

I am so proud of the students who spoke out and the parents who spoke

out, such as Fred Guttenberg, whose daughter was gunned down as she was trying to flee at the other end of the hall. That bullet from that AR-15 caught her right in the spinal cord just as she was about to exit the hall. I thank Fred and others who have been speaking out, especially the students—so eloquent, so bold.

We all hoped that the shooting in Parkland was going to be the last one, but it was not. Here we go again. With the tragedy that took place in Parkland so fresh in our minds, here we go again. Our students deserve better. You have seen the articles since Friday's shooting about how students are frightened that their school will be next. Our schools and our communities deserve better. America deserves better than this. Our students certainly deserve better.

Since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting, this Congress has passed two bills into law—only two. While this Senator supported both of those, they alone are not nearly enough. We can and we must do more.

You have heard me say over and over that we need to ban assault weapons and the long clips. We need to close the gun show loophole. We need a comprehensive, universal background check for the sale or the transfer of any firearm, regardless of where it is purchased.

By the way, those comprehensive background checks would have picked up red flags on the shooter in Parkland, who had some real mental problems. They would have also picked up the shooter in the Orlando Pulse nightclub 2 years ago because he had been on the terrorist watch list and had been taken off. If those kinds of things are picked up in a comprehensive background search, then—when a person goes to buy a gun, those kinds of things will be picked up.

We also need to do more to provide our students with access to the mental health professionals they need. Because of the NRA locking down their votes, if we are not going to get anything on assault weapons or the gun show loophole or a comprehensive background check, then surely we ought to be able to come together in a bipartisan way to do something about mental health.

I have met with parents and teachers and students across the State of Florida, and the one topic that keeps coming up is the lack of mental health services available to our children. How true is that in society at large? We are talking about school violence perpetrated by other students.

You will not like this statistic. Florida has 1 school psychologist for about every 2,000 students. That is according to a report from the Florida Association of School Psychologists. If you compare that to the nationally recommended ratio of 1 psychologist for every 500 to 700 students, that means Florida only has about one-fourth of the number of school psychologists it needs to properly care for its students—one-fourth, 25 percent. And that

is just Florida. Nationally, 35 million children in this country have had at least 1 traumatic experience, and nearly two-thirds of children have been exposed to violence. That is why we have another piece of legislation that Senators cosponsored to provide better care to children and their families who have experienced trauma.

We have finally done something with regard to PTSD and our veterans. Everybody understands that you don't actually have to get an injury to have PTSD. As a matter of fact, it can manifest itself years later. We are getting mental health counseling for our veterans, particularly those who have come home from a war zone.

Are these children now experiencing a war zone? Is the trauma they are experiencing at ages 12 through 17, at that tender age, not comparable to some of the trauma our young soldiers are now experiencing?

If we are going to be serious about curbing this type of violence that we are going to continue to see in children's schools—oh Lordy, we hoped that Parkland was the last one, but it was not, and there are going to be more. If we are going to be serious about this, we must hire more school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other mental health professionals to get ahead of the problem and ensure that any student who needs help is able to get it.

Later this week, midweek, I will be introducing legislation aimed at doing exactly that—increasing the number of mental health professionals in our children's schools across the country. Kids suffering from trauma or depression or any other sort of mental problems shouldn't be denied the help they need because the school or the school district can't afford it.

The bill I will file on Wednesday—I hope with a whole bunch of Senators sponsoring—will provide grants to colleges and universities that set up programs to train future school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other mental health professionals in the school districts that need them the most. It will create a Federal student loan forgiveness program for mental health professionals who take jobs in the districts that need them. That has often been a problem—not only the supply but getting the supply in the school districts that need them. This is not unlike the loan forgiveness we give to government workers or to, for example, doctors who will serve, practice, in an underserved area, such as a rural area. We do it for those professionals; let's do it for the mental health workers who are desperately needed in underserved areas, such as—which is obviously becoming apparent—our schools.

When we give our students the tools they need to succeed, such as access to mental health treatment, everyone is going to benefit. Our students know this. They have been asking for our help to make these services more available. Parents, teachers, and school ad-

ministrators across the country know this, too, and they are pleading for Congress to act.

Let's give our schools and our communities the help they need, the help they have been asking for. Let's start taking steps today to change the course in which the country finds itself with another school shooting last Friday. I hope many Senators cosponsor this legislation. We can't allow what happened in Parkland, FL, and in Santa Fe, TX, to become the new normal in this country. We have to do more to protect our kids in school and ensure that any student who needs mental health services is able to get those services.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, James E. Risch, John Thune, Todd Young, John Hoeven, Cory Gardner, David Perdue.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Harris	Murray
Bennet	Hassan	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Heitkamp	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Jones	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Duckworth	McCaIn	Tester

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Baiocco nomination be considered expired at 12 noon tomorrow; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 12 noon tomorrow: a vote on the confirmation of the Baiocco nomination for the CPSC, followed by a cloture vote on the veterans' healthcare bill.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING BILL MILLER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to a true legend in South Louisville, KY: Pleasure

Ridge Park High School Baseball coach Bill Miller. The winningest coach in the history of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, Bill unfortunately passed away after a yearslong struggle with cancer at 68.

Pleasure Ridge Park High School, or PRP as we all call it, was Bill's home away from home. He spent 50 years of his life there as a student, an assistant coach, and, ultimately, for nearly four decades, as head baseball coach. Working with the students, Bill influenced countless lives and helped prepare young people for adulthood. The school's athletic director Nick Waddell said, "He was like a father to so many people."

Bill attended the University of Alabama after graduating from PRP, playing baseball and one season of football. Leaving Tuscaloosa, Bill returned to his hometown and to his high school as an assistant coach. Then, in 1980, Bill was named PRP's second head baseball coach.

For the next 38 seasons, Bill's team dominated baseball in Kentucky winning a record 1,144 games, including six State championships. Baseball was Bill's passion, but it was more than just a game. On the diamond, Bill saw it as his responsibility to help make boys into men. He taught them the values of hard work, of competition, and how to leave it all on the field.

Two and half years ago, when Bill was diagnosed, he refused to let his disease stop him. He kept coaching and mentoring, even winning his sixth State championship last year. When he couldn't coach, Bill would be there on the sidelines, supporting his team.

