United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018 *No. 197*

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

O God, our protector, mountains melt in Your presence and islands shout for joy. We praise You because Your ways are just and true. Lord, You know our hearts and minds like an open book. Thank You for the security we have in You. When all around us seems daunting, You alone remain our rock and refuge.

Give our lawmakers this day such reverence for You that they will stay in the path of integrity. May they think about You throughout the day, whispering prayers of gratitude for Your goodness and grace.

Lead our national and international leaders on the road that will bring glory to Your Name. Lord, give them the courage to speak for justice, truth, and peace.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3747

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

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

The legislative clerk read the title of the bill as follows:

A bill (S. 3747) to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate began this week with a long list of important unfinished business. And make no mistake—that list remains lengthy. It will require the continued good-faith efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle to keep up the progress.

We need to confirm more of the well-qualified nominees who remain waiting on the Senate's calendar. We need to deliver the targeted resources that are necessary for securing our border and fund the remaining parts of the Federal Government.

Today, of course, debate will continue on the Sanders-Lee resolution with respect to U.S. involvement in Yemen. As I stated yesterday, their resolution is not sufficiently prudent nor sufficiently precise for the job at hand. Yes, the Senate wants Saudi Arabia to act responsibly. We want to see a more stable Yemen for the sake of the Yemeni people. We also want to preserve this 70-year partnership, which serves our interests and helps stabilize a crucial region.

The resolution before us is a blunt and imprecise measure that would not advance these delicate goals. To the contrary, it would jeopardize U.S. support that has actually limited civilian casualties. And I maintain that since genuine hostilities are not involved, the resolution should not even be privileged under the War Powers Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote against their resolution and to support Chairman CORKER's more responsible alternative in its place.

Even considering the work still before us, Members should take pride in the significant milestones we have checked off this week.

On Tuesday, the Senate completed the 30th Federal circuit judge confirmation of this Congress.

Yesterday evening, the Senate and the House reached a landmark agreement to reform the process by which Capitol Hill itself handles claims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and other workplace violations. It is a bicameral and bipartisan agreement. It strengthens protections for victims. It ensures that Members of Congress shall be held responsible for their own misconduct, not taxpayers. It contains a number of other important reforms to

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

create more transparency and accountability in the process. I am very glad Congress will be taking this important step. I want to thank Chairman BLUNT and Ranking Member KLOBUCHAR and their counterparts in the House for working hard to get this across the finish line.

That wasn't the only milestone we cleared yesterday. Yesterday afternoon, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the farm bill conference report. Now it is on its way to the President's desk.

The boost this bill delivers couldn't come soon enough. It is no secret that these are tough times in farm country. Falling prices and volatile markets make it harder to make ends meet. Net farm income continues to decline. The threat of natural disasters is a constant fear for even the most skilled and prepared farmers.

Families in my home State of Kentucky are all too familiar with these challenges. Months of heavy rain and severe weather this year have damaged crop yields and increased the burden on producers. We are home to more than 75,000 farms. They produce everything from soybeans and poultry to horses and corn. These families are looking to us for help and stability, and when President Trump signs our farm bill into law, more stability is just what they will get.

I would like to share some of the bill's highlights that will support farm families in the Blue Grass State, by way of example.

In need of certainty and predictability, this farm bill extends a strong commodity safety net and protects crop insurance.

It contains policies to encourage future generations of farmers to plant their own roots—particularly important in States like mine with aging agricultural populations.

To preserve our land for the future, the legislation promotes conservation programs, outdoor recreation, and upgraded watershed and drinking water infrastructure.

For our rural communities, it expands broadband deployment and dedicates further resources to combat the opioid epidemic.

For hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians faced with food insecurity, the farm bill increases funding for emergency programs at food banks.

The legislation provides continued funding for groundbreaking agricultural research at universities and research institutions.

For producers looking for markets abroad, it strengthens our trade programs to develop new opportunities for Kentucky around the globe.

Of course, each of these important victories for Kentucky farmers comes in addition to the new opportunities available with the full legalization of industrial hemp, as I have discussed extensively here on the floor.

All in all, this legislation is a big win for farmers in Kentucky and across our country. I am proud to have played a part in delivering that victory.

It has been my privilege to represent Kentucky farmers on the Agriculture Committee every day I have served in the Senate. The multiyear bill we produced is a credit to the leadership of Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW, and now the fruits of their labor are finally on the way to the White House.

I would like to express my gratitude to my follow conferees, especially my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman JAMIE COMER.

I would also like to thank the Kentucky Farm Bureau, which has been my partner every step of the way. Earlier this month, the farm bureau announced the beginning of its centennial year. I would be hard-pressed to think of a better way to celebrate that 100th birthday than with a new farm bill.

There is a reason this bill passed both Houses with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. There is a reason this has been a big priority for Congress and the administration. Farming families deserve more stability. Once the President signs this farm bill into law, that is precisely what they will have.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to close by paying tribute to another Member of this body whose retirement in the Senate is fast approaching. This particular Senator, in his own words, grew up on a dry, dusty ranch in Northern Arizona. You might be surprised at that description if you knew only the name of his hometown—''Snowflake.'' But this Navajo County town of a couple of thousand residents wasn't named for its meteorology; it was named for its founding families. It was set up back in 1878 by two wagon train pioneers: Mr. Snow and—that is right—Mr. FLAKE. It would still be 34 years until Arizona became the 48th State, and 134 years later, that Mormon pioneer's great-great-grandson would be elected to the U.S. Senate.

JEFF FLAKE is the son of cattle ranchers, so he learned all about ''earmarking'' from an early age. Back when JEFF was serving in the House, he explained in an op-ed that back on the ranch, earmarking was an unsavory way to brand your cattle. Apparently, the practice involves a pocketknife.

Well, JEFF moved on from that cattle pen. He wound up leading a statewide think tank. Then he won election to the House. By the time he arrived here in Washington—filled with equal parts fiery resolve and smalltown collegiality—''earmarks'' had come to mean something very different to him, but, as his House colleagues would soon find out, he found the new meaning just as unappealing.

JEFF's take on fiscal responsibility and good government ruffled some feathers over in the House, but his star kept rising. He didn't seem to mind that lonely feeling that we have all known here in Washington from time to time—the occasional sense that you have wound up on a bit of an island. I mean, JEFF really didn't mind this feeling. This is not a political metaphor, by the way; it is literally one of the man's hobbies.

Starting back in 2009, and several times since, our colleague had decided a ''dream vacation'' means a rugged survival trip where he is marooned on a remote island with just a couple tools. In one eloquent reflection, JEFF described this predilection as ''a long bout of 'Caruso envy.' ''

That first time, he traveled alone. To pass the time, there was the standard activities—dodging sharks; spearfishing for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; starting fires with coconut husks and a magnifying glass; befriending the hermit crabs—you know, typical tourist fare.

In fairness to our friend, maybe a solo getaway has a special appeal to anyone who grew up as one of 11 children or, for that matter, I can see why it might tempt a Member of the House, but apparently the appeal was somewhat broader than the alone time because on subsequent trips JEFF actually brought company.

A few years ago, he talked our colleague MARTIN HEINRICH into coming along on one of these adventures. It was just the two of them—and some TV cameras. This was prime time stuff now. The network called the show ''Rival Survival.''

That title actually reminds me of something JEFF said to his former colleagues in the House in his farewell speech, while he was preparing to come over here. He said coming to the Senate was like entering ''enemy territory.'' That is a funny phrase, ''enemy territory.'' It is funny because vitriol and hostility are so precisely not how Senator FLAKE will be remembered.

Instead, there have been warm and genuine friendships with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and shared work on policy accomplishments that have already made a difference for millions of Americans.

JEFF has cast votes for landmark accomplishments that have tangibly made life better for middle-class families in his home State and across the Nation. We don't have enough time here to name them all.

As part of this majority on behalf of the people of Arizona, Senator FLAKE gave his vote to start historic tax cuts and tax reform for the American people and to enact major regulatory reforms and to pass bipartisan achievements on every subject from the opioid crisis to caring for our veterans.

So JEFF has achieved much in this high office. He has had a hand in numerous consequential policy victories. A few years back, he was named by The Hill newspaper as the No. 1 most beautiful person on Capitol Hill. Talk about an achievement that few of us can even aspire to.

Seriously, I think we all know that nothing JEFF has done in these hallways will rank as his proudest accomplishment. That has to be persuading Cheryl to marry him and the beautiful family they have built together, five kids—Alexis, Austin, Tanner, Ryan, and Dallin—and now grandchildren.

Almost a decade ago, after his first island adventure, JEFF wrote: ''I will never see a sunset as peaceful as [the ones] I saw there.''

Well, I am not so sure. I suspect that when JEFF is back home with his lovely family by his side—well, with company like that, I expect the Arizona sunsets will give those Pacific nights a run for their money after all.

So we bid farewell to our colleague. We thank him for his service, and we wish him and his family much happiness in the next chapters they will be writing together.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have just a little over a week to come to some agreement on how to fund the government past next Friday.

Leader PELOSI and I have given the President two options to keep the government open. Both are noncontroversial. Neither contain any Democratic demand. We just want to keep the government open. So far, President Trump has not accepted either offer. The President appears to be clinging to his demand for billions of dollars for a border wall, and from what we saw in the Oval Office and news reports about his reaction after our meeting, President Trump is willing to throw a temper tantrum and shut down the government unless he gets his way.

I want to be crystal clear. There will be no additional appropriations to pay for the border wall. It is done. The President repeatedly promised that Mexico would pay for his unnecessary and ineffective border wall, in his words, ''100 percent.'' On Tuesday, he said he would be ''proud'' to shut down the government unless U.S. taxpayers pay for it. Now, just this morning, the President tweeted that Mexico will pay for the wall through savings from the new NAFTA.

Well, Mr. President, if you say Mexico is going to pay for the wall through NAFTA—which it certainly will not—then I guess we don't have to. Let's fund the government.

Honestly, if the President really believed what he tweeted this morning, that his new NAFTA would pay for the wall, he wouldn't be threatening to shut down the government unless American taxpayers fund his wall. He can't have it both ways. The President's position on the wall is totally contradictory, ill-informed, and frankly irresponsible. It is not a serious proposal. It is a throwaway idea the President used—used in the campaign and still uses—to fire up his base.

A Trump temper tantrum and shutdown threat isn't going to change any minds in Congress. President Trump has several ways to avoid a shutdown. He should pick one and soon, but if we wind up with a shutdown, it will be entirely the President's fault. President Trump himself would not dispute that in the Oval Office on Tuesday. He almost bragged that he would shut down the government—what irresponsibility.

I would just like to remind my friend the majority leader that if we arrive at a Trump shutdown, the onus for reopening the government will soon fall in his lap. When Democrats take control of the House in January, Democrats will pass one of our two options to fund the government, and then Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans will be left holding the bag for a Trump shutdown if they don't pass our bill now.

So there is no way for my Republican friends to avoid the issue. There is no way for Leader MCCONNELL to avoid the issue, fearful of President Trump as they all might be. Either Republicans help deal with the President now or they will be left dealing with a much bigger problem in January.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a brief word on China. I have spent the better part of the last two decades encouraging administrations to be tougher on China, which has risen to challenge the United States economically, not through fair trade and fair competition but by shielding its market from U.S. competition, flouting international trade rules against dumping currency manipulation, relentlessly stealing our intellectual property and know-how. China has not played by the rules. They are the outlaw of trade, and they have cost the United States millions of jobs and probably trillions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars.

The recent arrest of the CFO of Huawei, a tech giant in China with close ties to its government and military, is a reminder of the predatory and rapacious behavior of Chinese companies. Huawei is charged by U.S. officials with intentionally violating U.S. sanctions with Iran.

Beyond these specific charges, however, Huawei has raised serious concerns among U.S. officials for a potential role in cyber espionage, given their reported links to China's state security services, and now news reports have confirmed that the massive cyber attack on the Marriott hotel chain a few weeks ago was conducted by none other than Chinese intelligence.

This administration has been tougher on China than previous administrations. They deserve credit for that, but this administration has also shown an eagerness to quickly bargain away tough enforcement of Chinese abuses for mild and sometimes meaningless concessions so President Trump can get a quick news hit, particularly on a bad day. That is what happened with ZTE. No one wants to see a repeat of that movie.

We had ZTE dead to rights. They were hurting America, and President Trump, at the last minute—still unexplained—let them off the hook. I hope that doesn't happen again because this administration has set us up for a potential victory for the first time—better than Bush's administration, better than Obama's administration—against China rapaciousness.

I am urging the President to be tough on Huawei and direct U.S. officials to prosecute these charges and have the Huawei CFO stand on trial in the United States, as she deserves.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, to my dear friend and about my dear friend, the Senator from North Dakota. The task sadly falls to me to begin saying goodbye to Members of our caucus who will not be returning in the 116th Congress. This morning, I would like to begin with the junior Senator from North Dakota.

HEIDI HEITKAMP had a childhood that sounds like it was ripped from the pages of a frontier epic. She grew up as one of seven kids born over 9 years in a house with three bedrooms, in a town with a population south of 100. Do the math. That means that around one-tenth of the town was Heitkamps.

Inside the household, the lack of space meant that HEIDI's room was also her brother's room and also the laundry room. According to her sisters, the presence of a laundry machine had almost no effect on her. She read and read, and rarely, if ever, did she participate in the washing or folding of the Heitkamp laundry.

Her siblings didn't seem to mind, at least not too much. As Julie Heitkamp said about growing up with HEIDI, ''She was so good . . . it was annoying.''

It turned out that the bookworm from a small town in North Dakota was destined for great things. When she worked for Senator Kent Conrad, the outstanding Democrat from North Dakota, he realized the same goodness in HEIDI her sisters recognized, and he encouraged her to run for State auditor at the age of 28. She didn't win that race, but she ran again for State tax commissioner and won and, again, for

attorney general and won—fighting on behalf of sexual assault survivors and against the abusive practices of the tobacco industry. She would run for Governor and, eventually, for the Senate—losing the first but winning the second. She would become the first woman ever elected to the Senate from the great State of North Dakota.

For someone who came from where HEIDI came, that election might have felt like a culmination—but no. For HEIDI, it was just the beginning. It was not about winning or even beating the odds. It was about what you did with the time you had when you were here.

As HEIDI talked about in her farewell speech, what is important is how we use our time. Let the history books report just how well the Senator from North Dakota used her time while she has been here.

HEIDI had been able to bring Democrats and Republicans together during a time of extraordinary partisan divisions—one of the few who could do it so successfully on such major issues. It had been because she understood how each side saw an issue, what each side wanted, and what a compromise could look like. Once she knew an agreement was possible, she worked like no other to see that it was achieved.

That is how she got Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator MCCONNELL on the same energy bill having to do with carbon capture—a remarkable feat with a staunch environmentalist who gives speeches on the floor every day about green and with a Senator from a coal State who defends that industry. That is how she created the first AMBER Alert in Indian Country. It was with our dearly departed friend, Senator McCain. That is how she helped to shut down backpage and child sex trafficking on the internet with broad bipartisan support.

What a great legacy—all of it bipartisan. That instinct for compromise and consensus was born from her life experience. In her family of nine, HEIDI was known as the arbitrator. Even her name is a compromise. Born Mary Kathryn, HEIDI became ''Heidi'' because there was a ''Mary'' and a ''Kathryn'' in her grade school class. She gladly accepted the nickname.

Of course, there have been times HEIDI couldn't bring our two sides together on an issue because she had already been further along than both sides.

Senator HEITKAMP has been the first to really drive home in the Senate the plight of Native American women. She has worked at it tirelessly because she believes that if people were to know about the poverty and abuse and addiction that has plagued many reservations and how they affect both the men and women, they would be up in arms about it. So she wrote the first bill to create a Commission on Native American Children who suffer from rates of poverty, malnutrition, and education disparity far above other populations. A little while ago, it became law and received funding. Recently, it had its first meeting—a legacy that will live on. She also wrote Savanna's Act to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Native American women. It passed the Senate unanimously just a few weeks after the election.

Well, HEIDI, the Senate is catching up to you, and we intend to use the time we have to build on the incredible legacy you leave on these issues. Just so I will never forget what your service has meant to this Chamber, I will always keep the picture of the three HEITKAMP sisters on my wall in my office—all with their high North Dakota cheekbones. It is going to stay there to be a reminder of what HEIDI has done and, more importantly, I am sure she would say, as a reminder of the many things we still have to do to continue the great legacy she will leave.

Those of us on this side of the aisle—at least I—will miss her cornbread as well, her insistence on Corona beer, and her ability to suffer even the worst Fargo accents—or mimicking of Fargo accents as I attempted to do—that were directed in her way.

All of us in this Chamber will sure miss the junior Senator from North Dakota—her warmth, her passion, her sincerity, her political courage. We owe a debt of gratitude to Darwin, her husband, and to her children Ali and Nathan for borrowing HEIDI for these years. We wish them all the best as well.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Continues

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 54, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 54) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

Pending:

Young amendment No. 4080, to clarify that this resolution prohibits United States Armed Forces from refueling non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I rise with gratitude to address my colleagues and members of my staff to reflect on one of my life's greatest honors, and that is serving the people of the great State of Nevada. I begin by thanking them for giving me the profound honor of representing Nevada in the U.S. Congress for 12 years and then in the U.S. Senate for almost 8 years.

Nevada, thank you for granting me the privilege of working every day for a State I am so proud to call my home.

Of course, I thank my immediate family, especially Lynne, my wife, for being at my side for my nearly 30 years of public service.

To my children Hilary, Harris, Drew, and Emmy and to their spouses Eddie, McKenzie, and Collin, thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your tolerance of this process.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Jack and Janet Heller, my parents, for setting the right example and religious tone in our home while I was growing up.

To Richard Brombach, my father-in-law, and all of my wife's family, thank you for raising such a wonderful daughter, sister, cousin, and aunt.

I have five brothers and sisters, and they all played a vital role in my upbringing. So thank you to Jack, Tamie, Mac, Sara, and Bryan.

All of these individuals whom I have mentioned gave me their steadfast support and made my journey from the Nevada Legislature to the secretary of state's office, to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to the U.S. Senate possible. I could count on them every step of the way.

We all know how important our staffs are, and I am no exception. I have been fortunate to have had two staff members with me during my whole tenure in Congress, and I would like to highlight both of them.

Mac Abrams, my chief of staff, hails from North Carolina. I know more about North Carolina than I thought I ever would. Mac came to me from Senator Vitter's office. After 12 years, we muse about writing a book together because, together, we have seen and been through a lot. From the great recession's impact on Nevada to the visits from Senator Reid to my House office, to Senator Ensign's resignation, to the Governor's appointment of me to the Senate, to ObamaCare, Dodd-Frank, immigration reform, tax reform, and changing the courts—just to name a few—Mac has always been there.

In these Chambers, there are a lot of slings and arrows, and it takes an expert to walk through these minefields. No one does it alone. I have always had Mac Abrams by my side. So I thank him for his service to me but, more importantly, for his service to the State of Nevada.

Scott Riplinger has also served the office with distinction. Those who know him and who have worked with him know that he is a problem solver.

It didn't matter which hat he was asked to wear, he wore it with pride. I will miss his hard work, his work on the Banking Committee, his loyalty, and his great sense of humor. Every office needs a Scott Riplinger.

I would like to mention two more.

Sarah Paul has become a dear friend of mine. She joined my staff 7½ years ago, and I have leaned on her heavily to help navigate some very complicated issues. From gaming issues, to mining, to technology, no one—I say no one—can grasp an issue like she can. During the last campaign, she served as my chief of staff as others were relegated to the State of Nevada.

Thank you, Sarah, and congratulations.

On Thanksgiving Day, she introduced Liam Milliner Paul to the world. Again, congratulations to Sarah, to Raymond, and to big brother James on the new addition.

Finally, I recognize Ashley Jonkey. Ashley oversees our State operation, and she has been with us since my early days in the U.S. House of Representatives. Whether it is putting together the Tahoe Summit or keeping me up to speed on local issues, Ashley is someone I can always count on. In fact, over the past decade that I have known Ashley, she has become like family to me but, more importantly, like family to Lynne. She is based in Reno, but we are fortunate to have her here in Washington, DC, today.

I recognize her, along with Mac, Scott, Sarah, and the many members of my staff, who are here today on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

We have a great team. I have had a great team from top to bottom—a team that includes naturalized citizens whose families came to this country to seek better lives, professional social workers, and multiple combat veterans. Every member of my team in Reno, Elko, Las Vegas, and Washington, DC, has worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of Nevadans. My staff's dedication, enthusiasm, and work ethic go unmatched.

I ask unanimous consent to have a list of current and former staff and their names printed in the RECORD for this legislative day.

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

SENATOR HELLER'S LIST OF CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF TO BE ENTERED INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Mac Abrams, Sarah Paul (Timoney), Ashley Jonkey, Meron Bayu, Scott Riplinger, Megan Taylor, Gretchen Andersen, Annie Sedgwick, Scarlet Doyle, Andrew Williams, Joe Boddicker, Blair Bjellos, Rachel Green, Lindsey Parobeck, Jazmine Kemp, Adam Miller, Hayley Brower, William Yepez, Meagan Devlin, Elizabeth Lloyd.

Michael Lienhard, Katie Pace, Rocio Meza, Lauren Morris, Eduardo Martinez, Brett Pollak, Mark Sutliff, Donna Bath, Kike De La Paz, Andrew Lingenfelter, Christy Guedry, Devyn Hartmann, Bruno Moya, Ryan Dutiel, Marcie Zajac, Andrew Thomas, Andrew Holbert, Emy Lesofski, Leeann Gibson (Walker), Josh Finestone.

Hayley Douglas, Stewart 'Mac' Bybee, Michawn Rich, Pat Garrett, Alli Collier, Tom Ferraro, Stephanie Beverly, Mari St. Martin (Nakashima), Corrine Gianpaolo (Zakzeski), Katie Carr, Alison Gaske, Stephanie Ferguson, Karen Paulson, Paula Carroll, Amber Heinz, Ryan McBride, Victoria Glover, Emily Wilkenson, Jeremy Harell, Kristen Elias.

Kristen Pierce (Casey), Luke Burns, Spencer Armuth, Laura Hutson (Bland), Greg Facchiano, Chandler Smith, Neal Patel, Lauren Ann Rehrauer, Ryan Leavitt, Chana Elgin, Matt Morris, John Knobel, John Blum, Mallory Nersesian, Robert Jackson, Eric Duhon, Erin Collins, Christine Atchian, Daniel Giudici, Britt McManus Chapman.

Veronica Charles, Josh Marin-Mora, Chloe McClintock, Sam Crampton, Glenna Smith, Lucero-Gomez Ochoa, Stephen Sifuentes, Michael Mendenhall, Margot Allen, Terri Fairfield, Leonardo Benavides, Matt Morris, Andres Moses.

VETERANS

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I would like to shift gears, for just a moment, to mention several topics that have demanded a lot of my time and a lot of my energy.

When it comes to our legislative successes—tax reform, changes on the courts, banking reform, go down the list—I am most proud of what we have accomplished to help the 300,000 veterans who call Nevada home. I think everybody in this Chamber will agree that while we can never fully repay our debt to our Nation's heroes, we can do everything in our power to show our gratitude for their selflessness and for their sacrifice. Once these men and women return home after leaving their families to fight for our country, it is our turn to fight for them and to make sure all of Nevada's veterans receive the treatment they need, the services they need, and the skills they need to get the jobs to take care of their families.

I see that responsibility as a duty and a privilege. In fact, I have said this before, and I will say it again: The greatest compliment I ever received in public office was when I overheard one veteran say to another, ''If you need help, call Senator HELLER's office.''

As a senior member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have had the opportunity to give our veterans a strong voice in Washington, DC. Under Chairman JOHNNY ISAKSON's leadership, we have made great strides in bringing greater accountability to the VA and in improving the benefits, the care, and the support our veterans have earned.

For example, earlier this year, we pushed the historic VA MISSION Act over the finish line. This new law directs more than $50 billion to our VA healthcare system so the VA can hire more high-quality doctors and allow veterans to get the care they need near their homes and on their schedules.

We also expanded the VA Caregivers Program, which provided a stipend to the families of severely disabled veterans who require caregivers in their homes. Previously, only post-9/11 veterans were able to apply. Now veterans from every era are eligible. This was particularly important to many veterans in Nevada who told me how critical it was that we give veterans more access to this program.

These are just a couple of examples to fix a problem that came up during my discussions during my Veterans Advisory Council meetings. I established these groups of veterans in the northern and southern parts of the State in order to speak frequently and directly with them about the challenges they are facing and the problems that need to be fixed.

For instance, just a few years ago, the Reno VA was one of the worst ranked offices in the Nation. This was at a time when veterans were waiting, on average, 400 days for their disability claims to be approved. This was not acceptable, so I teamed up with Senator BOB CASEY, from Pennsylvania, to hold the VA's feet to the fire. As a result of the implementation of the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, the backlog has been reduced by nearly 85 percent, and 500,000 of our military heroes around the country are no longer waiting for their health benefits. We also provided accountability through expedited firing authority of bad VA employees and overhauled the VA appeals process so veterans do not have to wait years for a decision. The President signed this bill into law in Reno last year.

Expanding veterans' access to care has been one of my top priorities. For veterans living in Northern Nevada, I worked to authorize construction of the Reno VA hospital and delivered $33.5 million in Federal funding for it so that the veterans of the north don't have to drive 500 miles to Boulder City to access the State Veterans Home.

I walked through the construction site when I was in Sparks last month, and I look forward to the completion of this state-of-the-art facility.

I did the same for veterans in Southern Nevada. I worked for 10 years to secure the approval of the new larger clinic in Pahrump. For veterans who face barriers to try to get an education so that they can earn a good living, I introduced a bill that increases the education benefits for Guard Reserve members that ensures that the GI bill is available to veterans for life.

After Nevada was ranked second among States with the highest rate of veteran suicides and was experiencing a doctors' shortage, I authorized a new law that gives veterans more access to mental healthcare services and treatment.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Chairman ISAKSON, Ranking Member TESTER, Senate leadership, and this administration to enact laws that provide our veterans with the support and benefits they are owed.