Last month, Bill was inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Although he wasn't able to attend the ceremony, he recorded a message to his players, his fans, and his friends. Dozens of current and former players, many of whom consider Bill to be a role model throughout their lives, attended the ceremony to honor their coach.

When he passed away on April 23, Bill was surrounded by his loving family and friends. In addition to all of his players, Bill is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Vickie, and their children, Matt and Megan. Following in Bill's footsteps, Megan is in her 15th season as the head softball coach at PRP. Coach Bill Miller's legacy will continue to be felt by this community, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable Louisvillian.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.

On this vote, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.●

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 102 on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608, the nomination of Dana Baiocco to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of 7 years from October 27, 2017. On vote No. 102, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.●

CONFIRMATION OF GINA HASPEL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to discuss my decision to vote against the President's nomination of Gina Haspel to be the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

First, let me state that I have immense respect for the men and women of the CIA. I have had the opportunity to meet many of them and to personally offer my thanks in some of the world's most dangerous locations. Their work is difficult and demanding but critical to helping safeguard our nation.

I do not question Ms. Haspel's patriotism, intellect, or dedication to the CIA. She has ably served the agency and several Administrations, both Democratic and Republican. Ms. Haspel is clearly a committed professional.

I welcome Ms. Haspel's statement of support for the "stricter moral standard" legislatively imposed by Congress with respect to interrogation policies and her admission that, in hindsight, the use of coercive interrogation techniques was a mistake. However, I remain troubled that Ms. Haspel failed to clearly articulate a view that the use of coercive interrogation techniques, including waterboarding, was immoral.

As discussed in a 2008 report by the Senate Armed Services Committee, the CIA's so-called enhanced interrogation techniques were based on Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape, or SERE, techniques used to train members of our military to resist torture. There are those who defend the use of such techniques by the CIA because similar techniques were previously used on our own troops during training activities. However, this argument ignores the fact that coercive interrogation techniques were never intended to be used by U.S. interrogators to gain actionable intelligence. Rather, the SERE techniques, which are based on Communist Chinese interrogation methods used during the Korean War to elicit false confessions, were developed to expose U.S. soldiers to the abusive treatment they might be subjected to if captured by our enemies.

There is simply no comparison between the use of such SERE techniques in a controlled environment to train U.S. military personnel to resist tor-

ture by an immoral enemy and their use by the CIA to interrogate detainees after 9/11. There is also no basis for any assertion that they are an effective means to gather intelligence, given their original purpose.

Some have suggested that Ms. Haspel is being held to a higher standard than that of former Director Brennan, who similarly served in leadership positions at the CIA at the same time as the creation and operation of the detention and interrogation program. During his confirmation process, former Director Brennan stated that he was aware of the program during his time at the CIA, but "did not play a role in its creation, execution, or oversight." He also testified, under oath, that he raised significant concerns and "personal objections" to colleagues at the time and stated that waterboarding is "reprehensible" and inconsistent with American values.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for Ms. Haspel. There is a lot the public doesn't know about Ms. Haspel due to the CIA's selective declassification of her record, but we do know that she joined the CIA's Counterterrorism Center soon after 9/11 and held various leadership positions in the Directorate of Operations that oversaw the detention and interrogation program. We also know that Ms. Haspel continues to be unwilling to make statements similar to those of former Director Brennan condemning the use of torture.

Lastly, we know that Ms. Haspel supported the destruction of evidence, namely 92 videotapes documenting waterboarding and other coercive interrogation techniques by CIA officers and contractors, despite known objections from superiors at the CIA and the White House. That alone should cause serious, bipartisan concern. Ms. Haspel's claim that she was just following orders is deeply flawed. It may be true that there was no legal prohibition on the destruction of the interrogation tapes, but that does not mean it was moral and ethical, particularly in light of known objections from various senior stakeholders.

At the hearing, I asked Ms. Haspel if she believed the destruction of the tapes was insubordinate, and she declined to describe it as such. Her refusal to clearly acknowledge and repudiate that error, even in retrospect, sets a troubling precedent that could be cited by other CIA officials to justify their own questionable behavior in the future, including those under her supervision.

Never has it been so important to have a Director of the CIA that is willing and capable of speaking truth to power. Ms. Haspel was nominated to lead the CIA by a President prone to misinformation and who, repeatedly, has advocated for the use of U.S. power and capabilities in ways that are inconsistent with U.S. values, including killing the families of terrorists.

I am glad that Ms. Haspel has committed not to restart a detention and

interrogation program under her leadership, but I retain serious doubts that she would stand up to President Trump if he directed her to carry out another legal, but morally questionable activity in the future. Taken together, Ms. Haspel's lack of transparency, unwillingness to repudiate torture, and inability to learn from past mistakes do not give me confidence that she is the right person to lead the CIA. I, therefore, voted no on her nomination.

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it is with sadness and reflection that I take a moment today to remember the shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield, OR, 20 years ago.

At the time, we thought of Thurston as a tragic anomaly and not as the forerunner of the horrific epidemic of gun violence in our schools we are living today. This plague rips away the lives of children and teachers, forever wounding the body and spirit of entire communities which never truly heal.

Twenty years have passed since a 15-year-old Thurston student went to his school, after killing his parents in their home, and opened fire on his classmates, but the rollcall of mass shootings and gun violence continues to grow. In my own home State of Oregon, in the past 20 years, we endured Thurston, Reynolds High School, Clackamas Town Center, and Umpqua Community College, among other acts of gun violence. Every time, we say this will be the last, and every time, it is not.

Even one, the shooting at Thurston, is too long a list, in my book; yet, tragically this epidemic of gun violence struck yet another community just last week in Santa Fe, Texas.

The students, teachers, families, and communities devastated by the mass shootings at Thurston, Newtown, Parkland, Santa Fe, and all of those not listed here deserve and rightfully demand so much more than thoughts and prayers.

They demand action. Congress must push back against special interests that have blocked every reasonable effort to protect our children and communities from gun violence. Congress must finally honor the lives lost and those many lives that have been so irrevocably altered by passing common sense gun laws.

All of our students and teachers and all of their families and communities deserve to go about their regular daily lives free from the fear of gun violence. Sadly, today, that is not our reality.

When I see the students and young people who organized the March for Our Lives in our Nation's Capital, in Oregon, and across the country, I see the spirit of those Thurston youngsters violently stolen from their families and loved ones. Let's honor them with action to protect our future.

REMEMBERING REVEREND W.G. HARDY, JR.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on February 2, Portland lost a dedicated man of faith, Rev. W.G. Hardy, Jr. As our community mourns the loss of this great spiritual leader, we also pause to celebrate all he did for our community.

During the 22 years that Pastor Hardy served as senior pastor of the Highland Christian Center in northeast Portland, he committed himself heart and soul to helping every person who walked through the doors of his church, as well as those who did not.

Preaching wasn't just a duty for Pastor Hardy; it was a calling that helped Portland be a better place to live. Many will remember Pastor Hardy inviting any and all to come to his church. Often you would see him on the weekends supporting the church's many activities and events. He spent endless hours advocating for those who are homeless, working with nonprofits and local governments to find solutions on mental illness, and developing programs to prevent young people from falling through the cracks.

Pastor Hardy was justifiably proud that Highland Christian Center hosted the annual "Keep Alive the Dream" events, which earned official designation from the National Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. Over the years, I had the fortune of attending this unique program, recognized as the largest tribute to Dr. King in the State of Oregon.

As a third-generation preacher, Pastor Hardy understood and valued the power of faith. He was steadfast in his advocacy and had the ear and phone numbers of countless city, county, and State leaders. His passion and energy for this work showed in his powerful and poignant sermons. Every time I would see Pastor Hardy, whether after one of his many inspiring services or during a visit to Washington, DC, he always had a smile on his face and an important issue to discuss.

Through his beloved wife, Ali Hardy, his children, grandchildren, and a host of other loving relatives, Pastor Hardy's life and legacy will last forever throughout Portland. His good work will continue through the leaders he helped lift up and create. While this is a loss for many, the gains he made will be felt by many for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL "MIKE" BOURRET

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in workforce development in the State of Maine. Michael "Mike" Bourret, of Bailey Island, ME, is retiring after 36 years of professional experience in workforce development, most recently in his position as executive director of Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. From his first days in the

early 1980s as an employment counselor in western Maine, Mike has held a number of leadership positions in which he has developed greater access to—and opportunities for individuals in—workforce development programs.

Mr. Bourret dedicated 12 years to the Maine Department of Labor, holding positions from employment and training director to special assistant to the commissioner, as director of the dislocated worker unit while at the department of labor, Mike recognized the flaws of a reactive government approach to plant closings and worker dislocation, leading Mike to promote a more proactive approach. This resulted in Mike assisting with the design of a new strategy to provide services for these workers. His guidance led to the development of the Maine CareerCenters, which provide employment and training services to individuals at no charge. In 1996, during my time as Governor, Mike helped establish the Governor's training initiative, GTI, to provide employers with the financial support to expand training for their employees and improve retention of their workers. GTI was recognized for its success, and the following year, I awarded Mike the Governor's Teamwork Award for his dedication to implementing projects to improve Maine's economy and workforce. To date, GTI has helped over 20,000 Maine workers.

In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, was passed, and Mike brought together State and local parties to organize a new regionally based workforce design in Maine, promoting a more customer-focused approach in Federal job training programs. Under WIA, Mike established Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc., in 2000, where he served as executive director for 18 years, administering over \$98 million dollars for the organization. The Coastal Counties Workforce Board region today spans six coastal counties and has received over 1.3 million customer visits to its centers. Over 40,000 Mainers have received essential career and training services, with 82 percent entering employment. These services have improved the well-being of Maine residents, including assisting some of our most vulnerable neighbors in finding meaningful employment, while supporting local businesses with skilled workers.

Due to Mike's commitment to workforce development and ability to secure funding for a variety of workforce initiatives and training programs throughout the years, there has been continued expansion of employment and training services for the residents of Maine. His ability to coordinate programs and foster partnerships was a critical factor in his success, whether it be at the local, State, or national level. As a champion of workforce development, I join with his colleagues, friends, and the people of Maine in thanking Mike for his unwavering service to the workforce of our State.●

REMEMBERING POLDINE CARLO

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when Alaska Native youth gather with Alaska Native elders, they often talk about the difficulties of “living in two worlds”: the modern world driven by careers, technology, busy all the time; and the traditional Alaska Native world: beadwork, subsistence, preparing traditional foods, carrying on Native languages, teaching your children stories handed down across the generations that explain the relationship between humans and other living beings, native dance and ceremonies. The elders explained that it is possible for Native youth to live in the modern world while staying true to who you are. It is said that the modern world gives you wings, but the traditional world gives you roots. The answer to the challenge of the modern world is to always be mindful of your roots.

In each of the regions of Alaska, there are very special elders who are highly regarded as mentors and guides for the youth. Some are traditional chiefs of their tribes or regions, others Native people who are well known for their wisdom and their integrity.

Among the Athabascan peoples of interior Alaska, two names stand out: Hannah Solomon and Poldine Carlo. Among Native people when one spoke of Hannah and Poldine, everyone knew who you were talking about, no need to use last names. When they spoke at Native gatherings, others stopped what they were doing and listened. Both spoke with eloquence and passion. Neither held back.

Hannah Solomon passed away at the age of 102 on September 21, 2011. Poldine Carlo left us on May 9, 2018, at the age of 97. She was buried in the Athabascan village of Nulato this week. Both of these women were regarded as matriarchs and culture bearers. Both will long be remembered for their loving kindness to their Native people and especially to the youth. Both were in a league of their own, so to speak.

I would like to take a few moments to share Poldine's story with my Senate colleagues and to pay tribute to this remarkable woman.

Poldine was born December 5, 1920, in Nulato, a traditional community on the Yukon River. She was raised by Joseph and Anna Stickman, her grandparents. She credited her grandmother with instilling the traditional Athabascan ways of life in Poldine. She met her husband, Bill, in Tanana, at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, the place where the rivers meet. Poldine married Bill in 1940, and they raised their eight children along the Yukon River in the traditional ways. Poldine and her husband Bill also operated a mine outside of Rampart in the summers for 20 years. Poldine's sons and husband operated the mine, while she did the cooking and fishing. It was a true family operation.