While we have made progress, we can and must do even better. It is my hope that the next Congress—Republicans and Democrats—can continue to work together to get things done for our veterans.

Now, on another topic—tax reform—when I delivered my maiden speech on the floor of the Senate, Nevada was struggling after being knocked down by the great recession—a time when Nevada led the Nation in home foreclosures and when we had double-digit unemployment. Today, Nevada is leading the Nation in private sector job growth, the housing market has recovered, and home prices are increasing. Now we are one of the fastest growing States in the Nation.

Nevada is booming. It is because this Congress delivered tax cuts that put more money in America's paychecks, their pocketbooks, and their pensions, and we advanced pro-growth policies that have led to more jobs, higher wages, and more opportunities for Nevadans.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I am proud to have authorized and authored several provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that include, for example, not limiting but doubling the child tax credit from $1,000 to $2,000 per child. Since the law was enacted, tens of thousands of jobs in the State of Nevada have been created. Recently, Nevada's unemployment rate hit a new 11-year low—the lowest rate since the 2008 economic downturn. As a result of this new law, tens of thousands of Nevadans have benefited from bonuses, raises, and expanded benefits, on top of bigger paychecks and strengthened pensions.

To give you a couple of examples, South Point Hotel and Casino doubled its full-time workers' bonuses. Developers of a stalled project on the Las Vegas Strip committed to creating over 10,000 jobs, and the Prospect Hotel in Ely gave its employees bonuses and raised its starting wages. All of this was a direct result of the tax reform bill.

Nevada's economy is back on track, and I hope this Congress will continue to advance policies to keep us on that path to help Nevada workers and the hard-working families get ahead.

Let me move on. Since coming to Washington, DC, my No. 1 focus has always been the people of Nevada and putting our State's priorities first. For example, I worked with Senator MARTIN HEINRICH from New Mexico to level the playing field for the development of new, alternative energy technologies to support Nevada's energy diversification.

Earlier this year, I was proud to host the bipartisan annual Lake Tahoe Summit, and I worked with Senator FEINSTEIN throughout my career to deliver resources to protect the Tahoe Basin and to fight devastating wildfires.

When Congress came together to approve a 5-year highway bill, I was able to secure my top infrastructure priority, and that was to expand Interstate 11 up to Northern Nevada.

Whether it is leading the Republican charge to extend unemployment benefits in 2014, when Nevada's unemployment rate was nearly double what it is now, or breaking with my party to pass the Violence Against Women Act, I have always been willing to work with anyone who has good ideas to help move Nevada's families and Nevada's communities forward.

While I am pleased that I have been able to work with my colleagues to turn these ideas into over 100 pieces of legislation that are now law, this job is about more than advancing good policies. It is about helping people, and that is what is most important. I work for Nevadans, and when someone comes to me with a problem or calls one of my offices for help, we drop everything we do and all that we do in an effort to help them.

When the VA refused to pay a homeless veteran $40,000 after he won his appeal, we made sure the veteran got paid so he could get back on his feet.

When a constituent had a liver transplant and was denied coverage and left without insurance, he enrolled into the marketplace exchange. When the time came to reenroll, the exchange denied him and forced him to go without insurance until my office intervened.

Take, for example, a woman who came to us after being charged a Medicare penalty of about 40 percent each month. My staff worked with the local and regional offices to secure reimbursement of $1,000 and to adjust the monthly premium to save that constituent, potentially, thousands of dollars.

When a constituent spent 9 months trying to get her Social Security retirement benefits, we were able to get her a resolution to properly begin receiving her payment.

Finally, when a Navy veteran was in jeopardy of losing his home while he was temporarily out of work, we contacted the lender of his mortgage on his behalf and ensured that he was able to keep his home.

These are just a few examples of what this job is really all about—making life better for people you work for. I know that I am not alone. I truly believe that this is what drives all Members of Congress, and that is to serve their constituents—no matter your party, no matter your State, no matter what you did before you got here.

Before I got here, I grew up with two parents and five siblings who, like Nevadans, embodied the ''battle born'' spirit. I would like to pay tribute not only to my family, friends, and mentors who have helped me along the way but to all of my constituents by talking a little bit about what makes Nevada different.

Nevadans are pioneers. They are not afraid to take risks, to dream, to put in hard work, or to start from scratch. We are self-starters, we are builders, and we are trailblazers. We laid down tracks to connect railroads and mined for gold and silver in the north. We shoveled mud, drilled through rocks, and scaled concrete to construct the Hoover Dam, and in the Mojave Desert we created the Entertainment Capital of the World.

One characteristic outsiders may overlook is this: We are fighters. There is no other event in our history that best serves as an example of that trait than the aftermath of the October 1 mass shooting in Las Vegas, a tragedy that truly shook our State.

I have spoken before on the Senate floor about the incredible and heroic people who helped to lead concertgoers and, in turn, the whole community, out of that darkness. Whether these individuals wore uniforms or not, they stepped up to help others, and their actions helped us grieve and start to heal together.

This immeasurable pain, suffering, and devastation inflicted by one man elicited a profound, innate, and immediate human response from Nevadans across the State.

Like many Nevadans, I saw firsthand the strong sense of family, faith, and strength in the wake of the October 1 shooting. When I leave here, I will carry those extraordinary moments of unity and generosity with me.

During the 1989 inaugural address, Former President George H. W. Bush once said:

> We know what works: Freedom works. We know what's right: Freedom is right. We know how to secure a more just and prosperous life for man on Earth: through free markets, free speech, free elections, and the exercise of free will unhampered by the state.

Regardless of what party affiliation you have, I still think we can all agree with those words. We can all agree that we are fortunate to live in a great country defended by men and women who stand guard to defend our way of life. We can all agree we are fortunate to live in a great country in which every aspiration or dream is possible to achieve. We can all agree that this is because freedom works, and that freedom is right.

No, not everything comes easy, and I would be lying if I said others didn't have to fight harder than some. But that job you want to get, that school you want to get into, that business you want to start, or that idea that you would like to see come to life is possible in America. This is a country where the son of an auto mechanic and a school cook had the opportunity to deliver the newspaper to then-Governor Michael O'Callaghan, go to Sunday school with then-Lieutenant Governor Harry Reid's sons, get his education at the same public high school as the late Senator Paul Laxalt, play basketball with Governor Brian Sandoval, and a place where that same kid can grow up and serve Nevada in the U.S. Senate.

My goal always has been making Nevada a better place today than it was yesterday. It is a better place to raise a family—not only one where you can find a job but a place where you can have a long-term career.

I would like to end with this. My daughter Hillary and her husband

adopted a young child from China. She was abandoned as an infant at a bus station. Her name is Ava. She was raised in an orphanage for the first 2 years of her life.

When my daughter and her family first met Ava, she did not cry when she was hungry. She did not cry when she was tired. She did not cry when she needed to be changed, and she did not cry when she was hurt. Why? Because it didn't matter; she was always on someone else's time. But she did cry when they took her shoes off to put her to bed. You see, in an orphanage, kids sleep with their shoes on so they don't get lost. Ava, at 2 years of age, had never slept without her shoes on.

Now, she did cry the first time when they bathed her in a tub of water. In an orphanage, you take cloth baths. So Ava had never been in a bathtub. Today, when Ava falls, someone is there to pick her up. Today, when she cries, someone is there to wipe away the tears. Today, when she is hungry, someone is there to feed her. Today, when she is tired, there is always someone there to tuck her into bed.

When Ava grows up in this country, there will be plenty of doors that she can open that would otherwise have been closed. I will never forget seeing my newest granddaughter in the arms of the Vice President, knowing that her life had changed forever.

This is the job at hand, to uphold this country's longstanding reputation as the land of opportunity.

I an optimist, and I will remain one after leaving this great Chamber because I have seen remarkable moments here in Washington. This body has come a long way from its early days when Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John Calhoun were navigating a divided nation and fighting to save our young democracy. I believe that our Nation's future is bright, and that Nevada's future is bright. My heart has been and always will be in Nevada, a State that I love and a place that I am so proud to call home.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for you.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I can say with great confidence that Nevada and the Senate and the country are better for DEAN HELLER's service to our Nation. We know DEAN is a smart guy. He is so smart that when I was chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee in 2010 and was trying to get him to run for the U.S. Senate, he declined to do so, only to then run in 2012 and, obviously, he succeeded.

I know there are many others who would like to speak and pay tribute to DEAN, and I won't take but a moment.

Of course, one of the things I remember most about Senator HELLER is his optimism. I also particularly appreciate his comment about things he has done to help ordinary Nevadans that do not involve major pieces of legislation. He certainly played a part in major legislation like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, but DEAN's efforts to also pass legislation like the SAFER Act, which helps our law enforcement agencies reduce the rape kit backlog—DEAN's efforts on the Federal level, coupled with State level reforms, played a role in making it possible for nearly 8,000 untested sexual assault kits in Nevada to be sent to labs for testing.

DEAN's commitment to our veterans led to his bill, the Veterans Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act.

I appreciate his reminding us that sometimes the most important work we do is what we call casework. When veterans come to us and say ''I am not getting access to the healthcare that I have earned by virtue of my military service'' or when a senior says ''I am not getting my Social Security benefits'' or sometimes when people contact us and say ''I have relatives who can't enter the country because they can't get a visa''—these are the kinds of things that people will never forget. They are the sorts of acts of individual kindness and generosity that, with a true attitude of public service, people will never forget. Sometimes these efforts amount to some of the most meaningful work that we can do and that our staff can do.

So I have every confidence that we will see and hear a lot more from DEAN and Lynne, no matter what they do. It is clear to me that DEAN has his priorities right: family first, faith, and then service to our country.

DEAN, we are going to miss you, but we look forward to staying in touch with you and Lynne, as friends do, and we wish you all the luck. Given your talent for working on cars, which is one of the things I think is particularly noteworthy, you will be my first call if I need my transmission fixed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, as chairman of the Veterans Committee, for the last 4 years I have had the privilege of working with DEAN HELLER from Nevada.

In his opening remarks in his farewell speech, he spoke about his compassion for veterans. I have seen it up close and personal. His value as a member of that committee to me is invaluable. I could not have had a better member.

We had a lot of tough votes that had to be taken. A lot of times I had to count noses, and I knew I could count on him when it got to committee. This is a guy you could count on 100 percent of the time, every day.

He cares about what he is doing. He knows what he is doing. He is an affable person who is fun to be with, even if you disagree on things. DEAN is one of a kind, in my opinion, and someone I am very proud to have served with on the committee. I wish he were going to be there for my last 2 years as chairman so that I could count on him a little bit more.

DEAN is the real deal. He is the guy you can put money in the bank on. He has helped a lot.

I wish him the very best. His service to the country is invaluable. I served with him in the House and in the Senate. For the whole 20 years he has been here, I have been here too. I have seen him in countless tough votes. Whether it is Part D of Medicare or whatever it might be, he has always been there to be counted on.

He has stood up for the State of Nevada, whether the issue was nuclear energy, nuclear storage, nuclear waste, or nuclear bombs.

Nevada is a great State. This is a great Senate, and we have a great country. One of the reason we do is we have great individuals like DEAN HELLER.

God bless you, and I wish you the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, who chairs the Veterans Affairs Committee.

I have the privilege of chairing the Senate Commerce Committee. Senator HELLER has been a very active and important voice on our committee on countless issues. Our committee has a very broad, wide jurisdiction. We heard him speak about his passion for veterans, and everybody knows that and how hard he has worked to make life better for veterans in the State of Nevada. But I would say, also, on issues like rural broadband and transportation, many of which, as I said, fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee, I can't think of anybody who has been more passionate, more representative of his State and his people, more conscientious, more hard-working, and, frankly, just rock solid when it comes to the way he stands up for and represents the State of Nevada here in the U.S. Senate.

So I, too, am going to miss him and his voice and his excellent work and that of his staff on the Senate Commerce Committee. As those who have spoken before me have said, we know that his contributions not only to the people of Nevada but also to the people of this country will continue because he is someone who not only has great talent but also tremendous character.

As I think about the future that he and Lynne are going to enjoy, hopefully it will include a little more time together and more time with those grandkids, which we talk about all the time.

The other thing I appreciate about DEAN HELLER is that no matter how tough the going was, he always had a smile on his face. People talk about his optimism. That is a virtue that, to me, really matters around here. We deal

with weighty and serious issues. It is important that we see the lighter side and that we appreciate the humor in what we do, too; that we approach it with a sense of purpose but also a sense of optimism. That is always evident whenever you encounter DEAN HELLER in any circumstance. The thing I think I will miss the most about him is that whenever I see him, I see that smile, and I appreciate that.

I wish him and Lynne and his family the best in the days ahead. I thank him for his great work here, and I thank his family for the sacrifice they have made to enable him to be here to represent Nevadans in the U.S. Senate.

So, Senator HELLER, God bless you and your family in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, like my colleagues, I, too, want to honor and express my gratitude to my friend and colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER.

Most people don't know that he has spent 30 years serving the great State of Nevada. I have heard everyone talk about how DEAN loves Nevada. There is no doubt that if you just have an initial conversation with DEAN HELLER, you will learn about Nevada and his love for Nevada and why it is a wonderful place to live.

He has advocated for the people of Carson City as a member of our Nevada State Assembly. He served as Nevada's secretary of state, where he made Nevada the first State in the Nation to adopt paper records for electronic voting machines.

In Congress, DEAN has fought tirelessly on behalf of our Nation's veterans, as we have heard, first as a Representative for Nevada's Second Congressional District and then as a United States Senator. I have watched DEAN and have had the honor to work with him now across the aisle.

When I first came to the Senate as a junior Senator, he warmly welcomed me. We had a conversation about how we could work together—although we don't see eye to eye on everything, but how we could work together for the best interests of the State of Nevada. He made a commitment then, and he followed through on that commitment.

So together we have worked to do so many things on behalf of the great people of the State of Nevada. We worked on critical infrastructure. He has worked to support our local law enforcement and fund programs, as you have heard, for veterans and seniors and low-income families.

We also found common ground, just as Nevadans expected us to do, and introduced bipartisan legislation to protect our public lands in eastern Nevada while also prioritizing long-term economic growth in our rural communities. I have also worked with him and watched DEAN as he worked on domestic violence prevention and human trafficking prevention in the State of Nevada.

We have had the opportunity, not just here in Washington but in our home State, to work side by side to stop any attempts to revive Yucca Mountain. We introduced bipartisan legislation requiring the Secretary of Energy to obtain the written consent of the Governor and impacted local Tribal communities before building a nuclear waste repository.

As you have heard, DEAN and I also shared an unfortunate, horrific incident on October 1—the deadly shooting in Las Vegas. He and I were on the ground, along with our entire delegation, to do everything we could in our community, and DEAN was everywhere. He was talking to so many people, thanking the first responders, stopping by the hospitals, talking with the families. It truly was his commitment to his home State to do everything he could to help that community heal, and he continues to do so today.

The one thing I do know as a Nevadan born and raised, just like DEAN, is that when it comes to our beloved State, it is about putting that State first, the people there, and uniting and coming together to make sure that we are working together. No matter the climate, no matter the partisanship that we see here in Washington, it is about what we can do every single day to work together, and I thank him for that commitment. I thank him for his willingness to bring this junior Senator in and have conversations about how we can work together to the benefit of our community.

I want to thank Senator HELLER for everything he has done over the years on behalf of the State of Nevada, for his decades of service, and for his friendship. I wish you and Lynne and your beautiful children and grandchildren the best in this chapter of your life. I know you are not done. We are all excited to see what is next.

So I thank you, my friend, and I look forward to working with you in the future as well. Thank you for your commitment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, before I speak on the topic that I came to the floor to speak about, which is the resolution currently before the Senate, I wanted to just echo the commentary made about our colleague Senator HELLER. I have enjoyed our time working together.

I spent 6 years of my childhood growing up in Las Vegas, so we have a lot of mutual friends. He knows a lot of the people I grew up with and is a part of our family. He will be sorely missed here. I am sure he will be warmly welcomed back home to the community and to his family. We all look forward to seeing the future endeavors lying ahead for him. I know he still has much to offer the Nation and the State of Nevada.

S.J. RES. 54

Madam President, one of the things that makes service in the Senate meaningful is when we get to discuss big issues of great importance. I want to start by thanking the authors of this War Powers Resolution on Yemen because, while I may not agree with it—and I am going to describe why in a moment—I think it is important that the Senate have big debates about big topics and play its rightful role. The Senate and the legislative branch have an important role to play in setting the foreign policy of the United States.

I actually don't think the War Powers Act is constitutional. I believe it is an unconstitutional restraint on the power of the Commander in Chief, and even if it were constitutional, I do not believe that our engagement, or what we are doing in Yemen with the Saudi UAE coalition, rises to a level of triggering it.

That doesn't mean that Congress should not be involved. Frankly, the one way to be involved if you wanted to, if you wanted to pronounce yourself on a matter of this topic, you should file to cut off the money. I wouldn't support it, but that is where Congress's power really comes from. Shut off the money; say that no money can be spent on this effort. Few people are willing to do that, so we rely on these other mechanisms that exist in our law.

But I want to talk more about why I think it is bad idea to vote for this and why I hope more of my colleagues will join me in opposing it.

First of all, I understand what is happening. This resolution is not new; it has been discussed before. It existed for a number of months, well before Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi's brutal murder at the Saudi consulate in Yemen. So this is not a new issue, but it has become for many Members proxy—a vehicle by which they can express displeasure at the way the administration and the President have responded to the murder of Mr. Khashoggi.

I think what has happened to Mr. Khashoggi is an outrage. I don't need a smoking gun or an intelligence briefing to tell me that the Crown Prince is responsible.

If you know anything about Saudi Arabia, if you know anything about how their government works, and if you know anything about the Crown Prince, you know that there is no way that 17 guys close to him get on an airplane, fly to a third country, chop up a guy in a consulate, dispose of the body, and fly back, and he didn't know anything about it. It is just not real.

It is also consistent with a pattern of behavior by the Crown Prince. He literally kidnapped the Prime Minister of Lebanon about a year and a half ago. He has jailed multiple members of his family and government because they weren't in support of his being the successor to the King. This is a pattern of behavior that needs to be dealt with. I do not believe dealing with it requires us to shatter the Saudi-U.S. alliance.

Foreign policy is hard because it must be infused with our values and

the defense of human rights. And I say this with humility—I hold my record up to that of anyone in this Chamber when it comes to fighting on behalf of human rights and humanitarian causes, and we have a lot of great champions of that in the U.S. Senate. But we also have to recognize that this has to be balanced sometimes with realism, and it requires us to make difficult decisions.

The interesting thing about foreign policy is that it is often not a choice between a great idea and a bad idea; it is often a choice between two less-than-ideal outcomes, and you are trying to figure out which one would do the least harm and make the most sense. In many ways, that is what we are facing here in this debate about the Saudi-U.S. alliance.

I have long recognized and condemned the horrifying human rights violations that occur at a systemic level in Saudi Arabia, and I will continue to do so. But I also recognize that there is a threat in the Middle East posed by Iran and their ambitions that must be confronted, and it must be confronted now, regionally, or eventually it will pull the United States into direct conflict. Saudi Arabia and our alliance is a key part of that coalition, so it would be a mistake to shatter it.

In the case of Yemen, this has become a proxy issue for the broader issue of the murder of Mr. Khashoggi. Hopefully later today, there will be a resolution offered by the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and the majority leader—I hope others will join in—that makes very clear that the vast majority of Members in this Chamber condemn what happened to Mr. Khashoggi and hold the Crown Prince responsible for his murder.

There is no disputing that what is happening in Yemen is a horrifying humanitarian tragedy. The numbers speak for themselves. Over 57,000 human beings have lost their lives. Half the country's population of 28 million people is starving to death, including many women and children, and 2.3 million people have been displaced from their homes. It is horrifying, and there is plenty of blame to go around, including Iran and their Houthi surrogates.

The first question I would ask is, If this resolution passes and were to become law, would it end this conflict? If we pass this and the White House were somehow forced to do what we are asking them to do, it wouldn't end this conflict. This conflict will continue, this fight will continue, and the reason why is pretty straightforward: The Saudis view the Houthis as agents of Iran. They already see agents of Iran via Hezbollah, Syria, and Iraq obviously for a long time in Lebanon, and now, to their west and south, Yemen. They are not just agents of Iran. They have launched rockets and ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia, at their civilian populations, including efforts to kill members of the Saudi royal family and government leadership. They have threatened global shipping in the region, where over 400 million barrels of oil a day transit—critical to the world's energy supplies. So they are going to have a war. There is no way Saudi Arabia or the UAE or any of these countries are going to allow themselves to be encircled by Iranian agents.

This conflict will continue irrespective of what we do, and the Saudis will have no problem buying weapons. One of the sad facts about the world today is that countries have plenty of sources from which they can buy this weaponry and plenty of countries and arms dealers who are willing to sell it to them.

Will this resolution, if it passes, end the suffering? The answer, sadly, is no, it will not. In fact, it is the Houthis who have blocked the two access roads that lead to the port, making it difficult to deliver aid. It is the Houthis who have placed mines at the entrance of the port. It is the Houthis, by the way, who are torturing people—torturing people. We have seen reports of faces being smashed by batons, of people hanging from chains by their genitals and by their wrists for weeks in places, people being scorched with acid. That is the Houthis. That will continue.

Will this end the warfare? It will not. It will not end the warfare. In fact, I think it has the potential to trigger broader warfare.

First of all, it won't end the warfare because right now they are having peace talks. Put yourself in common sense for a moment, and ask yourself: If you are the Houthis and you just read in the newspaper that now the U.S. Senate has voted to end support for Saudi Arabia—do you know what they are thinking? We don't need a peace deal; we might be able to win this thing now. They don't know that it is not going to become law, that the House is not going to take it up. They don't know any of that. They just read that the United States is weakening in its support of Saudi Arabia, and they think, we don't need a peace deal. It is going to embolden them to not strike a peace deal.

But here is where I think it really gets dangerous. The United States stops its support of Saudi Arabia. Houthis establish more control and more stability in their control in areas of Yemen. What are they going to do then? Are they then going to go and rebuild the country, build roads and bridges, and move on to an era of prosperity and peace? They are not. They are going to become what they are but in an expanded way—agents of Iranian influence and of Iranian-sponsored violence.

Here is what you can expect to see if the Houthis establish control of key areas of Yemen and are able to reach a stalemate or, worse, are able to solidify their grip on power: You are going to see hundreds of ballistic missiles launched against Saudi Arabia—missiles that, by the way, in a contingency where there is a crisis between the United States and Iran, would also be able to target American service men and women serving in the region. You are going to see these explosive UAVs that they have already used in attacking Saudi Arabia.

Do you know what Saudi Arabia is going to do in response? They are going to hit them back even harder. In fact, they may even hit Iran, triggering an even broader war. And it gets worse. It gets worse because you can also see them using explosive boats and anti-ship missiles to cut off shipping lanes in the Arabian Gulf. At that point, you will see the U.S. Navy called upon to go in there and reopen shipping because the global energy supply is relying upon it, and the world looks to the United States as a guarantor of the freedom of the seas.

In essence, this could very well lead, in the long run, to an even broader and more dangerous conflict that could involve us and could pull us in. That is the way we need to think about these issues—not just what is before us now. You have to think two or three steps ahead, and two or three steps ahead is that this could become a broader conflict that forces us in.

Imagine it for a moment. We know for a fact that Iran's plans are to use surrogates to attack the United States in instances of a crisis. That is why these Shia militias in Iraq are so dangerous. At a moment's notice, they could decide they are going to start attacking American troops in Iraq, and Iran is going to say: It wasn't us; it was the Shia militia. That is why Hezbollah in Syria is so dangerous. That is why Lebanese Hezbollah is so dangerous. That is why they have cells all over the world ready to be activated at a moment of crisis as an asymmetrical way for Iran to attack the United States without direct attribution. And now we are going to give them one more—the Houthis in Yemen to target our service men and women and our allies in the region, and then we will have to respond, and then we will be in a war involving American service men and women.

Nothing we are doing now guarantees that won't happen anyway, but I am telling you that if we pull out of this effort, it makes it likely. I think it makes it likely that we will see a broader conflict in the very near future that will directly involve the United States of America.

On this final point, I will say that it is important for us to think about these things pragmatically because we lose our influence over the conduct of this war. The Saudi authorities and their military do not do a good job of respecting the rules of war. In fact, they have a military culture in Saudi Arabia where you are more likely to get punished for not taking the shot than for blowing up a bus full of children or hitting a residential project.

You are more likely to be punished for not taking the shot than for taking the shot that kills innocents. That has to change, and we have some level of influence now, given the fact that we are engaged with them, to sort of steer them in that direction and explain to them what troubles our alliance here in Washington. We lose that influence if we walk away.

I do sympathize with the two points behind this resolution: reasserting congressional authority on foreign policy—I agree we need to have more oversight and engagement, and I agree that the conduct of this war in Yemen is horrifying and that what is happening to civilians there is terrible. I just don't think our pulling out makes it better. I actually think it makes it worse, and I actually think that in the long run, it sucks America into a much broader and more dangerous conflict. That is why I hope more Senators here today will oppose this resolution.

We do need to send a clear message to Saudi Arabia that what the Crown Prince did to Mr. Khashoggi is unacceptable, but this is the wrong way to do the right thing.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I know I was supposed to speak next, but I know the distinguished Senator from Missouri has a unanimous consent request, so I yield to him.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the Senator from Vermont.

AMENDING THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3749, introduced earlier today by Senator KLOBUCHAR and myself.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3749) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, 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 for other purposes.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3749) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3749

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act''.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

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

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

''(a) FILING AND REVIEW OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

''(1) the filing of a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402;

''(2) the preliminary review of the claim, to be conducted by a hearing officer as provided in section 403;

''(3) mediation as provided in section 404, if requested and agreed to by the parties under that section; and

''(4) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406 and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407.