In 1957, Bill and Poldine relocated in Fairbanks so that their children could

attend high school without leaving home. In those days, Native children in the village were sent off to boarding school for high school. Even though they had a full house with eight children, there was always room for more. They took in many village children so that they too could benefit from educational opportunities in Fairbanks.

Their home became a gathering place for the Fairbanks Native community. From those gatherings came the decision to create the Fairbanks Native Association, which has grown and grown over the years. Life was not so easy for Native people in Fairbanks in the early 1960s. Poldine was committed to justice for her Native people. The Fairbanks Native Association administers many important wellness programs, but first and foremost, it ensures that Native people are treated fairly.

She was active in the Tanana Chiefs Conference and in the regional Native Corporation, Doyon. Poldine's son Wally today serves as chairman of the board of directors of Doyon. Poldine shared her wisdom in many ways. She was an elder in residence at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She authored the book, “Nulato: an Indian life on the Yukon.” Her beadwork was breathtaking. People loved her singing. Eagle Island Blues was a song people loved to hear her sing, but Blueberry Hill was her and Bill's song. She sang about Denali in Athabascan to greet President Obama when he traveled to Alaska. She composed songs for her husband, daughter, and son when they passed away.

Poldine humbly accepted many awards during her lifetime of service to Alaska and the Native community. She was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Hannah Solomon “Woman of Courage” award from the Alaska Federation of Natives. She was a Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, a Golden Citizen Chieftain, and a Howard Rock Alaska Native Leader. She was recently inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame, joining her friend and contemporary Hannah Solomon.

Poldine's son Wally was kind enough to share some of his mother's final words with me, knowing that they would be part of her tribute. Poldine told Wally that she lived a full life and loved everyone. She offered a few words of advice: “You need to be happy. All that matters is how you raise your family and to be happy.”

Yes, Poldine was proudest of family, and she had much to be proud of, those children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren who are making their own contributions to our Native people and our State in her image, like Dr. Nikoosh Carlo, who is one of the Nation's most influential figures on Arctic science and policy. Poldine asked that her survivors and friends in the community “carry on,” and I have no doubt that they will.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I extend my condolences to Poldine's exceptional family, her huge extended family, and the Native people of interior Alaska who took inspiration from her example. A traditional woman, a community leader, writer, artist, singer, we shall all miss Poldine Carlo. She connected us to our roots and encouraged our wings.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 18, 2018—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2018.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I

have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2018.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE
ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE
ORDER WITH RESPECT TO VEN-
EZUELA THAT TAKES ADDI-
TIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT
TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY
DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE
ORDER 13692 ON MARCH 8, 2015—
PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid be-
fore the Senate the following message
from the President of the United
States, together with an accompanying
report; which was referred to the Com-
mittee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emer-
gency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)
(50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report
that I have issued an Executive Order
with respect to Venezuela that takes
additional steps with respect to the na-
tional emergency declared in Executive
Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied
upon for additional steps taken in Ex-
ecutive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017,
and Executive Order 13827 of March 19,
2018.

The Executive Order I have issued
today prohibits transactions related to,
provision of financing for, and other
dealings in (i) the purchase of any debt
owed to the Government of Venezuela,
including accounts receivable; (ii) any
debt owed to the Government of Ven-
ezuela that is pledged as collateral
after the effective date of the Execu-
tive Order, including accounts receiv-
able; and (iii) the sale, transfer, assign-
ment, or pledging as collateral by the
Government of Venezuela of any equity
interest in any entity in which the
Government of Venezuela has a 50 per-
cent or greater ownership interest.

I have authorized the Secretary of
the Treasury, in consultation with the
Secretary of State, to take such ac-
tions, including promulgating rules
and regulations, and to employ all pow-
ers granted to the President by IEEPA
as may be necessary to carry out the
purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Execu-
tive Order I have issued today.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 21, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of
the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Sec-
retary of the Senate, on May 18, 2018,
during the adjournment of the Senate,
received a message from the House of
Representatives announcing that the
Speaker had signed the following en-
rolled bills:

S. 35. An act to transfer administrative ju-
risdiction over certain Bureau of Land Man-
agement land from the Secretary of the In-
terior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
inclusion in the Black Hills National Ceme-
tery, and for other purposes.

S. 1285. An act to allow the Confederate
Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the
Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Con-
federated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon,
the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,
the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of In-
dians, the Klamath Tribes, and the Burns
Paiute Tribes to lease or transfer certain
lands.

H.R. 3562. An act to amend title 38, United
States Code, to authorize the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for ad-
aptations of residences of veterans in reha-
bilitation programs under chapter 31 of such
title, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4009. An act to authorize the Board of
Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to
plan, design, and construct a central parking
facility on the National Zoological Park
property in the District of Columbia.

Under the authority of the order of
the Senate of January 3, 2017, the en-
rolled bills were signed on May 18, 2018,
during the adjournment of the Senate,
by the President pro tempore (Mr.
HATCH).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

The following bill was read the sec-
ond time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2872. A bill to amend the Congressional
Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the pro-
cedures provided under such Act for the ini-
tiation, investigation, and resolution of
claims alleging that employing offices of the
legislative branch have violated the rights
and protections provided to their employees
under such Act, including protections
against sexual harassment and discrimina-
tion, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported
that on today, May 21, 2018, she had
presented to the President of the
United States the following enrolled
bills:

S. 35. An act to transfer administrative ju-
risdiction over certain Bureau of Land Man-
agement land from the Secretary of the In-
terior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
inclusion in the Black Hills National Ceme-
tery, and for other purposes.

S. 1285. An act to allow the Confederate
Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the
Grande Ronde Community of Oregon, the
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Ore-
gon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm
Springs, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua
Tribe of Indians, the Klamath Tribes, and
the Burns Paiute Tribes to lease or transfer
certain lands.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-5209. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances"
(FRL No. 9976-62) received in the Office of
the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018;
to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry.

EC-5210. A communication from the Assist-
ant Secretary for Legislation, Department of
Health and Human Services, transmitting,
pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal
Year 2017 Annual Report on the Food and
Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory Com-
mittee Vacancies and Public Disclosures"; to
the Committees on Appropriations; and
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5211. A communication from the Senior
Official performing the duties of the Under
Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness),
Department of Defense, transmitting,
pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 Re-
port to Congress on Sustainable Ranges"; to
the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5212. A communication from the Under
Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), trans-
mitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual re-
port entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions
for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activi-
ties; Defense Cooperation Account" and a
semiannual listing of personal property con-
tributed by coalition partners; to the Com-
mittee on Armed Services.

EC-5213. A communication from the Assist-
ant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Af-
fairs), transmitting legislative proposals re-
lative to the "National Defense Authoriza-
tion Act for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Com-
mittee on Armed Services.

EC-5214. A communication from the Under
Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and
Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to
law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on
Distribution of Department of Defense Depot
Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2017
through 2019"; to the Committee on Armed
Services.

EC-5215. A communication from the Under
Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and
Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to
law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on
Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Ma-
terials for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Com-
mittee on Armed Services.

EC-5216. A communication from the Sec-
retary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant
to law, a report relative to the export to the
People's Republic of China of items not detri-
mental to the U.S. space launch industry;
to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs.

EC-5217. A communication from the Chief
Counsel, Federal Emergency Management
Agency, Department of Homeland Security,
transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of
a rule entitled "Suspension of Community
Eligibility (Pennsylvania: Catharine, Town-
ship of, Blair County, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part
64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002)) received in
the Office of the President of the Senate on
May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5218. A communication from the Gen-
eral Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law,
the report of a rule entitled "Revised Criti-
cal Infrastructure Protection Reliability
Standard CIP-003-7 - Cyber Security - Secu-
rity Management Controls" ((RIN1902-AF44)
(Docket No. RM17-11-000)) received in the Of-
fice of the President of the Senate on May 15,
2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natu-
ral Resources.

EC-5219. A communication from the Direc-
tor of the Regulatory Management Division,
Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled "National Priorities List" (FRL No.
9978-14-OLEM) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5220. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS" (FRL No. 9977-26-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5221. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2017 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5222. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Accounting Standards for Revenue Recognition (FASB 606)" (Rev. Proc. 2018-29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5223. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration - 2018 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor" (Notice 2018-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5224. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2019 Sec. 223 Inflation-Adjusted Item" (Rev. Proc. 2018-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5225. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2018" (Notice 2018-44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5226. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2018 Calendar Year Resident Population Figures" (Notice 2018-45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5227. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2018 List of Automatic Changes" (Rev. Proc. 2018-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5228. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Marine Microalgae" (21 CFR Part 573) (Docket No. FDA-2014-F-1509) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018;

to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5229. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels and Serving Sizes of Foods That Can Reasonably Be Consumed At One Eating Occasion; Dual-Column Labeling; Updating, Modifying, and Establishing Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed; Serving Size for Breath Mints; and Technical Amendments; Extension of Compliance Dates" ((RIN0910-AH92) (Docket Nos. FDA-2012-N-1210 and FDA-2004-N-0258)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5230. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee; Food Advisory Committee; Termination" ((21 CFR Part 14) (Docket No. FDA-2017-N-6379)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5231. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Crabmeat; Amendment of Common or Usual Name Regulation" ((RIN0910-AI04) (Docket No. FDA-2018-N-1438)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5232. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Certain Time of Inspection and Duties of Inspector Regulations for Biological Products; Withdrawal" ((RIN0910-AH49) (Docket No. FDA-2017-N-7007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5233. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Did Not Fully Comply for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5234. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5235. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Reconnaissance Office Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5236. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5237. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5238. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Imagery Mapping Agency (NIMA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5239. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Investigative Service (DIS) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5240. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Freedom of Information Act" (RIN0790-AJ63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5241. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority of Health Care Providers to Practice Telehealth" (RIN2900-AQ06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5242. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanded Access to Non-VA Care through the Veterans Choice Program" (RIN2900-AP60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-233. A resolution adopted by the Board of Education of Manville Public Schools, Manville, New Jersey, urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to identify and implement meaningful action to address access to and ownership of military-style assault weapons and ammunition, the delivery of mental health services, and financial support to ensure a safe and secure school climate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1336. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-250).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1457. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs (Rept. No. 115-251).

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

S. 1799. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential (Rept. No. 115-252).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1109. A bill to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act (Rept. No. 115-253).

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. MARKEY:

S. 2886. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2887. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and operation of reserve component cyber civil support teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 2888. A bill to amend Title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs that support interprofessional geriatric education, training, and advance research to develop a geriatric-capable workforce, improving health outcomes for a growing and diverse aging American population and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2889. A bill to establish the Medgar Evers National Monument in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2890. A bill to improve the prosecution of criminal offenses committed by juveniles on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 517. A resolution designating May 2018 as "Older Americans Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. Res. 518. A resolution reaffirming support for increased media diversity, recognizing May 2018 as "National Media Diversity Month", and encouraging appreciation, awareness, and support for independent, diverse, and local media entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 808

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 808, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1112

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

S. 1238

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1238, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 1270

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

S. 1347

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

S. 1352

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to require Federal agencies to address environmental justice, to require consideration of cumulative impacts in certain permitting decisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to provide to State infrastructure financing authorities additional opportunities to receive loans under that Act to support drinking water and clean water State revolving funds to deliver water infrastructure to communities across the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2372, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

S. 2379

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2379, a bill to improve and expand authorities, programs, services, and benefits for military spouses and military families, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment of certain Medicaid providers and suppliers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2418

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2418, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that establish

a national standard for determining whether mobile and broadband services available in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas.

S. 2494

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2494, a bill to provide standards for short-term limited duration health insurance policies.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2559

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2559, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, and for other purposes.

S. 2567

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2567, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2602

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2602, a bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2724

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2724, a bill to reform the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

S. 2787

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify and expand food donation under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2800

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2800, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2810

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2810, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2842

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2842, a bill to prohibit the marketing of bogus opioid treatment programs or products.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity Awareness Month.

S. RES. 383

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 383, a resolution expressing support for the designation of a "Women's Health Research Day".

S. RES. 414

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 414, a resolution condemning the continued undemocratic measures by the Government of Venezuela to undermine the independence of democratic institutions and calling for a free and fair electoral process.