''(b) RIGHT OF EMPLOYEE TO FILE CIVIL ACTION.—

''(1) CIVIL ACTION.—Only a covered employee who has filed a claim timely as provided in section 402 and who has not submitted a request for a hearing on the claim pursuant to section 405(a) may, during the period described in paragraph (3), file a civil action in a District Court of the United States with respect to the violation alleged in the claim, as provided in section 408.

''(2) EFFECT OF FILING CIVIL ACTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a), if the covered employee files such a civil action—

''(A) the preliminary review of the claim by the hearing officer as provided in section 403 shall terminate upon the filing of the action by the covered employee; and

''(B) the procedure for consideration of the alleged violation shall not include any further review of the claim by the hearing officer as provided in section 403.

''(3) PERIOD FOR FILING CIVIL ACTION.—The period described in this paragraph with respect to a claim is the 70-day period which begins on the date the covered employee files the claim under section 402.

''(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR EMPLOYEES WHO FAIL TO STATE A CLAIM FOR WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), if a covered employee receives a written notice from the hearing officer under section 403(d)(2) that the employee has the right to file a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408, the covered employee may file the civil action not later than 90 days after receiving such written notice.

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE.—In the case of an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, the Office, after receiving a claim filed under section 402, may recommend that the employee use the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police for resolution of the employee's grievance for a specific period of time. Any deadline in this Act relating to a claim for which the employee is using the grievance procedures, that has not already passed by the first day of that specific period, shall be stayed during that specific period.

''(d) ELECTION OF REMEDIES FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECT ACT.—The term 'direct Act' means an Act (other than this Act), or provision of the Revised Statutes, that is specified in section 201, 202, or 203.

''(B) DIRECT PROVISION.—The term 'direct provision' means a provision (including a definitional provision) of a direct Act that applies the rights or protections of a direct Act (including rights and protections relating to nonretaliation or noncoercion) to a Library claimant.

''(C) LIBRARY CLAIMANT.—The term 'Library claimant' means, with respect to a direct provision, an employee of the Library of Congress who is covered by that direct provision.

''(2) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER THIS ACT.—A Library claimant who initially files a claim for an alleged violation as provided in section 402 may, at any time before the date that is 10 days after a hearing officer submits the report on the preliminary review of the claim under section 403(c), elect to bring the claim for a proceeding before the corresponding Federal agency under the corresponding direct provision, instead of continuing with the procedures applicable to the claim under this title or filing a civil action in accordance with section 408.

''(3) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS OR LABOR LAW.—A Library claimant who initially brings a claim, complaint, or charge under a direct provision for a proceeding before a Federal agency may, prior to requesting a hearing under the agency's procedures, elect to—

''(A) continue with the agency's procedures and preserve the option (if any) to bring any civil action relating to the claim, complaint, or charge, that is available to the Library claimant; or

''(B) file a claim with the Office under section 402 and continue with the corresponding procedures of this title available and applicable to a covered employee.

''(4) TIMING.—A Library claimant who meets the initial deadline under section 402(d) for filing a claim under this title, or any initial deadline for bringing a claim, complaint, or charge under the applicable direct provision, and then elects to change to alternative procedures as described in paragraph (2) or (3)(B), shall be considered to meet any initial deadline for the alternative procedures.

''(5) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall take effect and shall apply as described in section 153(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) (except to the extent such section applies to any violation of section 210 or a provision of an Act specified in section 210).

''(e) RIGHTS OF PARTIES TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of any individual (including a covered employee, the head of an employing office, or an individual who is alleged to have committed personally an act which consists of a violation of part A of title II) to retain counsel to protect the interests of the individual at any point during any of the procedures provided under this title for the consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II, including as provided under section 415(d)(8) with respect to individuals subject to a reimbursement requirement of section 415(d).

''(f) STANDARDS FOR ASSERTIONS MADE BY PARTIES.—Any party in any of the procedures provided under this title, as well as any counsel or other person representing a party in any of such procedures, shall have an obligation to ensure that, to the best of the party's knowledge, information, and belief, as formed after an inquiry which is reasonable under the circumstances, each of the following is correct:

''(1) No pleading, written motion, or other paper is presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of resolution of the matter.

''(2) The claims, defenses, and other legal contentions the party advocates are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law.

''(3) The factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further review or discovery.

''(4) The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of information.

''(g) PROCEDURE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede or limit section 225(d)(2).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CIVIL ACTION.—Section 408(a) (2 U.S.C. 1408(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 404'' and inserting ''section 401'';

(2) by striking ''who has completed counseling under section 402 and mediation under section 403''; and

(3) by striking the second sentence.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE IV.—Title IV is amended—

(1) by striking section 404 (2 U.S.C. 1404); and

(2) by redesignating section 403 (2 U.S.C. 1403) as section 404.

(d) MISCELLANEOUS CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 225 (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 404; and

(2) by redesignating the item relating to section 403 as relating to section 404.

SEC. 102. REFORM OF PROCESS FOR INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

(a) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section 402 (2 U.S.C. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 402. INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) CLAIM.—

''(1) FILING OF CLAIM.—To commence a proceeding under this title, a covered employee alleging a violation of law made applicable under part A of title II shall file a claim with the Office. The Office shall not accept a claim which is filed after the deadline applicable under subsection (d).

''(2) CONTENTS OF CLAIM.—The claim filed under this section shall be made in writing under oath or affirmation, shall describe the facts that form the basis of the claim and the violation that is being alleged, shall identify the employing office alleged to have committed the violation or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, and shall be in such form as the Office requires.

''(3) NO EFFECT ON ABILITY OF COVERED EMPLOYEE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM OFFICE OR PURSUE RELIEF.—Nothing in paragraph (2), or subsection (b) or (c), may be construed to limit the ability of a covered employee—

''(A) to contact the Office or any other appropriate office prior to filing a claim under this section to seek information regarding the employee's rights under this Act and the procedures available under this Act;

''(B) in the case of a covered employee of an employing office of the House of Representatives or Senate, to refer information regarding an alleged violation of part A of title II to the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate (as the case may be); or

''(C) to file a civil action in accordance with section 401(b).

''(b) INITIAL PROCESSING OF CLAIM.—

''(1) INTAKE AND RECORDING; NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon the filing of a claim by a covered employee under subsection (a), the Office shall take such steps as may be necessary for the initial intake and recording of the claim, including providing each party with all relevant information with respect to the rights of the party under this Act, and shall transmit immediately a copy of the claim to the head of the employing office and the designated representative of that office.

''(2) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLAIMS BASED ON ACTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (B) which consists of a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(A) by an individual, upon the filing of the claim under subsection (a), the Office shall notify immediately such individual of the claim, the possibility that the individual may be required to reimburse the account described in section 415(a) for the reimbursable portion of any award or settlement in connection with the claim, and the right of the individual under section 415(d)(8) to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title with respect to the claim.

''(B) VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) harassment that is unlawful under section 201(a) or 206(a); or

''(ii) intimidation, reprisal, or discrimination that is unlawful under section 207 and is taken against a covered employee because of a claim alleging a violation described in clause (i).

''(c) USE OF SECURE ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND TRACKING SYSTEM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SECURE SYSTEM.—The Office shall establish and operate a secure electronic reporting system through which a covered employee may initiate a proceeding under this title, and which will keep an electronic record of the date and time at which the proceeding is initiated and will track all subsequent actions or proceedings occurring with respect to the proceeding under this title.

''(2) ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARTIES.—The system shall be accessible to all parties to such actions or proceedings, but only until the completion of such actions or proceedings.

''(3) ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCEDURES.—The Office shall use the information contained in the system to make regular assessments of the effectiveness of the procedures under this title in providing for the timely resolution of claims, and shall submit semi-annual reports on such assessments each year to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

''(d) DEADLINE.—A covered employee may not file a claim under this section with respect to an allegation of a violation of law after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the alleged violation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by amending the item relating to section 402 to read as follows:

''Sec. 402. Initiation of procedures.''.

SEC. 103. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CLAIMS BY HEARING OFFICER.

(a) PRELIMINARY REVIEW DESCRIBED.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), as amended by section 101(c), is further amended by inserting after section 402 the following new section:

''SEC. 403. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CLAIMS.

''(a) PRELIMINARY REVIEW BY HEARING OFFICER.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 7 days after transmission to the employing office of a claim pursuant to section 402(b), the Executive Director shall appoint a hearing officer to conduct a preliminary review of the claim.

''(2) PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT.—The Executive Director shall appoint a hearing officer under this subsection in the same manner and in accordance with the same requirements and procedures applicable to the appointment of a hearing officer under section 405(c).

''(b) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—In conducting a preliminary review of a claim under this section, the hearing officer shall assess each of the following:

''(1) Whether the claimant is a covered employee authorized to obtain relief relating to the claim under this title.

''(2) Whether the office which is the subject of the claim is an employing office under this Act.

''(3) Whether the individual filing the claim has met the applicable deadlines for filing the claim under this title.

''(4) The identification of factual and legal issues involved with respect to the claim.

''(5) The specific relief sought by the individual.

''(6) Whether, on the basis of the assessments made under paragraphs (1) through (5), the individual filing the claim is a covered employee who has stated a claim for which, if the allegations contained in the claim are true, relief may be granted under this title.

''(7) The potential for the settlement of the claim without a formal hearing as provided under section 405 or a civil action as provided under section 408.

''(c) REPORT ON REVIEW.—

''(1) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after a claim is filed under section 402, the hearing officer shall submit to the individual filing the claim and the office which is the subject of the claim a report on the preliminary review conducted under this section, and shall include in the report the hearing officer's determination as to whether the individual is a covered employee who has stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title (as described in paragraph (6) of subsection (b)). The submission of the report shall conclude the preliminary review.

''(2) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—The hearing officer may (upon notice to the individual filing the claim and the employing office which is the subject of the claim) use an additional period of not to exceed 30 days to conclude the preliminary review.

''(d) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION OF FAILURE TO STATE CLAIM FOR WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED.—If the hearing officer's report on the preliminary review of a claim under subsection (c) includes the determination that the individual filing the claim is not a covered employee or has not stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title—

''(1) the individual (including an individual who is a Library claimant, as defined in section 401(d)(1)) may not obtain a formal hearing with respect to the claim as provided under section 405; and

''(2) the hearing officer shall provide the individual and the Executive Director with a written notice that the individual may file a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408.

''(e) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT ON PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CERTAIN CLAIMS TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES.—In the case of a hearing officer's report under subsection (c) on the preliminary review of a claim alleging a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(A), the hearing officer shall transmit the report to—

''(1) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of such an act by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

''(2) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of such an act by a Senator.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING HEARING AFTER PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—Section 405(a) (2 U.S.C. 1405(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR HEARINGS TO COMMENCE IN OFFICE.—

''(1) HEARING REQUIRED UPON REQUEST.—If, not later than 10 days after a hearing officer submits the report on the preliminary review of a claim under section 403(c), a covered employee submits a request to the Executive Director for a hearing under this section, the Executive Director shall appoint an independent hearing officer pursuant to subsection (c) to consider the claim and render a decision, and a hearing shall be commenced in the Office.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to the claim if—

''(A) the hearing officer's report on the preliminary review of the claim under section 403(c) includes the determination that the individual filing the claim is not a covered employee who has stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title (as described in section 403(d)); or

''(B) the covered employee files a civil action as provided in section 408 with respect to the claim.''.

(c) PROHIBITING HEARING OFFICER CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY REVIEW FROM CONDUCTING HEARING.—Section 405(c) (2 U.S.C. 1405(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) PROHIBITING HEARING OFFICER CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY REVIEW FROM CONDUCTING HEARING.—The Executive Director may not appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing under this section with respect to a claim if the hearing officer conducted the preliminary review with respect to the claim under section 403.''.

(d) DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF HEARING; PERMITTING ADDITIONAL TIME.—Section 405(d) (2 U.S.C. 1405(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) commenced no later than 90 days after the Executive Director receives the covered employee's request for the hearing under subsection (a), except that, upon mutual agreement of the parties or for good cause, the Office shall extend the time for commencing a hearing for not more than an additional 30 days; and''.

(e) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—Section 405 (2 U.S.C. 1405) is amended as follows:

(1) In the heading, by striking ''**COMPLAINT AND**''.

(2) In subsection (c)(1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''request for a hearing under subsection (a)''.

(3) In subsection (d) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(4) In subsection (g), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(f) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 414 (2 U.S.C. 1414) is amended by striking ''**OF COMPLAINTS**''.

(g) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents, as amended by section 101(e), is further amended as follows:

(1) By inserting after the item relating to section 402 the following new item:

''Sec. 403. Preliminary review of claims.''.

(2) By amending the item relating to section 405 to read as follows:

''Sec. 405. Hearing.''.

(3) By amending the item relating to section 414 to read as follows:

''Sec. 414. Settlement.''.

SEC. 104. AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING PROCESS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—Section 404(a) (2 U.S.C. 1403(a)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION REGARDING MEDIATION.—

''(A) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—Upon receipt of a claim under section 402, the Office shall notify the covered employee who filed the claim about the process for mediation under this section and the deadlines applicable to such mediation.

''(B) EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon transmission to the employing office of the claim pursuant to section 402(b), the Office shall notify the employing office about the process for mediation under this section and the deadlines applicable to such mediation.

''(2) INITIATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—During the period described in subparagraph (B), either the covered employee who filed a claim under section 402 or the employing office named in the claim may file a request for mediation with the Office, which shall promptly notify the other party. If the other party agrees to the request, the Office shall promptly assign a mediator to the claim, and conduct mediation under this section.

''(B) TIMING.—A covered employee or an employing office may file a request for mediation under subparagraph (A) during the period beginning on the date that the covered employee or employing office, respectively, receives a notification under paragraph (1) regarding a claim under section 402 and ending on the date on which a hearing officer issues a written decision relating to the claim under section 405(g) or the covered employee files a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408, as applicable.

''(3) FAILURE TO REQUEST OR ACCEPT MEDIATION TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON TREATMENT OF CLAIM.—The failure of a party to request mediation under this section with respect to a claim, or the failure of a party to agree to a request for mediation under this section, may not be taken into consideration under any procedure under this title with respect to the claim, including a preliminary review under section 403, a formal hearing under section 405, or a civil action under section 408.''.

(b) REQUIRING PARTIES TO BE SEPARATED DURING MEDIATION AT REQUEST OF EMPLOYEE.—Section 404(b)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1403(b)(2)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended by striking ''meetings with the parties separately or jointly'' and inserting ''meetings with the parties during which, at the request of any of the parties, the parties shall be separated,''.

(c) PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—Section 404(c) (2 U.S.C. 1403(c)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended by striking the first 2 sentences and inserting the following: ''The mediation period shall be 30 days, beginning on the first day after the second party agrees to the request for the mediation. The mediation period may be extended for one additional period of 30 days at the joint request of the covered employee and employing office. Any deadline in this Act relating to a claim for

which mediation has been agreed to in this section, that has not already passed by the first day of the mediation period, shall be stayed during the mediation period.''.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

SEC. 111. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS IN CASES OF ACTS BY MEMBERS.

(a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

''(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (D), if a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (C) committed personally by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, the individual shall reimburse the account for the amount of the award or settlement for the claim involved.

''(B) CONDITIONS.—In the case of an award made pursuant to a decision of a hearing officer under section 405, or a court in a civil action, subparagraph (A) shall apply only if the hearing officer or court makes a separate finding that a violation described in subparagraph (C) occurred which was committed personally by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, and such individual shall reimburse the account for the amount of compensatory damages included in the award as would be available if awarded under section 1977A(b)(3) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981a(b)(3)) irrespective of the size of the employing office. In the case of a settlement for a claim described in section 416(d)(3), subparagraph (A) shall apply only if the conditions specified in section 416(d)(3) for requesting reimbursement are met.

''(C) VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) harassment that is unlawful under section 201(a) or 206(a); or

''(ii) intimidation, reprisal, or discrimination that is unlawful under section 207 and is taken against a covered employee because of a claim alleging a violation described in clause (i).

''(D) MULTIPLE CLAIMS.—If an award or settlement is made for multiple claims, some of which do not require reimbursement under this subsection, the individual described in subparagraph (A) shall only be required to reimburse for the amount (referred to in this Act as the 'reimbursable portion') that is—

''(i) described in subparagraph (A), subject to subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) included in the portion of the award or settlement attributable to a claim requiring reimbursement.

''(2) WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS FROM COMPENSATION.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES BY COMMITTEES.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (B), the applicable Committee shall establish a timetable and procedures for the withholding of amounts from the compensation of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator.

''(B) DEADLINE.—The payroll administrator shall withhold from an individual's compensation and transfer to the account described in subsection (a) (after making any deposit required under section 8432(f) of title 5, United States Code) such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) if the individual has not reimbursed the account as required under paragraph (1) prior to the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date a payment is made from the account for such an award or settlement.

''(C) APPLICABLE COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'applicable Committee' means—

''(i) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Member of the House; or

''(ii) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Senator.

''(3) USE OF AMOUNTS IN THRIFT SAVINGS FUND AS SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If, by the expiration of the 180-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1), withholding and transfers of amounts shall continue under paragraph (2) if the individual remains employed in the same position, and the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board shall make a transfer described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) TRANSFERS.—The transfer by such Executive Director is a transfer, from the account of the individual in the Thrift Savings Fund to the account described in subsection (a), of an amount equal to the amount of that reimbursable portion of the award or settlement, reduced by—

''(i) any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld under paragraph (2); and

''(ii) if the individual remains employed in the same position, any amount that the individual is scheduled to reimburse, taking into account any amounts to be withheld under the individual's timetable under paragraph (2).

''(C) INITIATION OF TRANSFER.—Notwithstanding section 8435 of title 5, United States Code, the Executive Director described in subparagraph (A) shall make the transfer under subparagraph (A) upon receipt of a written request to the Executive Director from the Secretary of the Treasury, in the form and manner required by the Executive Director.

''(D) COORDINATION BETWEEN PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The payroll administrator and the Executive Director described in subparagraph (A) shall carry out this paragraph in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under this paragraph, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board under section 303 and such Executive Director.

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE WAGE GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES FROM A SUBSEQUENT POSITION.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, at any time after the expiration of the 270-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the individual—

''(i) has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1), through withholdings or transfers under paragraphs (2) and (3);

''(ii) is not serving in a position as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator; and

''(iii) is employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES.—On the expiration of that 270-day period, the amount of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (reduced by any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld or transferred under paragraph (2) or (3)) shall be treated as a claim of the United States and transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for collection. Upon that transfer, the Secretary of the Treasury shall collect the claim, in accordance with section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, including by administrative wage garnishment of the wages of the individual described in subparagraph (A) from the position described in subparagraph (A)(iii). The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer the collected amount to the account described in subsection (a).

''(5) NOTIFICATION TO OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO ANNUITY OR SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, at any time after the expiration of the 270-day period described in paragraph (4)(A), the individual—

''(i) has not served in a position as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator during the preceding 90 days; and

''(ii) is not employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) ANNUITY OR SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING.—If, at any time after the 270-day period described in paragraph (4)(A), the individual described in subparagraph (A) has not reimbursed the account described in subsection (a) for the entire reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury), through withholdings, transfers, or collections under paragraphs (2) through (4), the Secretary of the Treasury (after consultation with the payroll administrator)—

''(i) shall notify the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who shall take such actions as the Director considers appropriate to withhold from any annuity payable to the individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the remainder of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1); and

''(ii) shall (if necessary), notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407), take such actions as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate to withhold from any payment to the individual under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the remainder of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1).

''(6) COORDINATION BETWEEN OPM AND TREASURY.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out paragraph (5) in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under such paragraph, in accordance with

regulations promulgated by the Director and the Secretary.

''(7) CERTIFICATION.—Once the Executive Director determines that an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection has reimbursed the account described in subsection (a) for the entire reimbursable portion, the Executive Director shall prepare a certification that the individual has completed that reimbursement, and submit the certification to—

''(A) the Committees on House Administration and Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of committing the act involved, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); and

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of committing the act involved, was a Senator.

''(8) RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—An individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection shall have the unconditional right to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title to protect the interests of the individual in the determination of whether an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) should be made, and the amount of any such award or settlement, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the covered employee who filed the claim to be deposed by counsel for the individual in a deposition that is separate from any other deposition taken from the employee in connection with the hearing or civil action.

''(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) NON-FEDERAL POSITION.—The term 'non-Federal position' means a position other than the position of an employee, as defined in section 2105(a) of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'payroll administrator' means—

''(i) in the case of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this subsection; or

''(ii) in the case of an individual who is a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8437(e)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''an obligation of the Executive Director to make a transfer under section 415(d)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(d)(3)),'' before ''or an obligation''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to claims made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 112. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.

Section 416(e) (2 U.S.C. 1416(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE OF DISPOSITIONS OF CLAIMS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.—

''(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition under this title (as described in paragraph (6)) of a claim alleging a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or by a senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate, the Executive Director shall refer the claim to—

''(A) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a Member or senior staff of the House; or

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a Senator or senior staff of the Senate.

''(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—If the Executive Director refers a claim to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive Director shall provide the Committee with access to the records of any preliminary reviews, hearings, or decisions of the hearing officers and the Board under this Act, and any information relating to an award or settlement paid, in response to such claim.

''(3) REVIEW BY SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF SETTLEMENTS OF CERTAIN CLAIMS.—After the receipt of a settlement agreement for a claim that includes an allegation of a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by a Senator, the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate shall—

''(A) not later than 90 days after that receipt, review the settlement agreement;

''(B) determine whether an investigation of the claim is warranted; and

''(C) if the Select Committee determines, after the investigation, that the claim that resulted in the settlement involved an actual violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by the Senator, then the Select Committee shall notify the Executive Director to request the reimbursement described in section 415(d) and include the settlement in the report required by section 301(l).

''(4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report with respect to the claim, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

''(5) COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) AUTHORITY.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report as described in paragraph (4) concerning a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or a senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate, the Committee may make an appropriate redaction to the information or data included in the report if the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee reach agreement—

''(i) that including the information or data considered for redaction may lead to the unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant; and

''(ii) on the precise information or data to be redacted.

''(B) NOTATION AND STATEMENT.—The report including any such redaction shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(C) RETENTION OF REPORTS.—The Committee making a redaction in accordance with this paragraph shall retain a copy of the report, without a redaction.

''(6) FINAL DISPOSITION DESCRIBED.—In this subsection, the 'final disposition' of a claim means any of the following:

''(A) An order or agreement to pay an award or settlement, including an agreement reached pursuant to mediation under section 404.

''(B) A final decision of a hearing officer under section 405(g) that is no longer subject to review by the Board under section 406.

''(C) A final decision of the Board under section 406(e) that is no longer subject to appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit under section 407.

''(D) A final decision in a civil action under section 408 that is no longer subject to appeal.

''(7) SENIOR STAFF DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'senior staff' means any individual who, at the time a violation occurred, was required to file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.).''.

SEC. 113. AVAILABILITY OF REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 417. OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT.—At the request of a covered employee who files a claim alleging a violation of part A of title II by the covered employee's employing office, during the pendency of any of the procedures available under this title for consideration of the claim, the employing office may permit the covered employee to carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location (referred to in this section as 'permitting a remote work assignment') where such relocation would have the effect of materially reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation, instead of from a location of the employing office.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ONSITE.—If, in the determination of the covered employee's employing office, a covered employee who makes a request under this subsection cannot carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location or such relocation would not have the effect described in paragraph (1), the employing office may during the pendency of the procedures described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee;

''(B) permit a remote work assignment and grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee; or

''(C) make another workplace adjustment, or permit a remote work assignment, that would have the effect of reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ENSURING NO RETALIATION.—An employing office may not grant a covered employee's request under this subsection in a manner which would constitute a violation of section 207.

''(4) NO IMPACT ON VACATION OR PERSONAL LEAVE.—In granting leave for a paid leave of absence under this section, an employing office shall not require the covered employee to substitute, for that leave, any of the accrued paid vacation or personal leave of the covered employee.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that it is inconsistent with the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining agreement which is in effect with respect to an employing office.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the following new item:

''Sec. 417. Option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.''.

SEC. 114. MODIFICATION OF RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS.

(a) MEDIATION.—Section 416(b) (2 U.S.C. 1416(b)) is amended by striking ''All mediation'' and inserting ''All information discussed or disclosed in the course of any mediation''.

(b) CLAIMS.—Section 416 (2 U.S.C. 1416), as amended by section 112 and subsection (a) of this section, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking ''subsections (d), (e), and (f)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CLAIMS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a covered employee from disclosing the factual allegations underlying the covered employee's claim, or to prohibit an employing office from disclosing the factual allegations underlying the employing office's defense to the claim, in the course of any proceeding under this title.''.

SEC. 115. REIMBURSEMENT BY OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415), as amended by section 111, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYING OFFICES.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM ACCOUNT.—As soon as practicable after the Executive Director is made aware that a payment of an award or settlement under this Act has been made from the account described in subsection (a) in connection with a claim alleging a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) by an employing office (other than an employing office of the House of Representatives or an employing office of the Senate), the Executive Director shall notify the head of the employing office that the payment has been made, and shall include in the notification a statement of the amount of the payment.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT BY OFFICE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a notification from the Executive Director under paragraph (1), the head of the employing office involved shall transfer to the account described in subsection (a), out of any funds available for operating expenses of the office, a payment equal to the amount specified in the notification.

''(3) TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—The head of an employing office shall transfer a payment under paragraph (2) in accordance with such timetable and procedures as may be established under regulations promulgated by the Office.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made under section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) for claims filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

SEC. 201. REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

(1) REQUIRING SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''complaint'' each place it appears and inserting ''claim''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the rules issued by the applicable committee pursuant to paragraph (2):

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Office shall prepare and submit to Congress, and publish on the public website of the Office, an annual report regarding payments from the account described in section 415(a) that were the result of claims alleging a violation of part A of title II (referred to in this subsection as 'covered payments').