S. RES. 502

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 502, a resolution supporting robust relations with the State of Israel bilaterally and in multilateral fora upon seventy years of statehood, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 2888. A bill to amend Title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs that support interprofessional geriatric education, training, and advance research to develop a geriatric-capable workforce, improving health outcomes for a growing and diverse aging American population and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, that would reauthorize the only federally funded programs specifically designed to develop a health provider workforce to care for older Americans. The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would reauthorize the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, known as GWEP, and also reinstate the Geriatric Academic Career Awards program, known as GACA.

The number of Americans aged 65 and older is growing rapidly. In Maine, we are reaching an aging milestone faster than other States—by 2020, the number of seniors is projected to outnumber children. This is 15 years ahead the national projected date of 2035, at which point the number of Americans 65 and older will outnumber those under age 18 for the first time in U.S. history.

The United States is facing a critical shortage of geriatric health professionals and direct service workers to support our aging population. Today, we need 20,000 geriatricians; however, fewer than 7,300 of our Nation's nearly one million physicians are board-certified geriatricians. By 2030, we will

need 31,000 geriatricians and even more geriatric health professionals and direct service workers. We need to train 1,600 geriatricians per year over the next 12 years to reach the targeted need by 2030.

As many as 90 percent of older adults are expected to have one or more chronic health conditions. Multiple chronic conditions, multiple medications, and changes that occur in aging make caring for older adults complex and challenging, yet also rewarding to healthcare professionals who choose this specialty. In any given year, it is expected that 30 percent of older adults and their families will require specialized geriatric care.

Today there are 44 geriatric workforce enhancement programs or GWEPs in 29 states. GWEP sites include 25 schools of medicine, ten schools of nursing, five healthcare facilities, two schools of allied health, a school of social work, and a certified nurse assistant program. GWEPs have the flexibility to tailor training in geriatrics to the unique needs of their own communities.

GWEP programs focus on Geriatric Education by:

1. Changing clinical training environments so that geriatrics is integrated into primary care delivery systems;
2. Training providers to assess and address the needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers at multiple levels within their communities;
3. Delivering community-based programs for patients, families and caregivers; and
4. Providing Alzheimer's disease education for families and caregivers, including direct care workers and other providers.

In 2016, the 44 GWEPs produced significant outcomes. They provided continuing education courses to 94,000 practicing public health professionals, from disciplines such as medicine, nursing, allied health, health services administration, social work, and psychology. They have also created opportunities for healthcare providers in rural and underserved areas to learn from and consult with top experts in geriatric care through tele-consults, and educational webcasts, as well as online geriatric education programs that are publicly available and accessible online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for free.

GACA programs focus on Resource Optimization. Established in 1998, GACA programs were funded to increase the number of faculty engaged in geriatric education. Transitioning from clinical training and practice into an academic faculty role is particularly challenging, and requires gaining new skills as an educator. These skills are not typically taught in clinical training programs.

Following a restructuring of the geriatric workforce program, GACA has gone unfunded since 2015. GACA would be reauthorized as a stand-alone resource within our legislation in order

to optimize future growth and stability of early-career geriatric faculty. GACA supports early career development for emerging leaders by providing funding that supports 50 percent of their effort to develop skills as an inter-professional educator in geriatrics.

The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would reauthorize the GWEP program at \$45 million per year over the next five years, and reinstate GACA at \$6 million per year. Together, these programs would train the current workforce and family caregivers, while simultaneously developing a cadre of emerging leaders in geriatric education, in a variety of disciplines. By doing both, we will assure that older Americans will be cared for by a health care workforce specifically trained to meet their unique and complex health needs for decades to come. This training to use the most efficient and effective methods for older adults will result in improved care while saving valuable resources, and reducing unnecessary costs.

Exposure to geriatrics, particularly through pre-clinical and clinical education, has been identified as an important factor for increasing interest in the field. This exposure provides faculty the opportunities needed to demonstrate the specialty is a viable, complex, yet rewarding specialty. The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would provide these critical platforms by creating the infrastructure needed to attract the best and the brightest into the field of geriatrics.

This legislation already has broad support. I ask to enter into the record a letter of support from the National Association for Geriatric Education and the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers.

Mr. President. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that would ensure geriatric education for our current workforce, while optimizing resources to bolster academic careers in geriatrics. Together, GWEP and GACA would develop a high-quality geriatric workforce ready to provide care for Americans as we grow older.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GERIATRIC EDUCATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS,

May 21, 2018.

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

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS AND RANKING MEMBER CASEY: On behalf of the HRSA Title VII and Title VIII funded Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs) across the country, thank you for your past support of geriatric education and for introducing the Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act. The National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE) is pleased to offer our support for this important legislation, which will reauthorize the GWEP and once again make the Geriatrics Academic Career Award program (GACA) a part of the effort

to prepare the geriatrics workforce for the aging of our population. We and the growing numbers of older adults, caregivers, and clinicians caring for elders will urge Congress to move quickly to pass your bill and provide the resources to address our nation's growing demand for geriatric care.

We appreciate the many discussions that your staff facilitated with NAGE, as well as with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, the American Geriatrics Society, and The Gerontological Society of America during the process of developing this legislation. This authorization and related funding is needed for the development of a health care workforce specifically trained to care for older adults and to support their family caregivers. Currently there are only 44 GWEP sites in 29 states. The modest increase in the authorization in your bill will have an important impact on training in geriatric care. Likewise, the funds you have authorized for the GACA program will assist in ensuring that rural and underserved areas will have geriatrics education programs.

NAGE is a non-profit membership organization representing GWEP sites, Centers on Aging, and Geriatric Education Centers that provide education and training to health professionals in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology. Our mission is to help America's healthcare workforce be better prepared to render age-appropriate care to today's older Americans and those of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support for geriatric education programs.

Sincerely,

MAURA BRENNAN, MD,
FACP, AGSF, FAAHPM,
CHMD,
President NAGE/
NAGEC; Project Director,
Baystate Health, Geriatrics
Workforce Enhancement
Program;
Chief, Div. of Geriatrics,
Palliative Care & Post-Acute
Medicine; Prof. of Medicine,
Univ. of Massachusetts-
Baystate; Adjunct
Prof. of Medicine,
Tufts University
School of Medicine.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2890. A bill to improve the prosecution of criminal offenses committed by juveniles on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

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

S. 2890

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

SECTION 1. RELINQUISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any military installation or portion of a military installation of which legislative jurisdiction of criminal offenses committed by juveniles is retained by the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall seek to relinquish to the State, Commonwealth, territory, or posses-

sion concerned legislative jurisdiction of such offenses such that the United States and the State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession, as the case may be, have concurrent legislative jurisdiction of such offenses.