''(B) REPORTING.—The reporting required under this paragraph shall—

''(i) for a covered payment, or the reimbursable portion of a covered payment, described in paragraph (2), conform to the requirements of the rules issued by the applicable committee under such paragraph; and

''(ii) for a covered payment, or the portion of a covered payment, not described in paragraph (2)—

''(I) include the amount of the covered payment or portion of the covered payment and information on the employing office involved; and

''(II) identify each provision of part A of title II that was the subject of a claim resulting in the covered payment or portion of the covered payment.

''(C) REPORTING PERIODS AND DATES.—The reporting required under this paragraph—

''(i) for 2019, shall be submitted by the 60th day after the date on which the committees described in paragraph (2) issue the rules described in paragraph (2) and shall reflect covered payments made in calendar year 2019; and

''(ii) for 2020 and each subsequent calendar year, shall be submitted by January 31 of that year and shall reflect covered payments made in the previous calendar year.

''(2) RULES REGARDING REPORTING OF COVERED PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYING OFFICES OF THE HOUSE AND EMPLOYING OFFICES OF THE SENATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall each issue rules establishing the content, format, and other requirements for the reporting required under paragraph (1)(B)(i) with respect to—

''(i) any covered payment made for claims involving an employing office described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(9) of the House of Representatives or of the Senate, respectively; and

''(ii) the reimbursable portion of any such covered payment for which there is a finding requiring reimbursement under section 415(d)(1)(B) from a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, respectively.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The rules issued under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall apply to covered payments made for claims involving employing offices described in subparagraph (A)(i) of the House; and

''(ii) by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall apply to covered payments made for claims involving employing offices described in subparagraph (A)(i) of the Senate.

''(3) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—In preparing, submitting, and publishing the reports required under paragraph (1), the Office shall ensure that the identity or position of any claimant is not disclosed.

''(4) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (3), the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, may make an appropriate redaction to the data included in the report described in paragraph (1) if the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, determines that including the data considered for redaction may lead to the identity or position of a claimant unintentionally being disclosed. The report shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) RECORDKEEPING.—The Executive Director shall retain a copy of the report described in paragraph (1), without redactions.

''(5) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'claimant' means an individual who received an award or settlement, or who made an allegation of a violation against an employing office, under part A of title II.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(B) shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

(b) REPORT ON AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on the Office's public website a report on all payments made with public funds (to include funds paid from the account described in section 415(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(a)), an account of the House of Representatives or Senate, or any other account of the Federal Government) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act for awards and settlements in connection with violations of section 201(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1311(a)), or section 207 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1317), and shall include in the report the following information:

(A) The amount paid for each such award or settlement.

(B) The source of the public funds used for the award or settlement.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSE AND SENATE ACCOUNTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(B) may be construed to require or permit the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to report the account of any specific office of the House of Representatives or Senate as the source of funds used for an award or settlement.

(c) RULEMAKING POWERS.—Section 501 (2 U.S.C. 1431) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting '', section 301(l),'' before ''and 304(c)''.

SEC. 202. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING SURVEYS.—Title III (2 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 307. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT SECURE SURVEYS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Office shall conduct a secure survey of employing offices under this Act regarding the workplace environment of such offices. Employee responses to the survey shall be voluntary.

''(b) SPECIAL INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—In each survey conducted under this section, the Office shall survey respondents on attitudes regarding sexual harassment.

''(c) METHODOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall conduct each survey under this section in accordance with methodologies established by the Office.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Under the methodologies established under paragraph (1), all responses to all portions of the survey shall be anonymous and confidential, and each respondent shall be told throughout the survey that all responses shall be anonymous and confidential.

''(3) SURVEY FORM.—The Office shall limit the use of any information code or information on the survey form that makes a respondent to the survey, or the respondent's employing office, individually identifiable.

''(d) USE OF RESULTS OF SURVEYS.—The Office shall furnish the information obtained from the surveys conducted under this section to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.

''(e) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The Office shall carry out this section, including establishment of methodologies and procedures under subsection (c), in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following new item:

''Sec. 307. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.''.

SEC. 203. RECORD RETENTION.

Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by section 201(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) RECORD RETENTION.—The Office shall establish and maintain a program for the permanent retention of its records, including the records of preliminary reviews, mediations, hearings, and other proceedings conducted under title IV.''.

SEC. 204. CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS.

Section 302 (2 U.S.C. 1382) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director shall—

''(A) appoint, and fix the compensation of, and may remove, 1 or more confidential advisors to carry out the duties described in this subsection; or

''(B) designate 1 or more employees of the Office to serve as a confidential advisor.

''(2) DUTIES.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1) shall offer to provide to covered employees described in paragraph (4) the services described in subparagraph (B), which a covered employee may accept or decline.

''(B) SERVICES.—The services referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

''(i) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the employee's rights under this Act;

''(ii) consulting, on a privileged and confidential basis, with a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding—

''(I) the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the Office; and

''(II) the relative merits of securing private counsel, designating a non-attorney representative, or proceeding without representation for proceedings before the Office;

''(iii) advising and consulting with, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding any claims the covered employee may have under title IV, the factual allegations that support each such claim, and the relative merits of the procedural options available to the employee for each such claim;

''(iv) assisting, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who seeks consideration under title IV of an allegation of a violation of part A of title II in understanding the procedures, and the significance of the procedures, described in title IV, including—

''(I) assisting or consulting with the covered employee regarding the drafting of a claim to be filed under section 402(a); and

''(II) consulting with the covered employee regarding the procedural options available to the covered employee after a claim is filed, and the relative merits of each option; and

''(v) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the option of pursuing, in appropriate circumstances, a complaint with the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

''(C) CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.—Once a covered employee has accepted and received any services offered under this section from a confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1), any other services requested under this subsection by the covered employee shall be provided, to the extent practicable, by the same confidential advisor.

''(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1) shall be a lawyer who—

''(A) is admitted to practice before, and is in good standing with, the bar of a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States; and

''(B) has experience representing clients in cases involving the workplace laws incorporated by part A of title II.

''(4) INDIVIDUALS COVERED.—The services described in paragraph (2) are available to any covered employee (which, for purposes of this subsection, shall include any staff member described in section 201(d) and any former covered employee (including any such former staff member)), except that—

''(A) a former covered employee may only request such services if the practice that may be a violation of part A of title II occurred during the employment or service of the employee; and

''(B) a covered employee described in this paragraph may only request such services before the expiration of the 180-day period described in section 402(d).

''(5) RESTRICTIONS.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall not act as the designated representative for any covered employee in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding, including any proceeding under this Act, any judicial proceeding, or any proceeding before any committee of Congress;

''(B) shall not offer or provide services described in paragraph (2)(B) to a covered employee if the covered employee has designated an attorney representative in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding under this Act, except that a confidential advisor may provide general assistance and information to such attorney representative regarding this Act and the role of the Office as the confidential advisor determines appropriate; and

''(C) shall not serve as a mediator in any mediation conducted pursuant to section 404.''.

SEC. 205. GAO STUDY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

SEC. 206. GAO AUDIT OF CYBERSECURITY.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the audit conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

SEC. 301. APPLICATION OF GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.

Section 102 (2 U.S.C. 1302) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of section 201(a)(1) shall be considered to apply to a violation of title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), consistent with section 207(c) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000ff–6(c)).

''(2) CONSTRUCTION.—

''(A) NO LIMITATION ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section limits the provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of a law described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) OTHER LAWS.—A law described in this subparagraph is a law (even if not listed in subsection (a) or this subsection) that explicitly applies one or more provisions of this Act to a violation.''.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION TO UNPAID STAFF OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 201 (2 U.S.C. 1311) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) APPLICATION TO UNPAID STAFF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to—

''(A) any staff member of an employing office who carries out official duties of the employing office but who is not paid by the employing office for carrying out such duties (referred to in this subsection as an 'unpaid staff member'), including an intern, an individual detailed to an employing office, and an individual participating in a fellowship program, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsections apply with respect to a covered employee; and

''(B) a former unpaid staff member, if the act that may be a violation of subsection (a) occurred during the service of the former unpaid staffer for the employing office.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to extend liability for a violation of subsection (a) to an employing office on the basis of an action taken by any person who is not under the supervision or control of the employing office.

''(3) INTERN DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'intern' means an individual who performs service for an employing office which is uncompensated by the United States to earn credit awarded by an educational institution or to learn a trade or occupation, and includes any individual participating in a page program operated by any House of Congress.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF PAY TO HOUSE EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(7) (2 U.S.C. 1301(7)) is amended by striking ''disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives''.

SEC. 303. CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VISITORS.

(a) CLARIFICATION.—Section 210 (2 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) ELECTION OF REMEDIES RELATING TO RIGHTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LIBRARY VISITORS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LIBRARY VISITOR.—In this subsection, the term 'Library visitor' means an individual who is eligible to bring a claim for a violation under title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (other than a violation for which the exclusive remedy is under section 201) against the Library of Congress.

''(2) ELECTION OF REMEDIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Library visitor who alleges a violation of subsection (b) by the Library of Congress may, subject to subparagraph (B)—

''(i) file a charge against the Library of Congress under subsection (d); or

''(ii) use the remedies and procedures set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), as provided under section 510 (other than paragraph (5)) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12209).

''(B) TIMING.—A Library visitor that has initiated proceedings under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) may elect to change and initiate a proceeding under the other clause—

''(i) in the case of a Library visitor who first filed a charge pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), before the General Counsel files a complaint under subsection (d)(3); or

''(ii) in the case of a Library visitor who first initiated a proceeding under subparagraph (A)(ii), before the Library visitor requests a hearing under the procedures of the Library of Congress described in such subparagraph.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 210(d)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1331(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''section 403'' and inserting ''section 404''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if such amendments were included in the enactment of section 153 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), and shall apply as specified in section 153(c) of such Act.

SEC. 304. NOTICES.

(a) REQUIRING EMPLOYING OFFICES TO POST NOTICES.—Part E of title II (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 226. NOTICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Every employing office shall post and keep posted (in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to covered employees are customarily posted) a notice provided by the Office that—

''(1) describes the rights, protections, and procedures applicable to covered employees of the employing office under this Act, concerning violations described in subsection (b); and

''(2) includes contact information for the Office.

''(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation described in this subsection is—

''(1) discrimination prohibited by section 201(a) (including, in accordance with section 102(c), discrimination prohibited by title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.)) or 206(a); and

''(2) a violation of section 207 that is related to discrimination described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to part E of title II the following new item:

''Sec. 226. Notices.''.

SEC. 305. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF HELSINKI AND CHINA COMMISSIONS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301), as amended by section 302(b), is further amended—

(1) by striking ''Except as otherwise'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN COMMISSIONS.—

''(1) COVERAGE.—With respect to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(A) any individual who is an employee of such Commission shall be considered a covered employee for purposes of this Act; and

''(B) the Commission shall be considered an employing office for purposes of this Act.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), legal assistance and representation under this Act, including assistance and representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this Act, shall be provided to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(A) by the Office of House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Member of the House, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under title IV related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties; or

''(B) by the Office of Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Senator, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under title IV related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'China Review Commission' means the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as enacted into law by section 1 of Public Law 106–398;

''(B) the term 'Congressional-Executive China Commission' means the Congressional–Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China established under title III of the U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.); and

''(C) the term 'Helsinki Commission' means the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe established under the Act entitled 'An Act to establish a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe', approved June 3, 1976 (Public Law 94–304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).''.

(b) COVERAGE OF STENNIS CENTER.—

(1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COVERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(a)(3) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (I);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(K) the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.''.

(2) TREATMENT OF CENTER AS EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(a)(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''and the Office of Technology Assessment'' and inserting the following: ''the Office of Technology Assessment, and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 101(a) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)) are each amended by striking ''subparagraphs (C) through (I)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (C) through (K)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

SEC. 306. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 509 as section 510; and

(2) by inserting after section 508 the following new section:

''SEC. 509. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Each employing office shall develop and implement a program to train and educate covered employees of the office in the rights and protections provided under this Act, including the procedures available under title IV to consider alleged violations of this Act.

''(b) REPORT TO COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each Congress (beginning with the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress), each employing office shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on the implementation of the program required under subsection (a).

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, each employing office shall submit the report described in

paragraph (1) to the Committees described in such paragraph.

''(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICES OF CONGRESS.—This section does not apply to an employing office of the House of Representatives or an employing office of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 509 as relating to section 510; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

''Sec. 509. Training and education programs of employing offices.''.

SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 306(a), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 510 as section 511; and

(2) by inserting after section 509, as inserted by section 306(a), the following:

''SEC. 510. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—All covered employees whose location of employment is outside of the Washington, DC area (referred to in this section as 'out-of-area covered employees') shall have equitable access to the resources and services provided by the Office and under this Act as is provided to covered employees who work in the Washington, DC area.

''(b) OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—The Office shall—

''(1) establish a method by which out-of-area covered employees may communicate securely with the Office, which shall include an option for real-time audiovisual communication; and

''(2) provide guidance to employing offices regarding how each office can facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for its out-of-area covered employees, including information regarding the communication methods described in paragraph (1).

''(c) EMPLOYING OFFICES.—It is the sense of Congress that each employing office with out-of-area covered employees should use its best efforts to facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for those employees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents, as amended by section 306(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 510 as relating to section 511; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as inserted by section 306(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 510. Support for out-of-area covered employees.''.

SEC. 308. RENAMING OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AS OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.

(a) RENAMING.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, as amended by section 305(a), is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 101(a)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(2) In section 101(a)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(2)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(3) In section 101(a)(3)(H) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(3)(H)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(4) In section 101(a)(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(9)(D)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(5) In section 101(a)(10) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(10)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(6) In section 101(a)(11) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(11)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(7) In section 101(a)(12) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(12)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(8) In section 210(a)(9) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(9)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(9) In section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(10) In section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(11) In the title heading of title III, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''.

(12) In section 304(c)(4) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(4)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(13) In section 304(c)(5) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(5)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to the heading of title III to read as follows:

''TITLE III—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS''; AND

(2) by amending the item relating to section 301 to read as follows:

''Sec. 301. Establishment of Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. Any reference to the Office of Compliance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper in effect as of such date shall be considered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) which is pending as of the date after that 180-day period. If, as of that date, an employee has begun any of the proceedings under that title that were available to the employee prior to that date, the employee may complete, or initiate and complete, all such proceedings, and such proceedings shall remain in effect with respect to, and provide the exclusive proceedings for, the claim involved until the completion of all such proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, without losing my right to the floor, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota for remarks on the matter we just moved.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I thank the chairman.

I wanted to speak for a minute to thank Senator BLUNT for his work on the bill. This is a bill that fundamentally changes the way sexual harassment cases are handled in the Senate and in the House. The process we have will now protect victims of harassment instead of protecting politicians.

This was the work of many people. I thank Leader MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER, as well as the House leaders. I thank Senators GILLIBRAND, MURRAY, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO, and FISCHER from the Committee on Rules. And there are so many staff members I will thank later when we do additional speeches.

This was something we had to get done by the end of the year. Getting rid of that cooling-off period, getting rid of a lot of the Byzantine way these cases were being handled—this is going to be better for victims. I am proud the Senate has come together on a bipartisan basis to get this bill done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

S.J. RES. 54

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I commend my two friends, the Senator from Missouri and the Senator from Minnesota, for what they have done.

I am going to speak briefly about S.J. Res. 54. It would remove U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities either in or affecting the country of Yemen—except those forces engaged in operations directed at al-Qaeda or associated forces—unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of U.S. Armed Forces has been enacted.

I commend my distinguished friend from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, for the leadership and perseverance he has shown on this issue. He has rightly insisted that the Congress, which alone has the power to declare war, act in response to the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen—a catastrophe, we have to acknowledge, that the United States shares responsibility for causing as a result of our support for the Saudi military.

The Saudi military, by any objective measure, is guilty of war crimes in Yemen, and it is long past time for us to say: enough.

International outrage over this issue has been building steadily as the number of civilian casualties in Yemen—one of the world's poorest countries—has swollen into the thousands as a result of Saudi Arabia's intervention and ongoing aerial bombardment. We have all seen the photographs of the dead and the dying, of children who are nothing but skin and bones. Some

85,000 children have starved to death—85,000 children—and another 13 million Yemenis civilians are at risk of starvation, according to the United Nations.

Of course, the Houthis and the Iranians who support them share the blame for the death and destruction in Yemen, but we are not supporting them. We are not sharing intelligence with the Houthis and the Iranians or providing targeting assistance. We are not selling them weapons. That is what we are doing for the Saudis.

This joint resolution is about more than that. As if the kidnapping of the Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri, the blockade of Qatar, the imprisonment of Saudi women's rights activists, and the carnage in Yemen were not enough, the outrage toward Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman finally boiled over with the horrific, premeditated murder of Jamal Khashoggi—a respected journalist who dared to criticize the royal family. Mr. Khashoggi's murder by Saudi Government agents at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and the blatant lies by top officials in Saudi Arabia who tried to cover it up exposed the depth of the depravity of the Saudi royal family.

I have spoken about that despicable crime multiple times already so I will not repeat what I have said, but we know the Saudi royal family is still lying about who was involved. We also know that since long before murdering Mr. Khashoggi, the Saudi Government has had a sordid history of abducting, imprisoning, and executing dissidents and others after sham trials that violate international law.

The vote today on S.J. Res. 54 is the Senate's first response to the Saudi royal family and to the Trump administration. The disaster in Yemen is so appalling, and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi was so wicked, so repulsive, that no amount of money, no amount of oil, and no amount of lies can obscure it.

The Trump administration lobbied hard against this resolution, warning that despite the Saudi royal family's many misdeeds, the U.S.-Saudi relationship is too important to risk. No one is seeking to sever relations with Saudi Arabia. Far more important is that the United States, which is a great country, stands for the truth, for justice, for the laws of war, and that we don't stand by when a whole society of impoverished, innocent people is being destroyed or when top officials of another government—whether ally or adversary—conspire to murder a journalist or dissident and lie about it.

We have to make clear, the United States is not for sale, our integrity is not for sale. If the Saudi royal family hopes to salvage its tattered reputation and its relations with the United States, it will need to take far more decisive action to end the war in Yemen and bring to justice all those responsible, at the highest level, for murdering Jamal Khashoggi.

Mr. President, my distinguished colleague and dear friend is here to seek the floor, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Arizona.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to begin by noting that had the people of Arizona and America been truly lucky, my mother or father would have served in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the Senate. Everything I know about what matters most in life I learned first at their dinner table. For many reasons—they were otherwise preoccupied raising and feeding 11 children, working the land, running cattle to keep the F-Bar business going, and serving their church and community daily, and in too many other ways to count—my parents were too meaningfully occupied in life to detour to something that can be so frivolous as politics. So you got their son instead.

I rise to say, it has been the honor of my life to represent my home, Arizona, in the U.S. Senate and, before that, in the House of Representatives; that is, it has been the honor of my life after being Dean and Nerita's son, Cheryl's husband, and Ryan's, Alexis's, Austin's, Tanner's, and Dallin's father.

Through 18 years in Washington, our kids grew up thinking it was normal to have their faces plastered on campaign signs along the roadside when campaigns rolled around. They were dragged to countless fundraisers and campaign events. They were used to having their dad join them, sort of, with a choreographed wave on C–SPAN at dinnertime.

They spent summers in Washington catching fireflies and voting with their dad on the House floor. They served as interns and congressional pages. Much of it they enjoyed, some of it they endured, but through all of it, they were not just good sports but were extraordinarily understanding and supportive.

And Cheryl—well, Cheryl is the rock upon which our family is built. Her strength, equanimity, endless patience and love—her good humor even when congressional life was not always funny, and her belief, when disbelief would have been perfectly reasonable—these are but a few of the long list of things that leave me simply awestruck by my wife.

I think all of us who presume to hold these positions owe someone who loves us a debt we can never ever repay. If they cannot be repaid, they can at least be properly recognized—Cheryl, that girl I met on a beach so long ago, our wonderful children, my brothers, my sisters, our extended families.

John McCain often joked that the only way I ever got elected to anything was because of my hundreds of siblings and thousands of cousins. Well, the truth hurts, I reckon; Senator McCain just may have been on to something there. It was my honor to serve with him, as it has been my honor to serve with Senator KYL.

Today I am filled with gratitude—gratitude for the privilege of loving and being loved by those people I mentioned and of serving the State and the country I love as well; grateful beyond measure and luckier than I deserve to be.

I leave here grateful and optimistic. I will always treasure the friendships that began here and the kindness shown to me and my family by all of you, my colleagues. I will forever cherish the work of our country that we were able to do together. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all.

As I stand here today, I am optimistic about the future, but my optimism is due more to the country my parents gave to me than it is due to the present condition of our civic life. We, of course, are testing the institution of American liberty in ways that none of us ever imagined we would and in ways we probably never should again. My colleagues, to say that our politics is not healthy is somewhat of an understatement.

I believe we all know well that this is not a normal time and that the threats to our democracy from within and without are real, and none of us can say with confidence how the situation we now find ourselves in will turn out. Over the past 2 years, I have spoken a great deal on the subject from this Chamber, and there will be time enough later to return to it in other settings, but in the time I have here today, and with your indulgence, I instead wish to speak somewhat more personally.

As the authoritarian impulse reasserts itself globally, and global commitment to democracy seems to now be on somewhat shaky ground, I have been thinking a lot recently about the American commitment to democracy—where it comes from and how, if the circumstances were right, it might slip away.

This got me thinking back to when I was a much younger man and had the privilege of witnessing the birth of a new democracy in Africa. When I was about half the age I am now, for my church mission, I went to South Africa and Zimbabwe. I fell in love with the people in these countries.

When Cheryl and I were drawn back to Southern Africa a few years later for a job, we were in Windhoek, Namibia, in February of 1990, at the very moment that much of the world enslaved by totalitarianism was throwing off its shackles, and the free world that the United States had led since World War II was growing exponentially.

The Soviet Union was in a glorious free fall, shedding republics seemingly by the day, and Eastern Europe was squinting out into the light of liberation for the first time in 40 years. Free markets and free minds were sweeping the world. Freedom was breaking out in the Southern Hemisphere as well. The country where I was sitting that very morning was itself only days old.

In November of 1989—the same week the Berlin Wall came down—Namibia held its first election as an independent

nation, freed from the apartheid administration in South Africa. This had come to pass in no small part because of leadership from the United States, through the United Nations.

Just days earlier, an awe-inspiring document had been drafted only a few blocks away from where I sat in Windhoek—a new democracy's founding Constitution, the inspiration for which had been the marvel of free people everywhere and those who aspire to be free: the U.S. Constitution.

At the time, I was in Africa working for the Foundation for Democracy, trying to ensure that Namibia emerged from the process of gaining its independence as a democratic country. In my role at the foundation, I evangelized for democracy and democratic values, the benefits of which had been a given for me for my entire life.

I can safely say, though, that I learned more about democracy from the lives of those around me who aspired to it than those who experienced it as a birthright.

As I sat there in the brandnew African democracy, I read the speech that the playwright and new President of a newly democratic Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, had just delivered before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, right across the way in the House Chamber. Havel, who had much of the previous decade in a Communist dungeon and whose last arrest as a dissident had been mere months before, was quite astonished to find himself president of anything, much less a country of his oppressors.

I sat there in Africa and read Havel's speech—an encomium to democracy, a love letter to America, literary and inspiring—and I was overcome by his words. There is nothing quite like the sensation of having someone who has been stripped of everything but his dignity reflecting the ideals of your own country back at you in such a way that you see them more clearly than ever before and maybe for the first time. In some ways, that man knows your country better than you know it yourself.

I can only imagine how surreal it must have felt for Havel as he stood before the entire Congress, the President's Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, Joint Chiefs of Staff assembled before him in the House Chamber of our Capitol Building, with the Vice President and Speaker of the House behind him, all standing in a sustained ovation, a deep respect from the oldest democracy in the world to the newest, whose leader had been a political prisoner just a season earlier.

Havel soberly poured out his gratitude to the United States for the sacrifice our country had made in liberating Europe once again and for the moral example of its leadership around the world in opposing the Soviet Union, ''the country,'' he said, ''that rightly gave people nightmares.''

Havel's awed appreciation for the values that too many of us might take for granted brought home to me, an American in my midtwenties sitting there in Africa, the power of the American example to the whole world and the humbling responsibilities that come with that power. It is no exaggeration to say that Havel's disquisition on democracy before Congress that day in 1990 was a turning point in my civic education.

Havel similarly called out to the whole world from Washington on that day in 1990, with grace and without rancor, but for one mistaken prophecy, which to me now reads as tragic, especially in the context of the here and now.

At the time, as the wall fell and the Soviet bloc that had been encased in Stalinism thawed, it was vogue among some historians, scholars, and others to declare ''the end of history''—that the big questions had been settled, that liberal democracy was triumphal and inexorable, and that the decline of the impulse to enslave whole countries was also inexorable. Freedom had won, it was said, and forever.

The historian Francis Fukuyama, who had coined ''the end of history'' in an essay a year before, was much in demand, and it was likely that Havel would have been inspired by the fervor, which might explain this passage from his speech.

He said:

> I often hear the question: How can the United States of America help us today? My reply is as paradoxical as my whole life has been. You can help us most of all if you help the Soviet Union on its irreversible but immensely complicated road to democracy.

Of course, history was not over. The road to democracy is not irreversible—not in Moscow, not in America, not anywhere.

After erecting a Potemkin village for democracy for an agonizing decade or so, the Russians thrust forward a strongman amid the chaos, a strongman who was determined to reassemble the pieces of a broken empire, in the process strangling Russian democracy in its cradle.

Vladimir Putin would go on to be President, and he is President still, and just as he hijacked democracy in his own country, he is determined to do so everywhere.

Denial of this reality will not make it any less real. This is something that is staring us in the face, right now, as we are gathered here today.

As we in America—during this moment of political dysfunction and upheaval—contemplate the hard-won conventions and norms of democracy, we must continually remind ourselves that none of this is permanent, that it must be fought for continually.

Civilization and the victories of freedom—history itself—are not a matter of once achieved, always safe. Vaclav Havel lived this.

The lovers of democracy I met in Namibia lived this. Our children, whose rights and prerogatives have never been in doubt, are for the most part unaware of it. But we are being powerfully reminded just how delicate all of it is right now.