(b) MANNER OF RELINQUISHMENT.—Legislative jurisdiction shall be relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) in the manner provided in section 2683(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(c) DEADLINE.—The Secretaries concerned shall, to the extent practicable, complete relinquishment of legislative jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report on the relinquishment of legislative jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report of a Secretary under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A list of the installations or portions of installations under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of which exclusive legislative jurisdiction of criminal offenses committed by juveniles is retained by the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) A list of the installations or portions of installations listed pursuant to subparagraph (A) for which legislative jurisdiction was relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) as of the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) A list of the installations or portions of installations listed pursuant to subparagraph (A) for which legislative jurisdiction was not relinquished pursuant to subsection (a) as of the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and, for each such installation or portion of installation, the reasons why legislative jurisdiction was not so relinquished.

(e) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF PROSECUTION BY FEDERAL PROSECUTORS OF FELONY OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WITH CONCURRENT FEDERAL-STATE LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION WHEN STATE PROSECUTORS DECLINE TO PROSECUTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with such regulations as the Attorney General may prescribe, the Federal Government shall consider the prosecution of charges in each circumstance described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED CIRCUMSTANCES.—A circumstance described in this subsection is any circumstance involving an alleged felony offense of a juvenile on a military installation for which legislative jurisdiction of such offense of the Federal Government is concurrent with legislative jurisdiction of such offense by a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession in which—

(1) a recommendation to bring charges is initially made to the prosecutor of the State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession concerned; and

(2) the prosecutor of the State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession declines to bring charges.

(c) FELONY OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “felony offense” means an offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORTS ON DISPOSITION OF FELONY OFFENSES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than March 31 each year, each Secretary

concerned shall submit to Congress a report on the disposition of alleged felony offenses committed by juveniles on military installations under the control of such Secretary, including installations in foreign countries, during the previous calendar year.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this section shall include, for the calendar year covered by such report, a list of the alleged felony offenses committed by juveniles on military installations under the control of the Secretary, aggregated by installation, and with the information for each alleged offense as follows:

(1) Nature of the alleged offense.

(2) Age and other appropriate data on the alleged offender, including the connection, if any, of the alleged offender to the Armed Forces.

(3) Age and other appropriate data on each victim, including the connection, if any, of such victim to the Armed Forces.

(4) Results of the investigation, if any, of the alleged offense by any military, Federal, State, or local law enforcement or criminal investigation organization.

(5) If as a result of an investigation as described in paragraph (4), a determination was made not to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender, whether to a Federal prosecutor or the prosecutor of a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession, the justification for such determination.

(6) If as a result of an investigation as described in paragraph (4), a determination was made to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender to a prosecutor of a State, Commonwealth, territory, or possession, and such prosecutor declined to bring charges, the justification for lack of prosecution.

(7) If as a result of an investigation as described in paragraph (4), a determination was made to recommend the bringing of charges against the alleged offender to a Federal prosecutor, whether or not the prosecutor subsequently met with the victim or victims as provided for in section 3771 of title 18, United States Code.

(8) If a Federal prosecutor declined to bring charges against the alleged offender despite a recommendation for such charges as described in paragraph (7), the justification for lack of prosecution.

(c) COORDINATION WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall take appropriate actions to ensure that information on actions of Federal prosecutors that is required for purposes of paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection (b) is submitted promptly to the Secretaries concerned for inclusion in the reports required by subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “felony offense” means an offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year.

(2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 517—DESIGNATING MAY 2018 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 517

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were age 65 or older, approximately ⅓ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017, there were more than 51,600,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States, and those individuals account for 15.8 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn age 65 each day;

Whereas, in 2016, more than 9,228,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were age 65 or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2018 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas more than 5,600,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of those individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2018 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of the older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 518—RE-AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR INCREASED MEDIA DIVERSITY, RECOGNIZING MAY 2018 AS “NATIONAL MEDIA DIVERSITY MONTH”, AND ENCOURAGING APPRECIATION, AWARENESS, AND SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT, DIVERSE, AND LOCAL MEDIA ENTITIES

Mr. HELLER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 518

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in the laws of free speech in the United States and underpins the virtues on which the United States has established the Constitution of the United States and the tenets of citizenship, which are, as presented in the Preamble to the Constitution, “We the people of the United States in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”;

Whereas an independent, diverse, and local media that provides exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement by all citizens of the United States;

Whereas varying media entities play a significant role in how constituents are exposed to news and discussions that impact the ability of constituents—

(1) to learn about and debate local, State, and national issues central to the stability and security of the United States; and

(2) to effectively monitor their representatives;

Whereas Congress recognizes the central role of mass communication and encourages source, content, and audience diversity on the shared telecommunications and media platforms of the United States;

Whereas encouraging diversity is important to the survival of small independent and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets;

Whereas, 50 years after the Kerner Commission issued its media diversity recommendations, challenges remain with underrepresentation in minority and rural populations in the media and participation in ownership and control of media decision-making, despite those populations comprising over 40 percent of the population of the United States; and

Whereas small independent and diverse media outlets positively contribute to the sense of community in the United States and the goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge, such as by increasing voting levels, participation in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to diversity as a core tenet of the “public interest standard” in media policy;

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common-ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity; and

(3) establishes May 2018 as “National Media Diversity Month”, during which efforts are encouraged to promote media diversity appreciation and support.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2255. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2256. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2257. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2258. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2259. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2260. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2261. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2262. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2263. Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2253. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, line 4, insert “and” after the semicolon.

On page 8, strike line 7 through line 20.

Beginning on page 127, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 174, line 16.

SA 2254. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BY REQUIRING REPORTING OF MAJOR ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK AND STATE LICENSING BOARDS.