The stability of tested alliances, the steadiness of comportment, and the consistency of words and deeds sum up the best of water's-edge postwar American consensus on foreign policy.

It might seem that all of this has lately been tossed around like pieces on a board, but it is important to remember that we have seen such tumult before, and it is the genius of the architects of our liberty that we withstand it and emerge the stronger for it.

What struck me in Namibia that day with such force and has stayed with me ever since is how vital a beacon the United States is and has always been to the peoples of the world—both to those who are already free and those who still suffer tyranny.

It is a solemn obligation that we have as Americans. Let us recognize from this place here today that the shadow of tyranny is once again enveloping parts of the globe, and let us recognize as authoritarianism reasserts itself in country after country that we are by no means immune.

I stand here today, recognizing that I have had the good fortune during my time in the Senate to have been surrounded by supremely smart and dedicated staff, some of whom have worked for me for my entire 18 years in Washington.

My chiefs of staff—Steve Voeller, Margaret Klessig, Matt Specht, Chandler Morse, and Roland Foster have ably supervised a legislative team that included over the years people like Colleen Donnelly, Helen Heiden, Chuck Podalak, Kris Kiefer, Sarah Towles, Emily Nelson, Brian Canfield, Blake Tonn, Flaka Ismaili, Chance Hammock, Matt Sifert, Colin Timmerman, Melanie Lehnhardt, Hannah Grady, Brian Kennedy, Katie Jackson, James Layne, Andrea Jones, Kunal Parikh, Gary Burnett, Michael Fragoso, and so many others who drafted substantive legislation and consequential amendments that have been signed into law.

My schedulers, office managers, and press shop have been asked to explain a lot over the years, including my penchant for marooning myself on deserted islands, sometimes with people like Senator MARTIN HEINRICH, or forced to explain why I had been chased by elephants in Mozambique with Senator CHRIS COONS—people like Celeste Gold, Meagan Shepherd, Caroline Celley, Megan Runyan, Christine Chucri, Michael Christifulli, Jacob McMeekin, Jason Samuels, Brownyn Lance, Liz Jones, Dan Mintz, Krista Winward, Jonathan Felts, Elizabeth Berry, and many more.

They have kept me largely out of controversy, if not out of elevators, during my entire time in office.

Dedicated caseworkers in my State offices have helped countless Arizonans with matters of immigration to veterans' issues to Social Security.

I am frequently stopped, as I am sure many of my colleagues are, in airports

and grocery stores and thanked for the good work done by my staff.

Thank you to Buchanan Davis, Mary Baumbach, Julie Katsel, Melissa Martin, Mike Nelson, Jeremy Thompson, Michael Vargas, Chris Stoller, Bob Brubaker, Blake Farnsworth, Chelsea Lett, Elizabeth Bustamante-Lopez, and so many others for such dedicated constituent work over the years.

To all who have served in my office: I will miss your wise counsel but, most of all, your friendship. Thank you.

I would also like to say a word of thanks to the institutional officers who serve the Senate so ably: the clerks, Parliamentarians, the floor staff, the pages, the Sergeant at Arms and his employees, and the Capitol Police, who keep us safe here in the Capitol and at times on distant baseball fields. I quite literally owe my life to them. Thank you.

As I give this last speech from the Chamber, I cannot help but look to my maiden speech I gave here just 6 years ago.

In it I talked about how 12 newly elected Senate freshmen in 2012 were invited to the National Archives and taken to the legislative vault, where we viewed the original signed copy of the first bill ever enacted by Congress, as well as other landmark pieces of legislation and memorabilia. Oaths of allegiance signed by Revolutionary War soldiers, witnessed by General Washington, documents and artifacts related to the Civil War, segregation, women's suffrage, and the civil rights movement were also on hand.

I noted that it was an affirmation to me of the tumultuous seas through which our ship of state has sailed for more than 200 years, with many brilliant and inspired individuals at the helm, along with personalities ranging from mediocre to malevolent. But our system of government has survived them all.

I also noted then and I will echo today that serious challenges lie ahead, but any honest reckoning of our history and our prospects will note that we have survived more daunting challenges than we now face. Ours is a durable, resilient system of government, designed to withstand the foibles of those who sometimes occupy these Halls, including yours truly.

So as I start a new chapter in the coming weeks, I am grateful most of all for the privilege of having served with all of you here.

It is my sincere hope that those in this body will always remember the words of Lincoln who said: ''We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of Earth.'' The way forward, he said, ''is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud and God will forever bless.''

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to make just a couple of comments on my friend's having left the Senate and with respect to the remarks that he just made.

The Senate has had some very good people over the years, and currently, but none have been more principled than my friend from Arizona, JEFF FLAKE.

It started for us to see when he was a Member of House of Representatives and at first singlehandedly fought inappropriate earmarks. He even managed to get himself appointed to the Appropriations Committee for a while so that he could carry on his crusade from within. In the end, he was successful.

I was pleased to support him as my successor to the U.S. Senate. He has his priorities right: faith, family, and country. He has spoken about both his faith and his family here.

Not very many of us have the opportunity to serve from a town named after our own family, and that is how far Senator FLAKE's roots go back in the State of Arizona.

He has spoken, not just today but on earlier occasions, from his heart about things that he sees need improvement here in the U.S. Senate. I think we are all aware of the things of which he speaks, and it has been appropriate for him to do so because, as he pointed out, in order for us to be a beacon to others around the world in support of liberty, individual freedom, we have to demonstrate how it can be practiced right here in the United States of America.

We would all like to leave this place better than we found it, and it is not easy to do, but Senator FLAKE has tried his best.

He also spoke about our democratic republic and our focus on individual liberty and how that has had an impact around the world and how others have tried to emulate what we do here. These are universal principles that we need to focus on. What he has reminded us of here today is that freedom is not free, and each day we all have to do our part from wherever we sit to ensure that future generations will enjoy the kind of freedom that we have had, and that starts with our representatives in the U.S. Government. It was a fitting subject for a farewell address, and wise counsel was given, as always.

I want to salute my colleague JEFF FLAKE as a person, though, as much as a public servant and Senator. He embodies what is right about the people of the United States of America. As I said, he has his priorities right, and he has been willing to serve based upon those priorities.

I wish him and his family all the best in their next endeavors. I know because of his dedication to this country and the principles in which he believes that his service will not end at the end of his time here in the U.S. Senate, and we will all be beneficiaries of that.

So to my friend and colleague JEFF FLAKE, Godspeed. I appreciate your remarks today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I am proud to stand before you today to honor my dear friend and colleague, Senator FLAKE of Arizona, and to pay tribute to his remarkable work here in the Senate as this optimistic evangelist of democracy.

I have been asked a fair amount in recent weeks about my friendship with JEFF—with Senator FLAKE—whose political beliefs differ very widely from my own. Yes, Senator FLAKE is a staunch conservative, and if you took a score card of the things on which we have voted the same or believe the same, there would not be a ton of overlap.

But he is also a patriot. He is a patriot who deeply loves our country and is willing to work across the aisle to stand up for the values and principles that have made our Nation the greatest on this Earth.

Our friendship stems from a foundation in similar experiences and similar worldviews formed at the same time. We are almost exactly the same age.

As you heard in his remarkable farewell address, time spent in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa as a young man truly shaped him and his view of the United States and our place in the world. At just about the same time, I was spending time in Kenya and South Africa having very similar experiences. This period in our young lives shaped our sense that this democracy is special, is important, is worth fighting for, and requires greater sacrifice of us than might be obvious here in the comforts of the United States.

Because of these shared experiences, we understand the ways—when our democracy is dysfunctional, when the world sees gridlock, especially today, especially on the continent we have both come to know and love in Africa—that there are competing models for how to organize a society that is rising in their visibility and their confrontation and their competition with our own. We know democracy matters, and believe we have to fight for it.

We respect each other and listen to each other, and over the years, I have been blessed to have the chance for us to work together. In a time marked by division and partisanship, Senator FLAKE rightfully recognizes that we need to get back to a time when compromise was rewarded rather than punished, when we worked together to do what is right rather than what is politically expedient.

Senator FLAKE has spent his career doing just that, unafraid to stand up for what is right—even when it is hard, even when it is inconvenient, even when it might go against President or party. He deeply respects our rule of law and has been willing to take risks for it.

He worked toward broad bipartisan immigration reform and stood up for the independence of the Federal Reserve. He has helped to pass legislation

to promote free and fair elections and political and economic reforms in Zimbabwe, where we have both traveled together twice, as well as to a dozen other countries.

He has come and stood on this floor time and again to demand a vote on legislation to protect the special counsel and to prevent an imminent constitutional crisis. He has taken risks and opened his heart in a way determined to help us come together rather than be torn apart, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Whether meeting personally with world leaders or fighting for the people of Arizona here on the Senate floor or advocating for new policies in committee, Senator FLAKE's courage and his convictions have always been evident. His service as a Senator stands as a model and a challenge for many of us in this Chamber.

I look back fondly on our 6 years serving together. I was chair of the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee when he first arrived, and he succeeded me in that role. That has given us opportunities to flee from elephants in Mozambique, to dine with dictators in Zimbabwe and elsewhere, and to advance democracy on continents we have come to know and love.

This year alone, we have been to nearly a dozen countries as we have tried in a bipartisan way to advance America's interests in places around the world where other models of governance are on the march. His leadership, his engagement, his deep respect and admiration for the people of Africa will be sorely missed in this Chamber and impossible to replace.

For me, personally, I will miss his humor, his friendship, his kindness, and his leadership. I know him as a decent, earnest, and kind man and a great husband and father, who loves nothing more than his talented wife Cheryl and his children, Tanner, Dallin, Austin, Alexis, and Ryan. He has also been blessed with a very talented staff who have worked tirelessly and been great partners in legislation and in service. My high view of his character comes, I will remind you, in this divided context, despite differences in our States and backgrounds, divergent voting records and different specific faith backgrounds. But all of that is wrapped up in a shared commitment to evangelize for democracy.

Despite our differences, I believe Senator FLAKE has exemplified how Washington and this Senate should work, particularly when it comes to respecting each other, holding true to our core values and principles, and defending them here and around the world, yet listening to each other and being willing to trust each other.

I only wish I had the blessing of Senator FLAKE's partnership in this Chamber for 6 more years, but it gives me hope thinking of the impact he will undoubtedly have on our country and world in the years to come. I know he has so much more good left to do, and I look forward to supporting him in whatever path he chooses to accomplish that goal.

I want to close with some words Senator FLAKE spoke on this floor more than 1 year ago in announcing his decision to retire rather than seek reelection. He said:

> [T]o have a healthy government, we must have healthy and functioning parties. We must respect each other again in an atmosphere of shared facts and shared values, comity, and good faith. We must argue our positions fervently and never be afraid to compromise. We must assume the best of our fellow man and always look for the good. Until that day comes, we must be unafraid to stand up and speak out as if our country depends on it because it does.

Senator FLAKE, thank you. Thank you for being unafraid to speak out for what is right, what is true, and what is just, and to risk friendship with this junior Senator from a much smaller State on the other side of the continent. Thank you for your service and your friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here this morning to join my colleagues in saluting the public service of our friend Senator JEFF FLAKE.

In his remarkable book, ''The Conscience of a Conservative,'' Senator JEFF FLAKE offered these words that apply to both sides of the aisle and across the political spectrum. Rather than constantly pursuing partisan advantage, he wrote, ''the better path always is to break out of rigid ideological thinking, to listen to reasoned arguments on both sides, and to use your best judgment.''

Reason and courage have defined Senator FLAKE's 18 years in Congress—12 in the House of Representatives and 6 here in the Senate. Throughout these years of service, he has always been knowledgeable, insightful, and dedicated to America and its values.

It has been a privilege to work closely with him on many vital issues. Senator FLAKE has always been willing to take on the most difficult challenges and offer constructive solutions, as his work on immigration reform demonstrates. As my colleague from Delaware has said, he is unafraid. He will take on any challenge, no matter the consequences.

As chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I have appreciated his commitment to the well-being, safety, and security of seniors across the Nation and in his beloved home State of Arizona. Senator FLAKE was especially helpful in our committee's examination of international criminal cartels that were using unsuspecting American seniors as drug ''mules'' to smuggle narcotics across international borders, not realizing the cargo that they were carrying.

Senator FLAKE has been an outstanding leader on the Foreign Relations Committee as chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy. His firsthand knowledge of issues from his early mission work in South Africa and Zimbabwe has helped to guide his efforts. I was proud to have been a cosponsor of a bill he authored with Senator COONS to combat the wildlife trafficking crisis, which became law in 2016. In fact, it was on a congressional trip that I first met my friend JEFF FLAKE, and I remember thinking that he was so fascinating. He knew so many things of which I had very little knowledge.

He talked about his time in Africa, and I will always remember—and this will bring a smile to his lips as well—when he told me that the words for describing it being very cold outside were the equivalent of a phrase that sounded like ''buy a coat.'' I am sure I ruined the pronunciation, but he is nodding affirmatively. I always loved that and will remember that little vignette.

When Senator FLAKE announced last year that he would not seek re-election, he offered these words on the Senate floor:

''We must respect each other again in an atmosphere of shared facts and shared values, comity and good faith. We must argue our positions fervently and never be afraid to compromise. We must assume the best of our fellow man and always look for the good.

I think it is significant that those words resonated both with the Senator from Delaware and with me, and I am sure with many others.

Senator JEFF FLAKE always gave his best, and he always helped us to find the good. I join my colleagues in wishing him, Cheryl, and his family well, and in expecting many more contributions from this leader of many gifts and determined principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S.J. RES. 54

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, there has been a long conversation about Yemen. Yemen is in a civil war. It has been a brutal civil war. There have been a lot of civilians killed and a lot of damage done to the country's interior.

Of the 30 million people who are living in Yemen, 22 million, currently, need humanitarian assistance. We have over 8 million people who are what is called ''at risk'' of severe starvation. It has the largest cholera outbreak in the world right now, and its currency has plummeted in value. We have over 2 million people inside the country who have been internally displaced. They, literally, can't live in their homes because the war is around their homes,

and they have had to flee from those spots—2 million people. It is a terrible situation.

Yet, while this body is arguing about supporting or not supporting the Saudis—should we be around it or should we not be around it?—our Ambassador, the leadership of the U.N., and our U.S. military—which this body is arguing we shouldn't engage to help—are currently putting people at the negotiating table in Sweden. For the past week, our military, which this body is saying shouldn't be engaged, has actually been the prime mover in getting all of the same players to the table to negotiate.

In just the last few hours, the Secretary General of the U.N., along with the rebel leadership and the legitimate leadership of Yemen in the civil war, have stepped out to make major announcements. The first major announcement they just released within the last hour was that they have committed to halting fighting around the seaport so that humanitarian assistance can get in.

The Houthis have, actually, dominated the seaport and taken all of the income from the seaport to finance their fighters. Their weapons are coming from Iran, and their income is coming from the port because they have taken the port over. Now the U.N. is going to run the port. That is a dramatic shift. Revenues from the seaport will be deposited into a central bank so that the rightful government, when this is all resolved, will actually give the revenue back to the people of Yemen. There will be a release in fighting—a pull-out in the major city around the seaport there. They have agreed that they are going to have a secondary meeting next month in order to work out the final details to actually shut this down.

So while this body is arguing about whose side we should take—the Iranians' or the Saudis'—and that is really what the body is arguing about—we are, actually, actively pushing the players to the table to resolve this.

This is the worst possible moment for this body to start arguing about whose side we should be on. I am fully aware that the Saudis' humanitarian history is deplorable. The whole world praises them because they now allow women to drive. I mean, we are in that bad of a humanitarian situation and of a human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. I am fully aware of the murder of Khashoggi and am fully aware of what they have done in other areas, but the Saudis have also been the only entity to give humanitarian aid to Yemen in order to help assist this.

The United States, by far, is the largest donor to what is going on in the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, but the civil war is not our problem. This is a proxy fight between Saudi Arabia and Iran that is being fought right on Saudi Arabia's southern border in Yemen. We shouldn't take sides in this other than to stand up against Iran's aggression as it has moved into Iraq, as Iran has moved into Syria, and as Iran has moved into Lebanon. We don't want to see Iran dominate the entire region and destabilize the region, but we do want to bring peace to this region.

So what should we do in this situation?

I think we should speak with a very clear voice about the human rights violations of Saudi Arabia and call Saudi Arabia out to be a part of the civilized world, but I think punishing the innocent civilian casualties in Yemen is the wrong way to do it.

We should speak out on the issue of Khashoggi, and we should speak out on human rights in the entire region. We should stand up and ask: What can we do to stop the fighting and protect the civilians there? The best thing we can do is to be engaged with the Saudis but not in selecting targets and not in refueling their jets—we have already stopped all of that—but in being a presence there.

As Americans, we forget that most of the world does not try to protect civilians in battles like we do. Most of the world just carpet bombs and destroys and burns down cities. Do you want a good example of where America is not present? Look at Syria right now and at the year after year of barrel bombs, of chemical weapons—Americans are out; we are not advising—and at the destruction that is happening to the civilians.

If we want to see even more of that in Yemen, then let's back this out entirely. If we want to give Iran the upper hand in the peace negotiations that are happening right now, then let's tell them through this body that we don't support the Saudis anymore but that we support the Iranians, who started this civil war in Yemen.

The best thing we can do is to give the peace negotiations the opportunity to finish and to go well; to support, in every way that we can, the protection of civilians in that region; and to make sure that we are assisting with our advice on how to protect them and how to move forward. That is the best thing we can do—not argue about whether we are going to pull out or not pull out or engage in Yemen or not engage.

Let me be clear. Yemen is not our fight. That civil war is not our fight. Yet, in the ungoverned spaces of Yemen, there is a group called al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. They use those ungoverned spaces and use the cover of the civil war to actively recruit worldwide. The most aggressive part of al-Qaida that is directly pointed at the United States in planning attacks, in orchestrating attacks, in putting out information for lone-wolf individuals all over the world on how to conduct attacks on airlines or in cities or in bus terminals originates from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen.

So while the civil war off to the west is not our fight, though we do want to protect civilians and get them humanitarian aid—and we are helping with that—it is absolutely our fight to take it to al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Hadi, the rightful leader of Yemen, has given us the authority to take the fight to the terrorists there in his own country because he doesn't want al-Qaida in his country either.

As long as we are working with Hadi as the rightful leader—he is giving us the go-head to fight against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and we should for our own security.

So I understand the politics of this, and I understand the messaging saying that we shouldn't have all of these things and painting this picture of us pulling out of Yemen for humanitarian reasons. But the fact is, the humanitarian assistance is going in because we are there. The fact is, we are helping reduce civilian casualties in that area, not increasing them. The fact is, the terrorist group al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula—the most aggressive group against us from al-Qaida—lives right there in Yemen, and we should be able to take the fight to them before they bring it to us again.

These are difficult issues. There is no simple solution to any of these, and I get that. It is a very messy civil war. But the last thing we should do is just pretend our disengagement protects civilians. It does not.

I have a unanimous consent request that is coming up that is currently in conversation to try to figure how out to bring it to the floor. I see there are some other speakers here on the floor who are ready to speak. I would like to yield the floor to others who want to speak and then speak again in a moment on a unanimous consent request.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the pending resolution to end U.S support for the Saudi-led coalition's military action in Yemen and to reiterate my previous calls for our country to respond more clearly, more forcefully, and with moral purpose to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi by holding the Saudi Government accountable at the highest levels.

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

Mr. President, before my remarks on this resolution, I want to speak about another important matter before the Senate, and that is the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which I urge my colleagues to take up and pass in this Congress. I thank Senator GILLIBRAND and a number of other leaders for their work on this bill. I have cosponsored it, along with more than 50 of my Senate colleagues.

This important legislation would ensure that thousands of Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war, and their families, are able to receive the benefits they have earned.

When our soldiers signed up to serve, we made a promise to provide them

with the healthcare and benefits they deserve when they return home. The men and women who have served our country on the frontlines should not return home to find themselves left waiting at the end of the line and left waiting to get the healthcare they need or the benefits they have earned.

This bipartisan legislation has already passed the House of Representatives. It is time for us in the Senate to do the same and maintain our commitment to our veterans.

I do want to thank the Presiding Officer for the work we are doing together in a somewhat related area, and that is the area of burn pits—a modern-day version of what many of our soldiers experienced during the Vietnam war with Agent Orange. We have something going on right now where our soldiers who were stationed next to these major, expansive burn pits have come home sick. It is the same principle as Agent Orange.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his support for the bipartisan bill we are leading given that we have many good veterans from both Alaska and Minnesota who have come home with health problems.

S.J. RES. 54

Mr. President, turning to the pending matter, I would like to join those of my colleagues who have spoken in support of this bipartisan resolution. I have come to the floor before on this issue because it is so important.

It is time for Congress to speak with a clear voice in opposition to U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition's operations in Yemen. We must make clear that we will not turn a blind eye to civilian casualties, as well as the ongoing humanitarian crisis that continues to devastate the country of Yemen and its people.

With this resolution, we can end U.S. support for the Saudi-led military action in Yemen. This is an important step. It demonstrates that Congress will perform its constitutional duty in authorizing military action and demanding that our policies and actions are consistent with our values.

In light of the bipartisan support for this resolution, which, of course, includes Senator SANDERS and Senator LEE—I would also mention that former Senator Franken from Minnesota had been involved in this as a leader when he served in the Senate—the administration should more forcefully advocate for a meaningful political process to end the fighting.

Following the war in Yemen and the horrific murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi, I am concerned that this administration lacks a comprehensive strategy for dealing with Saudi Arabia.

I have also been deeply concerned that the President continues to ignore human rights violations, the suppression of dissent, and the deaths of thousands of civilians in Yemen in order to maintain good relations with the Saudis. Yes, we have an important alliance with Saudi Arabia and an important trade relationship, but that doesn't mean that you don't stand up when you see the kind of horror we have seen in Yemen and when you see the kinds of human rights violations we have seen in the death of Mr. Khashoggi.

Look no further than how the President has repeatedly dismissed his own intelligence community's assessment of the murder. This is after reports have made clear that the CIA believes with high confidence that this murder was called for at the highest levels of the Saudi Government, by the Crown Prince. His response stands in stark contrast to the founding principles of our democracy. If the President refuses to defend these values, then Congress must.

This is not who we are as a country. So I call on my colleagues to join me—and I am so glad we have bipartisan support for this resolution—in defending our values. But this is not all we should do. I support the comprehensive, bipartisan legislation introduced to ensure effective oversight of the U.S. policy on Yemen and demand meaningful accountability from the Saudi Government. This legislation includes provisions to suspend weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and impose mandatory sanctions on people involved in the death of Mr. Khashoggi.

While I support the recent decision to support U.S. aerial refueling—a decision of the administration—for Saudi coalition aircraft, as well as the sanctions that the administration imposed on 17 Saudi officials, this falls far short of the forceful response that our democratic values require.

In addition, I have previously voted to limit arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and I will continue to oppose the sale of certain weapons—particularly offensive weapons—to the Kingdom.

These are steps that we can and should take. While there is no question that we have common interests with Saudi Arabia and that Saudi Arabia has been our partner, these facts do not require our country to completely sacrifice our values.

The civil war in Yemen has now raged on for almost 4 years, resulting in widespread destruction in the country and one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. More than 22 million people—half of them children—are in need of assistance, and 8 million people in the country are on the brink of starvation. The country's sanitation system, electrical system, and other critical infrastructure have been destroyed, leading to the most serious cholera outbreak in half a century. The ongoing violence has hindered the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian aid, including food and medicine.

Finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict is both a humanitarian imperative and critical to stability on the Arabian Peninsula.

The United States has a long history of being a global leader in providing humanitarian aid, and we cannot just stand by and put our heads in the sand as this crisis continues. Our response to the fighting and the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen must demonstrate that U.S. foreign policy and global leadership will always be rooted in our values. It must show that we will not overlook violations of human rights, whether by Saudi Arabia or by Houthi rebels in Yemen.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important resolution and to really show the administration, to show the country, and to show the world that this Congress is actually fulfilling its obligations and constitutional duties. This is a very important moment for the U.S. Senate.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senate minority leader.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to address the saddest and one of the most depressing issues of the moment, and that is the drug epidemic that faces America.

The reality of this drug epidemic is felt in every corner of this country. There is no suburb too wealthy, no town too small, no place in this country that hasn't been touched by the opioid and heroin epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control put out a statement this morning that is important for us to truly understand this drug epidemic. What the Centers for Disease Control said is that fentanyl has become the deadliest drug in the United States. On Wednesday, they reported that fentanyl was involved in more deadly drug overdoses in 2016 than any other drug. There was a total of 63,632 drug overdose deaths in 2016, with fentanyl found to be involved in nearly 29 percent of those cases. By comparison, fentanyl was involved in only 4 percent of drug fatalities just 7 years ago—in 2011. That year, oxycodone ranked first; it was involved in 13 percent.

Lawmakers are struggling to deal with the sweeping opioid epidemic, and the CDC data shows that the problem goes further than the overprescription of opioid drugs.

From 2011 to 2016, cocaine consistently ranked second or third. During the study period, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving heroin more than tripled, as did the rate of drug overdose deaths involving methamphetamine.

Why do I bring up this issue of fentanyl? Because if you are discussing border security in America, you are talking about a number of things. You are talking about those who would assault our borders for a variety of reasons. You are talking about people who present themselves at our borders for a variety of reasons.

Let me try to make several concessions here that I think both parties agree with.

First, America needs border security. We cannot allow every person in the

world who wishes to come to this country entry into this country.

Second, we know people are trying to ship into this country things that are deadly and items that are contraband, that should not be part of America.

Third, we don't want anyone who is dangerous outside of our country to knowingly come into this country. Those who are here undocumented, if they are dangerous to our country, should be removed.

I hope that you would agree there is unanimous consensus on those three points.

The third point I am going to make and not dwell on at this moment is the fact that our immigration legal system is in shambles. It is awful. We currently are placing in tent camps on the border with Mexico hundreds and hundreds of children because of a circumstance created by this administration, which is almost impossible to understand or to explain.

But I want to focus specifically on fentanyl—on this drug fentanyl, which the CDC has told us is the deadliest drug in America today, overwhelmingly the deadliest drug in America today.

Where does it come from? Much of the production is in China, but it is produced in other places. Much of it transits into the United States across that Mexican border. So when we talk about border security and stopping the drug epidemic in America, let's be honest about it. Building a wall from one side of the United States to the other does not stop the flow of fentanyl into our country. Fentanyl is coming in through ports of entry—openings, legal openings—in the wall.

We heard yesterday from the experts that some 80 percent of the drugs that flow into the United States from Mexico come through our ports of entry. They are not putting them in backpacks and storming across the desert at night, trying to come across the Rio Grande. That may be a part of some effort, but when it comes to the deadliest of drugs coming into the United States, they are coming through our ports of entry.

What can we do about it? Well, the interesting thing we can do about it is to look at the obvious. I asked one of the experts, a Mr. McAleenan, who is with the Customs and Border Protection system—he does this for a living.

I asked him last year: If I gave you a blank check and said ''Make our borders safer with Mexico,'' what would you spend it on?

He said two things immediately: technology and personnel. That makes sense.

I said: Give me an idea of the kind of technology you think would make America safer.

He said: There is something called a Z-Portal.

I had never heard the term before. A Z-Portal is a scanning device; if you drive a car or a truck across our border, it scans it, x rays it, and can tell basically what is inside. If you are trying to smuggle people in the back of a semitruck, it will show it. If you have firearms, it will show it. It will show contraband that is not supposed to be part of the declared shipment that is coming into the United States.

Doesn't it sound like a good idea to try to make sure that anything entering this country has been scanned?

Well, it turns out that 98 percent of the railroad cars that come into the United States are scanned. That is good news. I wish it were 100 percent, but 98 percent is good. What percentage of other vehicles coming into the United States are scanned currently? Eighteen percent. Fewer than one out of five vehicles are scanned.

I asked Mr. McAleenan, when he appeared before our Judiciary Committee this week: Why not more?

He said: Well, we need to buy more technology. We need to buy more scanners so that we can spot those who are trying to ship people or contraband or drugs into the United States.

I said: Well, I looked at President Trump's request for your Agency, and he asked for $44 million for scanners.

What would it take, Mr. McAleenan, to have scanners to make sure that all of the vehicles coming into the United States are scanned?

He gave me the number: $300 million.

That is a lot of money. But when you consider the cost of our drug epidemic and the deadly results of that drug epidemic, it is not a lot of money. And when you put it to the idea of a $5 billion wall, it is laughable that this administration is insisting on a medieval wall as opposed to the technology that lets us look inside the vehicles that are shipping these deadly drugs into the United States and killing people in our country. That is the reality of what we face today.

I would say to this President: Don't shut this government down over border security; make smart border security choices. Listen to your professionals. Put aside your campaign speeches about ''a wall from sea to shining sea'' and listen to the professionals who will tell you, Mr. President, as they educated me, that there are better ways to keep America safe than to build a godawful wall.

Walls can be overcome by ladders and tunnels underneath, but this technology we are talking about is inescapable. When you bring your vehicle through these scanning devices, we know a lot more about what you are trying to do.

And while we are on the subject, the hearing yesterday was about Mexican drug cartels. Some of the things that were told to us in that Judiciary Committee hearing were stunning. They estimate that the current economic activity of the Mexican drug cartels is part of a transnational network whose global revenue exceeds the gross domestic product of Mexico. What they are doing in creating this narcotic trade and exporting is now surpassing the entire Mexican economy's production of goods and services. Breathtaking, isn't it? And it turns out that 10 years ago, we identified Mexican drug cartels as our greatest criminal threat at that time, and it still is today.

How do they do it? How do they produce so much narcotics in Mexico at our expense? Well, certainly the answer is obvious: We pay for the drugs. American dollars flow back into Mexico so that the cartels can keep in business, and something else flows back into Mexico: guns from America. Seventy percent of the crime guns that were seized in Mexico—70 percent of them had come from the United States. How did they get across the border? Well, first, it is not legal to export guns across that border. Secondly, it turns out they buy them the same way they buy them in the Midwest and come to Chicago to shoot up our streets. They go to gun shows where there are no background checks, and they buy these guns in volume, and they surreptitiously ship them across the border to the Mexican drug cartels. So it is a circle. The narcotics come here; the money and the weapons go from here back to Mexico. That circle is growing in size and in intensity.

So I asked an obvious question: Do we check on the vehicles that are southbound out of the United States, headed down to Mexico? The answer is almost not at all.

How are we going to deal with this drug epidemic and how are we going to deal with border security if, instead of addressing these very real issues that directly impact the drug epidemic in America, we are sitting here talking about $5 billion for a wall?

All of us have voted for the Department of Homeland Security to build barriers where needed, to build fences—and they tell us they don't need a wall; they need a fence they can see through. We put money on the table for that year after year, and I will continue to because I think it is a smart thing to do, to have a border that is actually secured. But this President is prepared to shut down the Government of the United States not for the technology that I have described to you—the successful technology that can reduce the flow of fentanyl, this deadliest of chemicals into the United States, not for the technology that could detect in these vehicles if they had a trailer full of people who are being smuggled in for whatever reason—no. This President is fixed on one issue: a $5 billion wall.

I hope someone close to the President will sit down with him and explain the reality of border security. It goes way beyond a campaign speech. There are plenty of votes, Democrats and Republicans, for border security that is smart and border security that will work.

The hearings this week in the Senate Judiciary Committee really told the story. I am sure the President didn't follow those hearings, but I hope someone at the White House can and did

convince him: Don't shut down this government to build a wall. Appeal to Congress on a bipartisan basis to give our government the resources to make America safe.

If we could stop the deadly flow of fentanyl across that border, we will save American lives. We can do it. We know the technology that will accomplish it. Now, all we lack is the political will to get it done.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Madam President, I am sorry I wasn't here earlier when he was on the floor, but I know that my friend and colleague, Senator JEFF FLAKE, gave his farewell address to the Senate, and he will be leaving soon. I wanted to honor him for his service in the Senate and thank him for all the things we have worked on together.

When the political history of our time is written, I think one of the most interesting chapters will be about my friend, Senator JEFF FLAKE, of Arizona. I hope that history will be able to explain to me how one of the ideological sons of Barry Goldwater, who was, in fact, the father of modern American conservatism—how this ideological son named JEFF FLAKE came to be viewed as a suspect conservative in Senator Goldwater's home State of Arizona.

I have always found JEFF FLAKE to be a conservative with a conscience, and I have been privileged to work closely with him on some of the most important questions of our time.

Most people, in observing Washington, think all we do is fight like cats and dogs, and Democrats and Republicans won't work together. That is not true. JEFF FLAKE and I were members of something called the Gang of 8. We produced a comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform bill that passed on this Senate floor overwhelmingly 15½ years ago. Other members of the Gang of 8 included our current Democratic leader, CHUCK SCHUMER; MIKE BENNET, the Senator from Colorado; LINDSEY GRAHAM, the Senator from South Carolina; BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, Senator MARCO RUBIO of Florida; and that old iconoclast himself, Senator John McCain.

We met day after day and night after night to write an immigration reform bill. We fought like cats and dogs over some of the provisions, but in the end we agreed. We came up with a compromise bill, and it passed overwhelmingly. We spent hundreds of hours together because we knew that America needed immigration reform.

Senator FLAKE was a voice of conservatism in those discussions, but he was also a voice of conscience, compassion, and reason. I had to laugh at the description of my friend, Senator FLAKE, in an article in the Atlantic magazine last year. The reporter wrote:

> Flake doesn't relish criticizing other people, but when he does, it is usually in a fatherly tone of disappointment. . . . He sometimes seems as if he just crash-landed here in a time machine from some bygone era of seersucker suits and polite disagreements.

Country before party—that is the North Star of JEFF FLAKE's political life. Adhering to that principle may have made him a one-term Senator from Arizona, but it also made him an extraordinarily good Senator and public servant.

The problems JEFF FLAKE tried honorably to solve haven't gone away. They still demand our attention. If we can approach these challenges with the same principles and openmindedness of Senator JEFF FLAKE, America will be a winner.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENT NO. 4096, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment No. 4096, as modified, be called up and reported by the clerk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. CORKER], for Mr. CORNYN, proposes an amendment numbered 4096, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide that nothing in the joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, it is probably no surprise for my colleagues to know that I don't like much the idea of a farewell speech. I haven't spent a great deal of time contemplating it over the years I have been here. I am not a big fan of the concept. But I want to respect the tradition, especially since I have witnessed so many Senate traditions crumble over the last 12 years. So I will do my best to get through this without breaking up.

A traditional farewell speech in the U.S. Senate is full of accomplishments and thanks. I am going to skip half of that. I am extremely proud of my body of work over 34 years of public service, but it is for others to judge, and I won't dwell on it today, other than to say it is a long list and a tangible demonstration of the value of hard work.

The wonderful Barbara Bush said: ''Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people—your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way.''

So rather than talk about what I have done, I want to speak a few moments about my family, and I have three different families I want to talk about today: my actual family, my family I like to call Missouri, or ''Missouri''—we argue about it a lot—and my family here in the Senate.

First, my actual family—because they are the most important. In the words of author Andre Maurois, ''without a family, man, alone in the world, trembles with the cold.'' I have been very warm my whole life. I have not ''trembled'' in the cold because I have always had my family.

My parents taught me that caring about the community around us was noble and good and that holding public office was an honorable endeavor, even though my parents were largely spectators and supporters and not candidates or officeholders. They just cared, and they wanted me to care too.

At the risk of going down the road of too many family stories, it may explain a lot that my dad fell in love with my mom when he saw her smoking a cigar and belting out, ''Won't you come home, Bill Bailey,'' at a party; that my mother said I must say ''trick or treat'' and vote for JFK when I was 7; and that my father insisted that I not only learn the rules of football but that I also learn to tell a good joke and learn to laugh at myself.

My siblings. My two sisters and my brother have simply been the port in every storm.

My children. We have a large, blended family of many children and grandchildren that is close and loving. I adore them all, but I need to specifically mention my three children—Austin, Maddie, and Lily—because they were there from the beginning—infants in car seats going to political events, toddlers sitting sometimes not so quietly as I gave a speech, and, then, amazing troopers in the almost decade of my career when I was a single working mom, hauling them all over the State on campaigns. They now have forgiven me for the missed recitals and the missed field trips and the fact that I couldn't be the homeroom mom. Today, they have grown into amazing, strong adults who make me very proud.

And yee howdy, those grandchildren—I have 11, going on 12. I can't wait until they are all old enough to yell at them what my mom used to say to us when we were dawdling and too slow in getting to the car: ''Last one in is a Republican.''

My husband, Joseph—how lucky I am to have him as my best friend. We were married 16 years ago, after I was well into my political career and after he had achieved great success in business. He is proud and supportive of me always, but he certainly didn't bargain for the incredibly unfair treatment we got at his expense because of his business success. Let the record of the Senate now say what my Republican colleagues did not during my campaigns: Thank you, Joseph, for your integrity, your honesty, your generosity, and your heart, which has always directed you to do good, as you do well.

Then there is my Missouri family. I love my State—all of it, every corner

of it, even the parts that aren't very crazy about me. My honor to work for Missourians has been immense. I am incredibly grateful to them for the opportunity I have had to get up every day and work my heart out in an interesting, challenging career of public service, and so lucky to have made many, many good friends along the way. I am excited that I will now have more time for them.

David Stier said: ''Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten,'' and that is how I feel about Missouri. That is why my office has tried very hard to help every individual who has come to us for help, every veteran who has needed assistance, every senior caught in Social Security redtape—no matter who they were or where they lived or what their politics were.

Then there is my staff family—my staff, here and in Missouri, in this job, in my previous jobs, and in many, many campaigns.

Richard Bach said it best: ''The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.'' They have been my rock, my compass, my inspiration, and my coach—the best and the brightest, looking not for money or fame but just to make a difference.

To my Senate staff here today and watching and to all the staff in my offices of the prosecutor's office, the auditor's office, the county legislature, and the State legislature, I respect each of you immensely. As you go forth in the world, remember the McCaskill office motto—they could cite it for you right now if I asked them: If you work hard, you can do well. But if you are having fun, you will do great.

We were happy, and it made a difference. George Bernard Shaw said: ''A happy family is but an earlier heaven.'' Working with my staff was heaven.

Finally, to all my fellow Senators and all of the many people who work here in the Senate, I would be lying if I didn't say I was worried about this place. It just doesn't work as well as it used to. The Senate has been so enjoyable for me, but I must admit that it puts the ''fun'' in dysfunction.

Peter Morgan, an author, said: ''No family is complete without an embarrassing uncle.'' We have too many embarrassing uncles in the U.S. Senate and lots of embarrassing stuff. The U.S. Senate is no longer the world's greatest deliberative body, and everybody needs to quit saying it until we recover from this period of polarization and the fear of the political consequences of tough votes. Writing legislation behind closed doors, giant omnibus bills that most don't know what is in them, K Street lobbyists knowing about the tax bill managers' package before even Senators—that is today's Senate—and no amendments.

Solving the toughest problems will not happen without tough votes. We can talk about the toughest problems, we can visit about them, we can argue about them, we can campaign on them, but we are not going to solve them without tough votes. It will not happen. My first year in the Senate was 2007. We voted on 306 amendments in 2007. This year, as of yesterday, we have voted on 36. That is a remarkable difference. Something is broken, and if we don't have the strength to look in the mirror and fix it, the American people are going to grow more and more cynical, and they might do something crazy like elect a reality TV-star President. I am not kidding. That is one of the reasons this has happened.

Power has been dangerously centralized in the Senate. We like to say: Oh, we can't change the rules or we would be just like the House. We kind of are like the House, guys. We kind of are. A few people are writing legislation and a few people are making the decisions. We have to throw off the shackles of careful, open the doors of debate, reclaim the power of Members and committees, and, most of all, realize that looking the other way and hoping that everything will work out later is a foolish idea. For gosh sakes, debate and vote on amendments.

But with all the problems I have outlined, know that I love this place and you—almost all of you. You have filled my life with interesting work and unforgettable memories. We have argued, we have sung, we have fought, we have cried, and we have laughed together—just like family. You are family, and I will miss you terribly.

Desmond Tutu, a very wise man, said: ''God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.''

Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, while our colleagues show their affection for Senator MCCASKILL, let me talk a little bit about my relationship with her and her service to our State. She chose not to do that, but she has served Missourians at every level of government—as a county legislator, as a State legislator, as an extraordinary prosecutor, and as the State auditor, when her particular talent to find out exactly what was going wrong and point it out was maybe at its best use, and 12 years in the U.S. Senate.

I know that not too long ago CLAIRE and Joe took their family on a vacation to a ranch in the West. I was thinking about that, and thinking about her reminded me of a story I had heard about a wrangler at one of those ranches, who was just perfect on a horse. Somebody who was visiting asked: How do you get that good riding a horse?

He said: Well, first of all, you get on the horse and you put your boot in the stirrup. You put your heel right up against the back of the stirrup. You sit easily in the saddle, and you ride for about 30 years. You ride for about 30 years.

If you had paid any attention to either the last Senate campaign in Missouri or the one I was involved in before that, you heard a lot about 30 years. In the case of Senator MCCASKILL and me, we have our own 30 years. About that long ago, she was starting her second term in the Missouri legislature—smart, well-prepared, all she always is. I was the first Republican elected secretary of state in 52 years and only a couple years older than her. In fact, we never had much of a fight about who was going to be called a senior Senator because neither wanted to be the particular senior anything at this point, but we began to work together.

CLAIRE was smart, she was quick, she was funny, she was insightful, and she was always well-prepared. She was also, by the way, on the Appropriations Committee that I had to report to. The questions were always tough and usually I could answer them. Even then, I often wondered how somebody as smart and well-prepared as CLAIRE could so often wind up on the wrong side of the issue of the day based on my view of the issue of the day. We still have that—the 8 years we were here together.

Let me tell you, on anything that involved Missouri, I think you would have a hard time finding an exception where we didn't get to the same place, where we didn't get there quickly, and where we didn't do everything we both could do to figure out how to reach a conclusion.

In fact, all week I was thinking, is there any way I can get to St. Louis to where the property transfer will be made for the new NGA, the National Geospatial West facility—$1.3 billion facility—right where Pruitt-Igoe used to be, something new that will be the center of activity and something that was built at the site of a really bad government decision. We worked very hard to get that done. I was thinking, I am going to do that, until I found out it wasn't going to be next Tuesday; it was going to be today when Senator MCCASKILL was going to give this speech, and I knew I needed to be here and wanted to be here for that.

I also say that our staff—and her Washington staff is here—our staff in Washington, our staff in Missouri, to the best of my knowledge, have always worked closely on everything. They would even be at meetings where one of them would be explaining why I voted the way I did and the other would be explaining why CLAIRE voted the way she did, and they would often ride together. That was the way we worked together on citizen concerns, on Missouri concerns. That happened here as well.

CLAIRE talked about her family. Joe Shepard, a great friend of mine for—frankly, Joe was helping me before he started helping CLAIRE, but she pretty well totally converted him to her side

of the aisle, but we are still good friends.

I have gotten to know CLAIRE's sisters and appreciate her sisters. They are the best. They are always there for her. Occasionally, they will look just enough like CLAIRE that they could ride in her car in a parade and she could be in a parade somewhere else. CLAIRE's mom: The last person in the car is a Republican—I can absolutely hear Claire's mom saying that. In fact, after I was elected to the Senate, I was in the Senate and happened to see Joe and CLAIRE's mom and went over to say hi. CLAIRE's mom said: Well, I would like to say it is nice to see you here, but based on everything I said in the campaign, I would be two-faced.

That was Betty McCaskill, and I liked her for it. I was at Betty McCaskill's memorial service during CLAIRE's campaign that year for her second election to the Senate. She was at my dad's memorial service during my election campaign to the Senate this time. As CLAIRE and Joe were leaving, CLAIRE said to me: What a perfect service for Leroy Blunt. Nobody in this body could say that like CLAIRE could say it because she knew my dad. When family got up, we talked about my dad, but CLAIRE knew that was not just a passing comment; it was knowing who we were and knowing who she is and what she knew about that.

Of all the times we voted differently, we have a relationship without pretense, as much as you can possibly have between two Members of the Senate from the same State. The best part of the last 8 years—we have been friendly for 30 years, but in the last 8 years, we really have become good friends. Old friends are hard to make. It takes a long time, say 30 years, to really make old friends.

I look forward to our time together after you leave here. I have benefited from our time together while you were here. Our State has benefited from your service in incredible ways at all levels. Even on the days we didn't disagree, I never doubted your sense that you were doing the right thing. It is an honor to be your friend, and it is an honor to have worked for you. Thanks for all you have done for the State of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, the last thing one does in life is not necessarily the best. I have come to respect CLAIRE MCCASKILL over a long period of time. I have watched her walk in a room and watched heads turn. I have listened to her up front, answering questions: no nonsense, direct, truthful, to the very best of her ability. I found in her a great sense of conscience. She has this marvelous exterior. I think the interior is a little different.

There is a sensitivity there that is very special, Senator. I hope you never ever lose it because it is what gives you the ability to do what you do. Now I expect to turn on my television set and turn on my radio and hear you many times and take a lot of good advice and have a few laughs listening to you.

I want to say thank you. You have represented your State well. You have stood tall. You have spoken out in our caucuses. You have let people know what you feel. You wear your heart on your sleeve, and you are one great woman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I stand here today with a heavy heart, as we pay tribute to our friend and colleague, CLAIRE MCCASKILL of Missouri. Senators represent their State and, not surprisingly, they often reflect their State's heritage, traditions, and values.

The people of Missouri rightly prize their reputation as independent, straightforward, and trustworthy—qualities that define my friend, Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL.

To that, I add another quality that defines this accomplished leader from the Show Me State. Like her inspiration in public service, President Harry Truman, Senator MCCASKILL is feisty. In her two terms in the Senate, Senator MCCASKILL has demonstrated her belief that no one party holds a monopoly on good ideas. It has been such a pleasure to work with her across the aisle on so many issues. She was always the best of partners: strong, strategic, determined, and she got a lot done.

An issue that brought us together as leaders of the Senate Aging Committee was the extensive bipartisan investigation we launched in 2015 into the extreme spikes in the prices of many prescription drugs. The findings of our investigation were appalling, and the reform legislation we coauthored is producing results in spurring approval of lower cost generic drugs and increasing transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.

Our work together on drug pricing uncovered the gag clauses that industry uses that can prohibit your local pharmacists from telling consumers if their prescription would cost less if they paid for it out of pocket rather than using their insurance. The Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act that Senator MCCASKILL and I coauthored and that was signed into law this October ends this egregious practice, saving consumers money and improving healthcare.

We also investigated numerous financial scams that attempted to rob seniors of their hard-earned savings. Once again, working together, we were able to get a new law passed that tackled this serious issue as well. There is nobody in this body who is more talented at questioning individuals who came before our committee and were trying to shape the truth or deceive or distract than CLAIRE MCCASKILL. She, as Senator BLUNT mentioned, was always well-prepared; she was always insightful; and she was always tough.

I remember one hearing we had where the GAO was testifying before us, and sure enough, CLAIRE had read the entire GAO report—not just the executive summary, the whole report. Thus, her questions were so penetrating that she brought out information that never would have surfaced in that hearing.

As Missouri State auditor, a prosecutor, and a Senator, CLAIRE MCCASKILL has always been a champion for accountability, dedicated to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs. She has always been determined to get to the truth and to get to the bottom of an issue. During the damaging shutdown of 2013, she stepped forward as a charter member of our Common Sense Coalition to help restore the faith of the American people and to reopen government.

I have worked so closely with Senator MCCASKILL during her entire time in the Senate, and I will miss her so much. She is a tough, no-nonsense leader, a dedicated public servant, and, most of all, a good friend.

CLAIRE, I thank you for your public service, and I wish you, Joseph, and your family all the best in the years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today, as we all are, to recognize a marvelous person in CLAIRE MCCASKILL. I am going to go back to 2006, when CLAIRE was running for the U.S. Senate and I was too. The first time I saw CLAIRE MCCASKILL on TV was on C–SPAN. She was in a debate. I thought to myself: My, oh my. This lady has skills—because it is something I do, I study people who are good and I try to steal as much as I can from them and there was plenty to steal in her ability to get to the truth.

Then, CLAIRE and Jim Webb and I all won close elections in 2006 and showed up in this body. Those of you who know Webb, Webb was maybe the most intense person I ever have met in my life—an incredible human being in his own right—and I became good friends with Jim.

CLAIRE, I can't tell you the first time we met, but I can tell you when we met, it was like we had known one another our whole lives. CLAIRE had this ability to instill—and still has this ability. I want to talk in the future, not in the past. CLAIRE has the ability to welcome you and make you feel as good about yourself as you feel about her.

We got to be fast friends. She and Joseph are Sharla and my best friends in this body. In fact, when I got on the train a few weeks ago—and I probably shouldn't have done this, but it just happened—I happened to get on the train with Senator-elect Hawley. I didn't know him. I never met him. I never looked at the debates this time around when I was campaigning. He introduced himself to me. I will probably owe him an apology for this, but I said:

Yes, you just beat my best friend in the U.S. Senate—because she has been.

She is one of the reasons I have been able to come to this body and really enjoy it. As everybody said before, she is smart, she is very articulate, and she has a heart. Those three things are qualities that serve one well in the U.S. Senate.

And I, for one, am going to miss her presence here and her ability to tell the truth in a way that you have to be hard of hearing not to understand what she says because she has been a great Senator over the lasts 12 years. She has represented Missouri, and because we all have those two letters in from of our names—''U.S.'' Senator—she has represented this country in an amazing way. I, for one, will miss her but will make a point to make sure the relationship we have developed in this body continues for the rest of our lives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I just wanted to address the Senator from Missouri to tell her that she has been a wonderful colleague for this Senator.

As someone of more moderation in her politics who comes from a Republican-dominated State, she has negotiated the political winds so well and has always kept her eye on representing her State. This Senator from Florida particularly appreciates that, because being a Democrat in a Republican State is not an easy task, and she has done it with such dignity, looking out for her people, looking out for the people who are voiceless. I just want her to know she has the appreciation of this Senator from Florida.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we recently heard a farewell speech from my colleague and friend, Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL of Missouri. I grew up across the river from St. Louis in the town of East St. Louis, IL, and feel a familiarity with Missouri and St. Louis probably more than most residents of my State. We have had many great reminisces about the city and her life, and I wanted to say a few words on the floor today as she ends her service in the U.S. Senate.

My boyhood hero was Stan Musial—''Stan the Man''—St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer and one of greatest ball players who ever lived. He retired in 1963 holding National League career marks for games played, at-bats, and hits. Asked to describe the habits that kept him in baseball for so long, Musial once said: ''Get eight hours of sleep regularly. Keep your weight down, run a mile a day. If you must smoke, try light cigars. Then cut down on inhaling.''

''One last thing,'' he added: ''Make it a point to bat .300.''

CLAIRE MCCASKILL has always brought the same sort of natural-born talent and relentless work ethic to public service that Stan Musial—''Stan the Man''—brought to baseball in St. Louis. She has stood for office 24 times—lost twice. That makes her batting average considerably better than .300.

Five years ago, Senator MCCASKILL and I teamed up to suggest a name for a beautiful new bridge that spanned the mighty Mississippi River between her State of Missouri and mine of Illinois, near St. Louis. Thanks to Claire's leadership, it is called the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge. Locals all call it the Stan Span for short. It is a well-deserved, fitting tribute to my boyhood hero and a fitting tribute to CLAIRE MCCASKILL's tenacity.

In an age of hyperpartisanship, CLAIRE MCCASKILL is a bridge builder. She doesn't ask whether ideas come from the left or the right; she asks whether they will work. Like her own political hero, Harry Truman, she is a straight talker, and she can be a bulldog when it comes to demanding accountability for the people who pay for this government and those who rely on it. She has cast historic and heroic votes on the Senate floor. She voted for an economic stimulus package that helped prevent a second Great Depression. She voted to create the Affordable Care Act—one of the most important social and economic justice laws of our lifetime.