Section 7461 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) Whenever the Under Secretary for Health (or an official designated by the Under Secretary) brings charges based on conduct or performance against a section 7401(1) employee and as a result of those charges a major adverse action is taken against the employee, the Under Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which such major adverse action is carried out, transmit to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the applicable State licensing board the name of the employee, a description of the major adverse action, and a description of the reason for the major adverse action.”.

SA 2255. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 307. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPEDITING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROCESS FOR ONBOARDING NEW MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of expediting the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Veterans Health Administration. Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall seek to reduce the length of time of such onboarding process to not more than 60 days.

(b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select medical facilities at which to carry out the pilot program. In selecting such facilities, the Secretary shall give priority to medical facilities facing hiring shortages of licensed independent medical providers.

(c) ONBOARDING PROCESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “onboarding process” means the process of bringing on a medical provider applicant after the medical provider is offered a tentative position, including certification of credentialing, background investigation, assessment of health status, and such other actions are necessary for starting employment.

SA 2256. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 307. STRATEGY TO REDUCE DURATION OF HIRING PROCESS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a strategy to reduce the duration of the hiring process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for licensed professional medical providers by half.

(b) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include a description of how the overall certification of credentials process for licensed professional medical providers can be expedited.

SA 2257. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title

38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 127, line 5, strike “201” and insert “200”.

On page 127, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 201. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) a strong and fully resourced Veterans Health Administration (referred to in this section as the “VA”) is necessary to effectively serve our veterans community;

(2) veterans overwhelmingly report that they are satisfied with the care they receive at facilities operated by the VA;

(3) research has shown that the VA produces as good or better outcomes for its patients than private health care systems; and

(4) the Senate opposes any effort that would weaken the VA or put the VA on a path toward privatization.

SA 2258. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) established the Veterans Choice Program under section 101 of such Act (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) as a temporary program to address a wait time backlog for the receipt of health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a shortage of health care professionals at medical facilities of the Department;

(2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, there are approximately 45,000 vacancies at the Veterans Health Administration; and

(3) of those vacancies, approximately 36,000 are vacancies for positions relating to front line care for veterans.

(b) APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,200,000,000 to carry out subsection (d).

(c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—The amount appropriated under subsection (b) shall be available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation.

(d) USE OF AMOUNTS.—The amount appropriated under subsection (b) shall be used by the Secretary as follows:

(1) To increase the access of veterans to care as follows:

(A) To hire primary care and specialty care physicians for employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) To hire other medical staff, including the following:

(i) Physicians.

(ii) Nurses.

(iii) Social workers.

(iv) Mental health professionals.

(v) Dental professionals.

(vi) Other health care professionals as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(C) To carry out the following:

(i) Section 7412 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) Section 7302(e) of such title.

(iii) Section 301(b)(2) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 7302 note).

(D) To pay for expenses, equipment, and other costs associated with the hiring of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, and other medical staff under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(2) To improve the physical infrastructure of the Department as follows:

(A) To maintain and operate hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) To enter into contracts or hire temporary employees to repair, alter, or improve facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department that are not otherwise provided for under this paragraph.

(C) To carry out leases for facilities of the Department.

(D) To carry out minor construction projects of the Department.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on how the Secretary has obligated the amount appropriated under subsection (b) as of the date of the submittal of the report.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) FUNDING PLAN.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a funding plan describing how the Secretary intends to use the amount appropriated under subsection (b).

(g) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO.—This section is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) SENATE DESIGNATION.—In the Senate, this section is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

SA 2259. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 115, line 12, insert “or illness” after “serious injury”.

On page 115, line 20, insert “or illness” after “serious injury”.

On page 116, line 6, insert “or illness” after “serious injury”.

On page 120, after line 21, insert the following:

(c) APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$9,500,000,000 to carry out the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this section.

(2) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(A) STATUTORY PAYGO.—This subsection is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(B) SENATE DESIGNATION.—In the Senate, this subsection is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

On page 124, line 3, insert “or illness” after “serious injury”.

SA 2260. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR DENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS IN RURAL AND OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

(a) **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers in order to increase access to dental health care services for veterans who are entitled to such services from the Department of Veterans Affairs and reside in rural and other underserved communities.

(b) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary shall prioritize the establishment of programs under the demonstration program under this section in States that do not have a facility of the Department that offers on-site dental services.

(c) **TELEHEALTH.**—For purposes of alternative dental health care providers and other dental care providers who are licensed to provide clinical care, dental services provided under the demonstration program under this section may be administered by such providers through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision when appropriate and feasible.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out the demonstration program under this section.

(e) **ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “alternative dental health care providers” has the meaning given that term in section 340G-1(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256g-1(a)(2)).

SA 2261. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike title II.

SA 2262. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 164. CLARIFICATION THAT VETERANS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR AMOUNTS IMPROPERLY PAID TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS DUE TO AN ERROR MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1720G(a), as amended by section 161 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) If a family caregiver of an eligible veteran is found to be ineligible for the program required by paragraph (1) due to an error made by the Department, the eligible veteran shall not be liable for any payments made by the Department to the family caregiver.”.

SA 2263. Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 513. THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF APPOINTEES IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD A LICENSE, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATION FOR THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE OR A MEDICAL SERVICE REVOKED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an organization that is not part of the Federal Government to conduct a clinical review of a representative sample of the care provided by covered individuals.

(b) **COVERED INDIVIDUAL.**—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is an individual who was appointed to a position in the Veterans Health Administration covered by subsection (b) of section 7402 of title 38, United States Code, in violation of subsection (f) of such section because the individual had a license, registration, or certification applicable to the provision of hospital care or a medical service terminated for cause.

(c) **REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “representative sample” means, with respect to a covered individual, a collection of cases that is generated through the use of sampling methods commonly used in clinical research that would be representative of the care provided to all of the individuals cared for by the covered individual.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 21, 2018, at 5 p.m. to hold a hearing.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2872

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2872) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

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

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

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 517, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 517) designating May 2018 as “Older Americans Month.”

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 517) 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, MAY 22, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 22; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Baiocco nomination under the previous order. Finally, I ask that

the Senate recess following the cloture vote with respect to the House message to accompany S. 2372 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:22 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by
the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

CHERITH NORMAN CHALET, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

JOHN RAKOLTA, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

DONALD R. TAPIA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.