One story about CLAIRE MCCASKILL seems especially telling. Nearly 2 years ago, she was ready to vote to confirm Neil Gorsuch, a Trump appointee, to the U.S. Supreme Court. In Missouri, a red State, that was a pretty good vote for her politically. But when she met privately with then-Judge Gorsuch, she asked him about a case in which he had ruled that a trucking company was within its rights when it fired a driver who left his broken-down truck briefly on a sub-zero night to find help.

Senator MCCASKILL asked Judge Gorsuch: Did you ever think about what you would do if you had been that truckdriver?

The judge said: No.

Senator MCCASKILL changed her vote to no. It cost her politically, but that is the kind of Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL is. Her idea of governing is to spend money wisely, punish misbehavior, and give people what they need in order to get through their daily lives. She has been a voice for truckdrivers and farmers and factory workers and a lot of ordinary people who work hard and still struggle to pay their bills. She has been a fearless champion of my Dreamers, and for that I will forever be grateful. Her votes to help these young people always were risky politically, but she never ever flinched. I will forever be in her debt for her show of courage on that one issue.

Incidentally, she showed the same courage and compassion when calling for an end to this administration's cruel policy of separating immigrant families at our border.

This past year, she used her influence as ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to investigate the causes of the opioid epidemic devastating America. That investigation showed how pharmaceutical companies knowingly sold dangerous and addictive pain killers in order to maximize profit. She worked diligently on a bipartisan basis to ensure passage of a law that will help combat the opioid epidemic and provide treatment for those who are addicted. And she has never ever wavered in her efforts to protect Americans with preexisting medical conditions.

Results, not just rhetoric—that is CLAIRE MCCASKILL.

As Stan Musial approached the plate for the last time before he retired, legendary sportscaster Harry Caray said: ''Take a look, fans. Take a good long look. Remember the swing and the stance. We won't see his like again.''

As Senator MCCASKILL leaves the Senate, take a look. Remember CLAIRE MCCASKILL and her personal brand of Missouri courage. May we all try to be bridge builders, as she has been.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MARK D. BEDRIN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you.

We all are surrounded by exceptionally dedicated young men and women who work side by side with us and whose lead we sometimes follow on issues—our staff. I am honored to have such a capable, dedicated, and loyal staff—to me but more importantly, to Kansans and to Americans.

Today I want to take just a moment to recognize the contributions of a member of that staff, U.S. Army CPT Mark Bedrin, who has spent the last year working in my personal office as part of the U.S. Army Congressional Fellowship Program.

Before Mark departs from my office to return to the Army, at the Pentagon, at the start of the new year, I rise to express my admiration and appreciation to Captain Bedrin for all the hard work and dedication in his service to our Nation.

Exactly 1 year ago, when I first learned that Captain Bedrin would be joining our office and our team, I called and welcomed him to the office, and I immediately was struck by his determination and his sense of duty. Since that first conversation with Mark, I knew he would be an asset to our team, and he absolutely has never disappointed.

Mark's nearly 9 years of service in the U.S. Army have developed his leadership capabilities and shaped his perspective on defense issues that are of such national significance, making him a unique asset to our team who, as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, helps us work to serve Kansans and their families.

Mark's assignments have taken him and his wife, Katie, and their children,

Elizabeth and Patrick, around the world in service to our country. Mark has completed two combat deployments encompassing more than 22 months in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, as a rifle platoon leader during the Afghanistan surge and as regimental battle captain overseeing most of the Regional Command South. He also completed a peacekeeping deployment to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, where he commanded a rifle company supporting the Multinational Force and Observers maintaining the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel. Mark planned and completed multiple missions supporting Atlantic Resolve in Central and Eastern Europe as well.

Although Mark is a native of New York and he had never been to Kansas prior to his working in my office, he immediately got familiar with issues that Kansans face each day and made it a priority to spend time in Kansas and to see firsthand our way of life.

Following his trip to our military installations and equities in Kansas, I was grateful to learn of his impressions at each stop along the way. Like many in the military who visit our State, Mark returned to Washington, DC, with an appreciation for the quality of life that Kansans ensure that their servicemembers have in our State. We take care of their families. I appreciate Mark's noticing that, and it is so true.

Over the past year, I have continually been impressed by Mark's leadership. At every opportunity, he has proven himself to be an important and fully integrated member of our office, our team, and has carried that with equal weight and responsibility with my personal staff. His seamless communications and his skill in tackling issues big and small have been a great benefit to me. Mark has exceeded all of my expectations and has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has been nothing short of outstanding.

Although I am sad that he will be leaving our office at the end of the month, I know he will serve the Army well next year in the budget liaison office, where I am confident he will be a highly effective ambassador to Congress for the Army.

Mark is one of the most impressive military officers I have had the honor of knowing, and I hold him in the highest regard personally and professionally. He is a significant asset to our country and to the U.S. Army. Mark represents the best that the Army has to offer, and I know he will continue to benefit the future of our Nation.

There is no group of people I hold in higher regard than those who serve our Nation, and I want to reiterate my gratitude to Mark and his wife, Katie, as an Army family dedicated to serving our country.

Once again, thank you, Mark, for all you have done for Kansans this year. Thank you for being an inspiration to me, causing me to work harder and care more. You have been a model of selfless service and leadership. Our entire office, our staff here in Washington, DC, and our staff in Kansas will miss you. All know how much you contributed to the cause, and I know you will continue to do great things throughout your Army career and your life of service wherever that path may lead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

S.J. RES. 54

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the U.S.-Saudi Arabia relationship in the broader context of America's interests in the Middle East.

I want to begin by responding to an op-ed Secretary of State Pompeo published in the Wall Street Journal in which he called the U.S.-Saudi Arabia partnership ''vital.'' That statement reflects a distorted view of the U.S.-Saudi Arabia relationship that has permeated the Trump administration in which the United States is somehow dependent on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for regional stability and security cooperation. It is a view perhaps best articulated by the President's own unhinged pre-Thanksgiving statement in which he suggested that selling weapons to the Saudis was more important than America's enduring commitment to human rights, democratic values, and international norms, or the President and Secretary Pompeo's continued, incredulous insistence that we still don't know whether the Crown Prince is directly responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

Desperate to justify this myopic view, Trump officials whimper that Saudi Arabia's military operations in Yemen are the only means to ''root out'' Iranian influence and defend the status quo of U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition.

To put it another way, these morally blindered and blinded individuals believe that to advance America's interests in the region, there is no other option than dependence on Riyadh and no other way than business as usual. So the United States should just stay the course, resign to accept, with a so-called ''vital'' partner, a government that lures a Washington Post columnist—an American resident with U.S. citizen children—to its consulate in a third country with the express intent of eliminating his dissenting views from public discourse in the most gruesome way possible.

I, for one, reject Secretary Pompeo's false choice. We can be tough on Iranian aggression, and we can continue our efforts to eliminate al-Qaida and ISIS. At the same time, we can have a reality-based debate on the strategic utility of the U.S.-Saudi partnership. Our security interests and our values demand such a debate.

I believe that we can pursue an effective strategy to counter terrorism and Iranian aggression while also demanding better from the U.S.-Saudi Arabia partnership. That means standing up for transparency, accountability, and truth when our partners flagrantly violate American values, disregard international norms, and take actions that undermine our broader strategic interests and run counter to regional security.

The Trump administration has cynically framed this vote as a binary, zero-sum choice: You are either for Iran, or you are for Saudi Arabia.

Well, my answer to that is, I am for the United States of America. I am for America's security interests. I am for American values. And I am for partnerships and alliances deeply rooted in both.

I can't imagine that any one of my colleagues on either side of the aisle would put me in the pro-Iran camp. I take a backseat to no one in the Senate in taking the lead to end Iran's pathway to a nuclear weapon and to end its nefarious promotion of terrorism across the world.

To be clear, the vote on S.J. Res. 54 is not about the totality of the U.S.-Saudi relationship; it is a vote about whether U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition's actions in Yemen are in our national interests.

We do indeed have important security interests with the Saudis. Both of our nations benefit from cooperation in confronting threatening forces. Yet we cannot sweep under the rug the callous disregard for human life and the flagrant violations of international norms the Saudis have shown. That is why, as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I continue to look for the opportunity to continue to examine components of the U.S.-Saudi relationship and determine whether that relationship requires a course correction.

Beyond Saudi Arabia, I do not want any of our security partners to interpret our relationship as a blank check. Unfortunately, whether due to the President's possibly unconstitutional financial entanglements or his family's overly cozy relationship with the Crown Prince, this administration is putting the Saudi Government on a pedestal that stands above America's values. They continue to extend a blank check to certain players within the Saudi Government, no matter how brazen their actions, rather than meaningfully seeking to influence Riyadh or ensure that U.S. policy toward Saudi Arabia is properly balanced and in line with our strategic interests, not directed by the personal and financial motives of select individuals in our government.

This refusal to stand up for American values, to assert true leadership, is part of the Trump administration's willful adherence to a misguided understanding of the most effective ways to bring stability to the Middle East. It is an outgrowth of the President's reckless, morally bankrupt approach to foreign policy and a love affair with authoritarian strongmen.

Mr. President, I hope today to frame some critical questions about the U.S.-

Saudi relationship in the context of America's long-term interests in the region. Let's start with taking stock of actions taken by Saudi Arabia over the last 2 years—the 2 years that, according to Secretary Pompeo, the Trump administration has been ''rebuilding'' the U.S.-Saudi partnership while we here in the ''salons of Washington'' were caterwauling about human rights.

In June of 2017, a quartet of Arab countries announced a full blockade of a fellow Gulf Cooperation Council member, Qatar. The Saudi-led bloc justified this blockade by accusing Qatar of transgressions that, while seriously concerning, are not unique to Qatar or even to some members of the Saudi-led bloc, such as financial support for terror.

This blockade tosses out decades of investment by Republicans and Democratic U.S. administrations to partner with the entire Gulf Cooperation Council—Qatar included—on security challenges ranging from Iran, al-Qaida, missile defense, maritime security, and cyber threats.

Put another way, the Saudi-Qatar dispute has translated into a lot more work for our military professionals and diplomats for the past year as the gulf Arabs have fought amongst each other and have interrupted critical priorities like defeating ISIS and countering Iranian aggression. It has also complicated the coordination with our Arab partners on U.S. foreign policy priorities, like stabilizing Libya and Syria, and, potentially, deeply undermined U.S. objectives, like stability in the Horn of Africa.

Who is the winner of this rift that has been constructed by our Saudi-led partners? Iran.

Mr. President, in turning to Yemen, the Saudis and their partners have continued their brutal air campaign in Yemen, often indiscriminately. Tens of thousands of innocent Yemenis have died, and millions more are on the brink of starvation. Meanwhile, Iran's influence has increased within the country, and al-Qaida has taken advantage of the chaos to expand its reach and control of Yemeni territory.

The winners of this fruitless war? Iran and al-Qaida.

Then, in November 2017, Mr. President, the Prime Minister of Lebanon traveled to Saudi Arabia for what he reportedly believed was to be a friendly visit with the Saudi Crown Prince.

Instead, the Crown Prince detained Prime Minister Saad Hariri and, on TV, forced him to resign from his position. Let that sink in for a moment. A newly minted Crown Prince effectively hoodwinked and intimidated a sitting Prime Minister into publicly resigning his position. This entire stunt was reportedly intended to push back on Iran's expanding influence in the region.

After days of high drama and uncertainty, including a refusal by Lebanon's President to accept the Prime Minister's resignation, Hariri left Saudi Arabia via Paris and returned to a Lebanon where Iran's proxy Hezbollah remains not only a part of the Lebanese Government but, arguably, in a stronger position for rallying public support behind Hariri.

The winner of this foolish plunder? Iran.

Mr. President, that very same month of November 2017, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman directed the detention of hundreds of Saudi princes and executives at the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh. While this effort was spun as a crackdown on corruption, it was clearly a crackdown on the Crown Prince's political competitors. Reports from this dark period in the gilded prison of the Ritz indicate that Saudi Government-directed forces tortured detainees and coerced them into transferring money to the government or giving up real estate and shares in companies.

Now, I don't know how they obtained those resources, and I am, in no way, condoning any graft and exploitation in the Kingdom, but this opaque process—outside any semblance of the rule of law and driven purely by the will of the Crown Prince—is not actually a sustainable approach to promoting transparency and accountability. In fact, it should and did send chills down the spines of investors and American companies that seek to expand commercial and economic ties in the Kingdom. A strong respect for the rule of law is an essential condition for doing business.

So when Trump points to the value of business ties with Saudi Arabia as a reason for not imposing consequences for Khashoggi's murder, let's remember that in the hands of the Crown Prince, anyone can be shaken down, locked up, or tortured at a five-star hotel in Muhammad bin Salman's Saudi Arabia. Let's also continue asking who exactly is benefiting from potential business ties.

Mr. President, Secretary Pompeo mentioned in his op-ed last week that the Crown Prince has ''moved the country in a reformist direction, from allowing women to drive and attend sporting events, to curbing the religious police and calling for a return to moderate Islam.''

What the Secretary did not mention, however, are the deeply disturbing reports that, at the same time MBS was granting Saudi women the right to drive, he also detained many female activists who were themselves calling for the rights of women, including their right to drive. Now we are hearing reports that these women are being tortured and sexually harassed, bound to iron beds, electrocuted, and beaten.

Is this the kind of reform that Secretary Pompeo believes the United States should endorse?

As for calling for a return to moderate Islam, the Anti-Defamation League reports that Saudi state television hosted several hour-long programs this Ramadan that featured a preacher who called for God to destroy the Christians, Shiites, Alawites, and Jews. Other analyses published by the Anti-Defamation League this November found that Saudi Government-published textbooks for the 2018–2019 academic year promote incitement to hatred or violence against Jews, Christians, women, and homosexual men.

As ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said:

> The United States must hold its ally Saudi Arabia to a higher standard. The U.S. cannot look the other way while Saudi Arabia features anti-Semitic hate speech year after year in the educational material it gives its children.

Mr. President, let's take stock of Saudi Arabia's contributions to regional stability. It seems a fitting time to ask if an approach that involves bullying another U.S. regional partner, holding the Prime Minister of Lebanon hostage, torturing female activists, business executives, and other princes, and carrying out a military campaign in Yemen that will result in the death of millions more civilians by year's end is an approach that is in line with U.S. values or priorities.

Has Iran been weakened by these actions? Is the focus still on al-Qaida and defeating ISIS? I don't think so.

Mr. President, the President has made it clear that no U.S. foreign policy objective, especially human rights, is as important to him as securing tens of billions of imaginary dollars to create million fantasy jobs through weapons sales to the Saudis.

Congress has long and well established the overseeing of the sale of weapons as part of U.S. foreign policy. We have learned throughout our history that selling weapons is a complex matter and that without close attention to the human rights practices of foreign buyers, the United States can easily find itself in the situation that we are now in with Saudi Arabia.

U.S. arms, today, are being used irresponsibly, tragically, and in possible violation of international law in the deaths and injuries of tens of thousands of innocent civilians, including of helpless children. The United States must elevate human rights concerns in all aspects of its foreign security assistance, including arms sales. Otherwise, the abuses that result will do more to foment the conditions of unrest and despair that are the breeding ground of conflict, war, and terrorism.

Secretary Pompeo also suggested that if the United States in any way reassesses its relationship with Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom will rush into Russian arms.

I would suggest, Mr. Secretary, that most countries in the Middle East are already hedging against perceptions that the United States is not invested in the region and that those assessments are based on the President himself—how else to explain Putin's high five with the Crown Prince at the G20 in Argentina? Is it from the parade of gulf rulers in Russia who are doing deals on the margins of the World Cup

earlier this year or by the announcements by several U.S. partners of talks to purchase the Russian S–400 system, despite the prospect of congressional sanctions under the CAATSA law?

Given not just the war in Yemen but also the murder of Khashoggi and the blockage of Qatar, I believe we need to take steps to recalibrate the future of the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

That is why I am disappointed that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee did not take up the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2018, which is legislation that I am leading, along with Senators YOUNG, REED, GRAHAM, SHAHEEN, COLLINS, and others. We will continue to work on this legislation next year. It does not seek to tear down the entire Saudi-U.S. relationship. Instead, it is carefully calibrated to force a rebalancing in priorities.

The United States should no longer be selling weapons to the Kingdom that will be used to kill women and children in Yemen. We should, however, continue to support Saudi Arabia's legitimate defensive needs, like intercepting Houthi missiles coming from Yemen.

The United States should no longer refuel Saudi coalition aircraft for operations in Yemen, which is clearly correlated with a rise in civilian casualties.

The United States must now take a stand against all stakeholders in this conflict that are blocking humanitarian access, preventing forward movement under the U.N. peace process, or receiving weapons from Iran.

Our bill also ensures that Congress right-sizes its oversight over this relationship. The Trump administration must follow the letter of the Global Magnitsky Act, and it must take a firm stand in support of human rights when it comes to Saudi Arabia.

This is not caterwauling or the media piling on. This is Congress doing what the American people elected us to do—ensure that the U.S. Government conducts foreign policy in a manner that protects the United States and the American people. We are not doing our job if foreign governments believe they can murder journalists and dissidents with impunity and disregard international norms without damaging their relationships with the United States.

Saudi Arabia has joined a sinister clique, along with North Korea, Russia, and Iran, in its assassination of Jamal Khashoggi. A few more weapons purchases cannot buy our silence, and they should not buy our silence. If the President will not act, Congress must.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me congratulate Senator MENENDEZ for his leadership role in addressing this crisis in Saudi Arabia.

In a few minutes, we are going to begin voting on a historical piece of legislation, because I think, as conservatives have understood and as progressives have understood, for too many years, Congress has abdicated its historical and constitutional responsibility to be the body that determines whether or not this country is at war. What we have seen for a long time now under Democratic Presidents and under Republican Presidents and under Democratic Congresses and Republican Congresses is an abdication of that responsibility. I hope that today we begin the process of taking that back.

The war in Yemen is unauthorized. There has never been a vote in Congress to allow our men and women to participate in that war. Therefore, that war is unconstitutional, and it has to end. That is the vote that we will be having this afternoon.

Second of all, I think all Members are aware of the unbelievable humanitarian crisis that now exists in Yemen. It is the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth. Unless we use the power of this country not to help more bombs being dropped to kill people in that country but to use our power to bring the warring parties together, that situation will become even worse. The United Nations and others are telling us that Yemen is on the brink of the worst famine that we have seen in a very long time and that millions of people may die.

Third, it is time for the U.S. Congress to tell the despotic Government of Saudi Arabia that we do not intend to follow its lead in its military adventurism. Its intervention in the civil war in Yemen is the cause of the humanitarian disaster, as 10,000 people are developing serious illnesses—cholera and other illnesses—because the water infrastructure in Yemen has been destroyed by Saudi attacks.

Right now we have the opportunity to go forward in a strong bipartisan way.

I want to thank all of the Members of the Senate who gave us 60 votes yesterday in order to proceed and who gave us 96 votes on what I thought was a sensible germaneness point of order.

Now we have a number of amendments in front of us. Two of them, authored by Senator COTTON, will essentially undermine everything we are trying to accomplish. I very much hope that we defeat those amendments and that we tell the world we want the United States out of Yemen.

I would end on a positive note. As some may know, right now in Sweden, there are peace negotiations going on, and, as I understand it, just yesterday, a major breakthrough took place that allows for an exchange of some 15,000 prisoners of war. So some progress is being made in bringing the warring factions together, and there is evidence that the pressure from the international community and the U.S. Senate, making it clear that we will not continue to participate in that war, is helping the peace process.

Let us go forward today and defeat the amendments that are trying to undermine this important resolution and tell the world that the United States of America will not continue to be part of the worst humanitarian disaster on the face of the Earth, that we want peace in that region, that we want humanitarian aid in that region, and that we don't want any more bombs or destruction.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, we have eight votes, two of which I think we may be able to take. I hope that those who wish to have votes may talk just a little bit so that we can speed up the process.

The first vote will be 15 minutes; the remainder of the votes will be 10 minutes. We will begin that process with Young No. 4080. I think there is agreement for him to speak for 1 minute.

AMENDMENT NO. 4080

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote in relation to Young amendment No. 4080.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I just want to thank the chairman and his staff for working constructively with me on this amendment. I want to thank the Senator from Vermont and other Senators who have tried to do all they can to make sure that we hold Saudi leadership accountable over the course of this and maintain our norms of acceptable behavior, making sure that our military forces are respecting international humanitarian laws, that we assist our security partners, and that we stabilize the country of Yemen so that ISIS, al-Qaida, and Iran—the largest state sponsor of terror—cannot further entrench in the country and perpetuate their nefarious activity.

We wouldn't be at this point but for a lot of leadership across the aisle. I just thank all of those involved. I appreciate the consideration of my colleagues in voting for this amendment.

I yield back.

Mr. SANDERS. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the amendment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 263 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Harris	Nelson
Baldwin	Hassan	Paul
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Jones	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lee	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Corker	McCaskill	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Moran	Wyden
Durbin	Murkowski	Young
Feinstein	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cornyn	Hoeven	Rubio
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Crapo	Inhofe	Scott
Cruz	Isakson	Shelby
Daines	Johnson	Sullivan
Enzi	Kennedy	Thune
Ernst	Kyl	Toomey
Fischer	Lankford	Wicker
Flake	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The amendment (No. 4080) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4096, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote in relation to Cornyn amendment No. 4096, as modified.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all future votes in the series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the joint resolution before us today will impact U.S. operations with allies beyond the Saudi-led coalition; it will affect our relationships with allies beyond the Saudi-led coalition against Houthi forces in Yemen, which is literally a proxy battle against Iran.

Members of this Chamber assert that this resolution is confined to Yemen and sends a strong message to Saudi Arabia. I disagree with that. This resolution also sends a message to our allies that question the reliability of the United States as a partner. It brings into question valuable U.S. intelligence-sharing operations around the globe, including with Israel and other regional allies, like Jordan, Japan, South Korea, and NATO.

Further, it risks emboldening Iran and global adversaries who intend to fill the voids left by our absence. Russia and China have been actively expanding their presence in the region and will see this as an opportunity to fill the vacuum.

Senator INHOFE and I offer this amendment to reassure Israel and our regional partners that the United States intends to honor our commitments as the leader of the free world.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I just want to clarify with Senator CORNYN so there is no confusion: His amendment deals strictly with Israel and not regional allies; am I correct on that?

Mr. CORNYN. The amendment says: ''Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.''

Mr. SANDERS. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 4096, as modified.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 264 Leg.]

YEAS—99

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

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The amendment (No. 4096), as modified was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, we were going to have 10-minute votes. We have had two votes in 54 minutes. Can we not just vote? OK. All right.

I think we have two rollcall votes left. A number of Senators are doing voice votes, and then we will have the journalist resolution at the end, by voice also.

Go ahead, Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4090 AND 4095

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendments, Nos. 4090 and 4095, be made pending and reported by number.

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

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes en bloc amendments numbered 4090 and 4095.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4090

(Purpose: To require a report assessing risks posed by ceasing support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.

AMENDMENT NO. 4095

(Purpose: To require a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks in the United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. REPORT ON INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS TO UNITED STATES FORCES ABROAD, ALLIES, AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IF SAUDI ARABIA CEASES YEMEN-RELATED INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks on United States Armed Forces abroad, allies, and to the continental United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the bipartisan support for the amendments and hope they can be adopted by voice vote, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question occurs on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 4090 and 4095) were agreed to en bloc.

The Senator from Arkansas.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4097 AND 4098

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask that my amendments Nos. 4097 and 4098 be made pending and reported by number.

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

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. COTTON] proposes en bloc amendments numbered 4097 and 4098.

The amendment are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4097

(Purpose: To clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to the provision of materials and advice intended to reduce civilian casualties or further enable adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict)

On page 4, line 16, insert after ''associated forces'' the following: '' or involved in the provision of materials and advice intended to reduce civilian casualties or further enable adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict''.

AMENDMENT NO. 4098

(Purpose: To clarify that the requirement to remove United States Armed Forces does not apply to forces engaged in operations to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against locations outside of Yemen, such as ballistic missile attacks, unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, maritime attacks against United States or international vessels, or terrorist attacks against civilian targets)

On page 4, line 16, insert after ''associated forces,'' the following: ''or to support efforts to disrupt Houthi attacks against locations outside of Yemen, such as ballistic missile attacks, unmanned aerial vehicle attacks, maritime attacks against United States or international vessels, or terrorist attacks against civilian targets,''.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I understand there will be 2 minutes of debate on amendment No. 4097.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. COTTON. On amendment No. 4097, I will not ask for a recorded vote. I understand opposition is enough to defeat it. I want to simply say, though, that the geopolitical realities here are, if we withdraw our support for the coalition in the Arabian Peninsula, the fight is not going to stop. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are not going to allow Iran to supply a rebel insurgency with missiles and UAVs and boats that can reach their citizens.

I suggest we should try to do everything we can to minimize civilian casualties. That is why this amendment simply says: The United States can provide information and material that would minimize civilian casualty and that would help those nations adhere to the law of armed conflict.

I regret that this amendment will not pass, but I think it will be a wise course of action for U.S. policy.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. I understand it will be on a voice vote. This exemption, just like the amendment that will follow, is so broad as to render the underlying resolution impotent.

Let's be clear. The existing conflict the United States is supporting is the primary cause of the humanitarian catastrophe that exists today. Eighty-five thousand kids under the age of 5 have died of starvation and disease. This is the world's worst cholera epidemic in the history of the globe. If we were to adopt this amendment, it could potentially allow for continued unlimited assistance for the Saudi coalition to continue to exacerbate that nightmare.

I urge my colleagues, on a voice vote, to oppose this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there no further debate?

The question occurs on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 4097) is not agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4098

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Cotton amendment, No. 4098.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, my last amendment was about the law of armed conflict and citizens of foreign nations. This amendment is about our citizens and our troops.

The Houthi rebels have fired more than 100 missiles into the Arabian Peninsula, into the Red Sea, and into the Gulf of Aden. They have used armed, unmanned aerial vehicles and boats to attack in international waters. They have supported terrorist attacks. All of these things can range coastguardsmen, sailors, airmen, soldiers, marines, and hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens we have in the region.

My amendment will simply say that U.S. forces can engage in force protection of our own troops and our own citizens in the region. I hope we can agree that our Armed Forces should be able to take action in self-defense of themselves and our citizens in the region.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, once again, I urge rejection of this amendment. If passed, it would, again, render the underlying resolution a moot point.

I would make two additional arguments against it: First, the entire rationale that the Saudis used for the military campaign in Yemen is to prevent Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia. So if this was an exemption, then the United States could fully participate. Second, existing law already allows the U.S. Commander in Chief to protect U.S. troops against an attack or an imminent attack, and nothing in the resolution would take away the Commander in Chief's power to protect U.S. troops either here in the United States or abroad.

For those reasons, I would strongly oppose—that we object to this amendment which, if passed, would essentially gut the underlying resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4098.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Leg.]

YEAS—45

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

NAYS—54

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

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The amendment was rejected.

The joint resolution, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on passage.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are actually at a historic moment here in the U.S. Senate. I want to thank all of the Senators who in a very bipartisan way have come together to say that the United States will no longer participate in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, which has caused the worst humanitarian crisis on Earth, with 85,000 children already starving today.

Today, we tell the despotic regime in Saudi Arabia that we will not be part of their military adventurism. Today, maybe in the most profound way, 45 years ago, the War Powers Act was passed—45 years ago. Today, for the first time, we are going to go forward utilizing that legislation and tell the President of the United States—and

any President, Democrat or Republican—that the constitutional responsibility for making war rests with the U.S. Congress, not the White House.

Let us pass this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mrs. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Leg.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—41

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Corker	Isakson	Scott
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Kyl	Thune
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Heller	Tillis

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 54), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 54

Whereas Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution;

Whereas Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen;

Whereas, since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling;

Whereas the United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities;

Whereas, in December 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis stated, ''We have gone in to be very—to be helpful where we can in identifying how you do target analysis and how you make certain you hit the right thing.'';

Whereas the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced;

Whereas section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that ''at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs'';

Whereas section 8(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(c)) defines the introduction of United States Armed Forces to include ''the assignment of members of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities,'' and activities that the United States is conducting in support of the Saudi-led coalition, including aerial refueling and targeting assistance, fall within this definition;

Whereas section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or bill to require the removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization shall be considered in accordance with the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329; 90 Stat. 765); and

Whereas no specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.

Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329; 90 Stat. 765), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the adoption of this joint resolution (unless the President requests and Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted. For purposes of this resolution, in this section, the term ''hostilities'' includes in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS TO UNITED STATES FORCES ABROAD, ALLIES, AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IF SAUDI ARABIA CEASES YEMEN-RELATED INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks on United States Armed Forces abroad, allies, and to the continental United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

SUPPORTING A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION IN YEMEN AND CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 69.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) supporting a diplomatic solution in Yemen and condemning the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object. I just want to say that on this resolution, there is a central reason why I am not going to object.

I don't agree with some of the language that speaks about the economic interests we have with Saudi Arabia. I think their behavior is more than concerning, but what the distinguished

chairman on the Foreign Relations Committee is trying to do here at the core of it is the critical element.

I am going to be supportive because of this one singular statement under the resolved clause by the Senate and the House of Representatives that the Senate ''believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.''

Regardless of all of my other concerns about language, that is the central essence of what the chairman is going to do. I think it is incredibly important for the Senate to speak on that issue and, hopefully, speak with one voice.

With that, I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Reserving the right to object, I will not object, but I stand to support this.

Jamal Khashoggi was a Virginia resident. His children are American citizens and Virginia residents, and it is important for the Senate to speak on this matter.

I withdraw the objection.

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

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be considered read a third time.

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

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORKER. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 69

Whereas the ongoing civil war in Yemen has exacerbated that country's humanitarian crisis, in which nearly 12,000,000 people are suffering from ''severe hunger,'' according to the United Nations' World Food Programme;

Whereas there is no military solution to the conflict;

Whereas the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship is important to United States national security and economic interests;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has, in recent years, engaged in concerning behavior, including its conduct in the civil war in Yemen, apparent detention of the Prime Minister of Lebanon, undermining the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council, expulsion of the Canadian ambassador, suppression of dissent within the Kingdom, and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

Whereas misleading statements by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the murder of Jamal Khashoggi have undermined trust and confidence in the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas such erratic actions place unnecessary strain on the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship, which is an essential element of regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Senate—

(1) believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(2) acknowledges the United States Government has sanctioned 17 Saudi individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) for their roles in the murder;

(3) calls for the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ensure appropriate accountability for all those responsible for Jamal Khashoggi's murder;

(4) calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi, Samar Badawi, and the Saudi women's rights activists who were arrested as political prisoners in 2018;

(5) encourages the Government of Saudi Arabia to redouble its efforts to enact economic and social reforms;

(6) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to respect the rights of its citizens and moderate its increasingly erratic foreign policy;

(7) warns that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's increasing purchases of military equipment from, and cooperation with, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, challenges the strength and integrity of the long-standing military-to-military relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and may introduce significant national security and economic risks to both parties;

(8) demands that all parties seek an immediate cease-fire and negotiated political solution to the Yemen conflict and increased humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict;

(9) condemns the Government of Iran's provision of advanced lethal weapons to Houthi rebels, which have perpetuated the conflict and have been used indiscriminately against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bab al Mandeb waterway;

(10) condemns Houthi rebels for egregious human rights abuses, including torture, use of human shields, and interference with, and diversion of, humanitarian aid shipments;

(11) demands that the Saudi-led coalition and all parties to the Yemen conflict seek to minimize civilian casualties at all times;

(12) supports the peace negotiations currently being managed by United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and encourages the United States Government to provide all possible support to these diplomatic efforts;

(13) declares that there is no statutory authorization for United States involvement in hostilities in the Yemen civil war; and

(14) supports the end of air-to-air refueling of Saudi-led coalition aircraft operating in Yemen.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to thank our ranking member and my friend, Senator MENENDEZ, for his tremendous cooperation for many years but especially over this last week, and Senator KAINE for coming in and supporting it.

I want to reiterate what the ranking member just said. The Senate has now unanimously said that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. That is a strong statement. I think it speaks to the values we hold dear, as the rest of this resolution does.

I am glad the Senate is speaking with one voice, unanimously, toward this end. I thank the leader for accommodating—making this happen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, before the chairman on Foreign Relations Committee leaves, I want to thank him for his extraordinary leadership. This is a bit of a thicket here with different points of view, but as a result of what the chairman has just offered, it is a clear, unambiguous message about how we feel about what happened to this journalist.

I want to thank him.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SAVE OUR SEAS ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received a message from the House to accompany S. 756.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 756.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 756) entitled ''An Act to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 756 with a further amendment numbered 4108.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4109 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4108

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] for Mr. KENNEDY proposes an amendment numbered 4109 to amendment No. 4108.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Redesignate section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, as section 3636.

After section 3634 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, insert the following:

''SEC. 3635. NOTIFICATION.

''The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

''(1) notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released or if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, next of kin of a victim; and

''(2) make publicly available the rearrest data of each prisoner, the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned, and any prior offense for which the prisoner was imprisoned, broken down by State, of any prisoner in prerelease custody or supervised release under section 3624.''.

In section 3624(g)(1) of title 18, as added by section 102(b)(1)(B) of this Act, add at the beginning of subparagraph (B) the following:

''(B) has been certified by the warden that the prisoner has been determined by the warden to have the programmatic, security, and reentry needs of the prisoner best met by being placed in prerelease custody or supervised release, after the warden—

''(i) has notified each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned of such potential placement (or, if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, the next of kin of a victim); and

''(ii) has reviewed any statement regarding such placement made by the victim or next of kin of the victim, as applicable, after the notification described in clause (i); and

In section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, add at the end the following:

''(lxiii) Section 2422, relating to coercion and enticement.

''(lxiv) Section 249, relating to hate crimes.

''(lxv) Section 752, relating to instigating or aiding escape from Federal custody.

''(lxvi) Subsection (a) or (d) of section 2113, relating to bank robbery involving violence or risk of death.

''(lxvii) Section 2119(1), relating to taking a motor vehicle (commonly referred to as 'carjacking').

''(lxviii) Section 111(a), relating to assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees.

''(lxix) Any of paragraphs (2) through (6) of section 113(a), relating to assault with intent to commit any felony (except murder or a violation of section 2241 or 2242), assault with a dangerous weapon, assault by striking, beating, or wounding, assault against a child, or assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

''(lxx) Any offense described in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5)) that is not otherwise listed in this subsection, relating to sex offenses, for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year.

''(lxxi) Any offense that is not otherwise listed in this subsection for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, and—

''(I) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, or

''(II) that, based on the facts of the offense, involved a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may have been used in the course of committing the offense.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask that the second-degree amendment be divided in three parts in the form at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The amendment, as divided, is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released)

DIVISION I

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Redesignate section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, as section 3636.

After section 3634 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, insert the following:

''SEC. 3635. NOTIFICATION.

''The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

''(1) notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released or if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, next of kin of a victim; and

''(2) make publicly available the rearrest data of each prisoner, the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned, and any prior offense for which the prisoner was imprisoned, broken down by State, of any prisoner in prerelease custody or supervised release under section 3624.''.

DIVISION II

In section 3624(g)(1) of title 18, as added by section 102(b)(1)(B) of this Act, add at the beginning of subparagraph (B) the following:

''(B) has been certified by the warden that the prisoner has been determined by the warden to have the programmatic, security, and reentry needs of the prisoner best met by being placed in prerelease custody or supervised release, after the warden—

''(i) has notified each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned of such potential placement (or, if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, the next of kin of a victim); and

''(ii) has reviewed any statement regarding such placement made by the victim or next of kin of the victim, as applicable, after the notification described in clause (i); and

DIVISION III

In section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, add at the end the following:

''(lxiii) Section 2422, relating to coercion and enticement.

''(lxiv) Section 249, relating to hate crimes.

''(lxv) Section 752, relating to instigating or aiding escape from Federal custody.

''(lxvi) Subsection (a) or (d) of section 2113, relating to bank robbery involving violence or risk of death.

''(lxvii) Section 2119(1), relating to taking a motor vehicle (commonly referred to as 'carjacking').

''(lxviii) Section 111(a), relating to assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees.

''(lxix) Any of paragraphs (2) through (6) of section 113(a), relating to assault with intent to commit any felony (except murder or a violation of section 2241 or 2242), assault with a dangerous weapon, assault by striking, beating, or wounding, assault against a child, or assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

''(lxx) Any offense described in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5)) that is not otherwise listed in this subsection, relating to sex offenses, for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year.

''(lxxi) Any offense that is not otherwise listed in this subsection for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, and—

''(I) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, or

''(II) that, based on the facts of the offense, involved a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may have been used in the course of committing the offense.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to concur with further amendment.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 756, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes, with a further amendment numbered SA 4108.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Lee, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Orrin G. Hatch, Tim Scott, Steve Daines, Jerry Moran, Todd Young, Susan M. Collins, Pat Roberts, Bill Cassidy, Lamar Alexander, Lindsey Graham, Jeff Flake, Rob Portman, Joni Ernst.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon, along with my distinguished colleague and the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, to

discuss the farm bill conference report—the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

I am grateful that my colleagues approved this measure with strong support. The vote was 87 to 13 earlier this week. I also applaud Members of the House for following suit with a similarly strong vote yesterday, and we look forward to the President signing the conference report into law soon.

The level of support is what happens when the Congress works in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion. Senator STABENOW and I started by listening to producers in Manhattan, KS, and then in Michigan. We continued to listen to stakeholders from all over the country. This is a good bill that accomplishes what producers asked us to do—first we listened; then they asked—to provide certainty and predictability for farmers and families in our rural communities.

The 2018 farm bill meets the needs of producers across all regions and all crops. It doesn't matter what you grow, and it doesn't matter whether you grow it in Kansas or elsewhere in this country—this bill is designed to work for you. It ensures that our voluntary conservation programs will keep farmland in operation while protecting our agricultural lands, forests, and other natural resources.

The bill focuses on program integrity—requiring better management to address challenges with fraud and abuse—and commonsense investments to strengthen our nutrition programs to ensure the long-term success of those truly in need of assistance. We make sure SNAP Employment and Training coordinates with the private sector to provide the skills that are needed for the jobs that are available in the workforce, and with trade and market uncertainty, to say the least, the bill provides certainty for our trade promotion and research programs.

Feeding an increasing global population is not simply an agriculture challenge; it is a national security challenge. This means we need to grow more and raise more with fewer resources. That will take investments in research, new technology, lines of credit, animal health activities, and proper risk management. It takes the government providing tools and then its getting out of the producers' way. More than 900—and counting—organizations that represent millions of agriculture, food, nutrition, hunger, forestry, conservation, rural, business, faith-based, research, and academic interests have issued statements of support.

On behalf of the taxpayer, we have made tough choices and have been very judicious with the scarce resources we have. This is a budget-neutral bill. Most importantly, this farm bill provides our ranchers, our farmers, and other rural stakeholders in Kansas and throughout the country with much needed certainty and predictability.

Simply put, getting this bill done has taken a team effort. I would like to thank my staff members who are as follows: Staff Director James Glueck, DaNita Murray, Janae Brady, Fred Clark, Meghan Cline, Haley Donahue, Matt Erickson, Darin Guries, Chance Hunley, Chu Hwang, Chelsie Keys, Sara Little, Curt Mann, Andy Rezendes, Rob Rosado, Wayne Stoskopf, Katherine Thomas, and Andrew Vlasaty. From my personal office, I thank Jackie Cottrell, Amber Kirchhoefer, Will Stafford, Morgan Anderson, Stacy Daniels, and Ray Price.

I especially thank the distinguished ranking member, Senator STABENOW, and her team, which is led by Joe Shultz and Jacqlyn Schneider. She has been a great partner throughout the Senate and conference committee process. There were some tough days, but we both worked together to get the job done.

I am also grateful to Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON as well as their staff members on the House Agriculture Committee.

The efforts of Jessie Williams, Amanda Kelly, Bobby Mehta, Katie Salay, and Micah Wortham have been invaluable to the Senate Ag Committee and the conference process.

Additionally, I thank the technical support from Secretary Perdue—the Secretary of Agriculture has been simply outstanding—as well as his staff down at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has been a great and valuable partner throughout this process. We are grateful for his support and the President's support of our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and growers.

I also appreciate the work of the Congressional Budget Office's staff, including Tiffany Arthur, Megan Carroll, Kathleen FitzGerald, Jennifer Gray, Jim Langley, and Robert Reese, as well as of the Congressional Research Service, including Val Heitshusen and Elizabeth Rybicki.

Finally, I am grateful for the help of the legislative counsels in the Senate: Heather Burnham, Deanna Edwards, Larissa Eltsefon, Christina Kennelly, Heather Lowell, Mark Mazzone, and Patrick Ryan. My apologies to all of those folks whose names I just mispronounced.

The staff members have done a fantastic job, and I am pleased they are members of our team.

My predecessor in this business—and one of my mentors a long time ago—was Senator Frank Carlson, of Kansas, who said there are no self-made men and women in public office, that it is your friends who make you what you are. I apply that to staff. All of the people I have just mentioned represent a great team effort in our getting this legislation passed in such fine fashion.

For all of them—and especially to my fellow Senators—we are grateful for the support we have received this week. Together, we have done what we were sent here to do—work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner. This is a good bill for farmers, ranchers, growers, consumers—many of whom may take their food supply for granted—families and rural and smalltown America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to discuss a true bipartisan victory along with my friend and colleague, the leader of our Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. I hear a lot of people say that bipartisanship is all too rare these days, but in our committee, it is our bread and butter.

Specifically, I thank my partner and friend, Chairman PAT ROBERTS. He is the only person to have written a farm bill as both the chair of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Kansas is fortunate to have such a champion, and all of American agriculture owes him a debt of gratitude for his persistence, doggedness, and tenacity. Maybe it is his Marine training, but he never gave up on this bill even when negotiations got tough. Maybe I could be an honorary marine. He also knows that to do anything big, it takes a team approach. Thanks to his commitment to bipartisanship, we were able to achieve a real historic victory.

This summer, Chairman ROBERTS and I made history by passing our Senate farm bill by 86 votes, and I am pleased to say we beat that record this week by passing the final bill by 87 votes—the most ever.

One of the reasons I love my work on the Agriculture Committee is that the work we do truly affects everyone. From the well-being of our children to the viability of rural America, to the health of our lakes, rivers, and streams, to our access to the most abundant, most affordable, safest food supply in the world, the farm bill impacts all of us.

I like to say it is our rural economic development plan for the country, and that has been true since the very first one in the 1930s. In the wake of the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the first farm bill to get agriculture and our economy back on track.

Over the past 80 years, the role of the farm bill has evolved alongside our agricultural and rural economy. In the 1970s, nutrition assistance was linked to the farm bill for the first time, marking a major step in strengthening the connection between our farms and food. In the 1980s, we saw the first ever conservation title, demonstrating the critical role of preserving land, water, and wildlife while supporting working farms. In the 1990s, thanks to the leadership of my friend Senator PATRICK LEAHY, we recognized evolving consumer preferences through the creation of the National Organic Program. There is, of course, the landmark 1996 farm bill, in which then-House Chairman ROBERTS first left his mark, tackling one of the biggest challenges in farm policy—reducing the incentive for farmers to plant for payments rather than for markets.

In 2008, I was proud to author the creation of the first-ever specialty crop title, recognizing fruit and vegetable growers and local food systems for the first time.

In 2014, we made major reforms to commodity programs, streamlined our conservation title, and made specialty crop research and clean energy programs a permanent part of the farm bill. Each of these changes represented a leap forward in farm and food policy and progress to broaden the farm bill to support every corner of America and American agriculture.

The momentum toward recognizing the diversity of our farm and food economy has truly accelerated over the past 15 years. Now, in every title of the farm bill, you can find policies that reflect the wide variety of things we grow and how we grow them.

I am proud to say that this farm bill has continued the trajectory of progress to diversify American agriculture. From expanded crop insurance to historic assurance for urban farmers and improved coverage options for our dairy farmers, this bill helps all types of farms, all sizes of farms, and farmers in every region of the country.

In order to cultivate the next generation of agriculture, we made permanent investments to support veterans, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, and we expanded agricultural market opportunities so that our farmers can make a living.

Historic investments in organic farming help producers tap into one of the fastest growing sectors of agriculture. New, permanent support for international trade promotion will help our farmers sell their products abroad. Streamlined, permanent investments for farmers markets, food hubs, and local food processing will help our farmers sell to their neighbors.

While we know the farm bill supports our farmers, it also supports our families. We protected access to food assistance and said no to partisan changes that would take away food from those who need it most, while still working to improve access to healthy food and improving the program's integrity. I hope the administration takes note of this and does not try to push forward with regulations that conflict with the farm bill's bipartisan approach to protecting food assistance.

We continue the farm bill's legacy as one of the largest investments in land and water conservation. This bill maintains conservation investments and rejects harmful provisions that would jeopardize drinking water and public lands.

Instead, we focused on successful conservation partnerships that will actually grow funding by leveraging nearly $3 billion in new private investment over the next decade.

We also lift up our small towns and rural communities and celebrate what makes them great places to live and raise a family. By making strong investments in rural water infrastructure and high-speed internet, we help revitalize rural America and grow opportunities.

These important priorities have been 80 years in the making, and there are a number of people I would like to thank for working hard to continue the legacy of this farm bill.

Of course, I want to thank my leader, our Democratic leader, for his leadership and support throughout this process; the majority leader, who made sure this bill moved quickly on the Senate floor and was an active participant in the Agriculture Committee, as well; and, of course, my partner, Senator ROBERTS, who stayed true to our commitment to deliver a bipartisan bill.

I want to thank our counterparts in the House, Chairman CONAWAY and Ranking Member PETERSON, for their hard work throughout this process, and all of our colleagues in the House and Senate who supported this bill with historic votes in the House and the Senate.

I also want to thank my incredible staff, who have worked so hard for almost 2 years to bring this farm bill to the finish line: my committee staff director, Joe Shultz and deputy staff director and policy director, Jacqlyn Schneider, who both led this process; our legal team, led by our chief counsel, Mary Beth Schultz, and our fellow, Ward Griffin; our amazing commodities and livestock team, Mike Schmidt and Kyle Varner, for supporting our farmers, with the help of farm bill veteran, Susan Keith, and our fellow, Riya Mehta; on team conservation, Ashley McKeon and Rosalyn Brumette, who protected our land and water, with the help of USDA detailee, Lindsay White; our forestry and environmental expert, Sean Babington, who preserved wildlife habitat and public lands; Katie Naessens, for her work to support the innovative future of agriculture, with the help of Dominique Warren; our rural development and energy expert, Kevin Bailey, for creating opportunities for our small towns; Katie Bergh, who led our work on trade and food aid to help our farmers feed the world.

I would like to thank, as well, my staff in my personal office: my chief of staff, Mike VanKuiken; legislative director, Emily Carwell; deputy chief of staff, Anne Stanski; my senior aide, Krystal Lattany; my communications director, Matt Williams; ag press secretary, Jess McCarron; and the rest of the communications team, Miranda Margowsky, Nirmeen Fahmy, and Amy Phillips Bursch; my State team, led by Teresa Plachetka, and our Michigan ag expert, Kali Fox.

I want to thank everyone on Senator Robert's team, especially James Glueck and DaNita Murray, true professionals who exemplified how to lead a farm bill conference.

We spent a lot of time together, and I say to the Senator: I know you spent a lot of time with Joe and Jacqlyn on our team. I think at the end, we were working as one team, and that is something I am very, very grateful for.

I also thank Jessie Williams—as the chairman has said—Amanda Kelly, Bobby Mehta, and everyone who worked behind the scenes on the Ag Committee.

I also appreciate our floor staff, those in the leadership staff office who are so important, and CBO. Of course, I say thank you to all of the members of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee and their staffs.

With a lot of hard work by a long list of very talented people, this Congress has passed a strong bill that supports the 16 million jobs in America that depend on agriculture and our food economy.

I look forward to the President of the United States signing this bill into law as soon as possible.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I first wanted to thank Senator ROBERTS and Senator STABENOW for their fine leadership on this farm bill, as well as their staffs. I had a great opportunity to thank them.

This was something that was universally well accepted and exciting for our State and, really, for every State in the country—the way we got 87 votes. As I noted, at home, we don't get that many votes for a volleyball resolution. It really put the bill in a good place to get this done. I thank them for their leadership.

I also want to thank Brian Werner from my own staff, who has long worked on these issues, as well as at home, Andy Martin and Chuck Ackman, who have done ag work for us in Minnesota. I thank them for their work on this bill as well.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Mr. President, I am here to make some brief remarks about two of my favorite colleagues who are leaving us. They are both good friends of mine, both from the middle of the country, and both extraordinary leaders.

I will start with my friend, Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL. Senator MCCASKILL and I were first elected at the same time, so we came in together.

During our years of serving together, I have seen this strong, incredible woman stand up for the people of Missouri and stand up for the people of this country.

We were the only two women in our Senate class when we came in. One of my first memories of CLAIRE, which occurred near the beginning of our time in the Senate, was that we were driving out of the Capitol together to go speak

at an event. I looked out the window, and there was my husband John walking across the lawn with a pink box. She sees him, and she looks at me, and she says: What is John doing, walking across the Capitol lawn with a pink gift-wrapped box?

I yelled out the car window, and I said: What are you doing with the pink box?

He yelled back: It is the Senate spouse club event. I am going to Jim Webb's wife's baby shower.

CLAIRE looked at my husband and said, in her typical, blunt way: That is the sexiest thing I have ever seen.

That is CLAIRE.

We were rejoicing together in the car at that moment, as we thought we were witnessing a milestone in Senate spouse history but also in our own histories and in the journey of having more women in the Senate.

CLAIRE is someone who never keeps quiet, who always speaks her mind, and that is so refreshing.

When she found out about the substandard care for our veterans at Walter Reed, she took it on. She was a freshman Senator, but she wasn't quiet, and she took it on.

Her dad was a veteran, and she felt that the veterans of today deserve the same quality care that he got. That is the kind of leadership she has always shown.

She never backs down, especially in the face of corruption. I think a lot of that was because of her work as a prosecutor. We shared that in common.

If there were rights that needed to be respected—great. If there were wrongs that needed to be righted, she was right there. She is never afraid to speak truth to power.

By the way, in her own words, she is now unleashed, and I know that will continue in a big way.

Whether she is at a hearing or writing one of her famous tweets, she does it in a voice that is 100 percent authentic and 100 percent CLAIRE MCCASKILL.

I will never forget when she was grilling Wall Street executives at a Senate hearing for their role in the financial crisis, and she said: ''You guys have less oversight than a pit boss in Las Vegas.'' That is one example.

As Missouri's former State auditor and as someone who worked her way through school as a waitress, Senator MCCASKILL has always rightfully demanded accountability for those in positions of power.

We saw it again when she stood up to opioid manufacturers and distributors, investigating suspicious shipments of these dangerous drugs in communities across the country.

We saw it with her leadership in the fight against sex assault and online sex trafficking, where she worked to take on backpage.

We saw it in her fight to strengthen the role of independent watchdogs at our Federal Agencies and to expand protections for whistleblowers.

We saw it every time she stood up for American consumers, highlighting the challenges that consumers often face when they get errors on their credit reports or when they have fraudulent robocalls.

I would always think of how she would challenge the commonsense wisdom of her beloved mom, Betty, who is no longer with us. I had the honor to meet Betty. So whenever I would watch CLAIRE take on these crimes—especially crimes against seniors—and speak out about them, I would always think of her mom and how her mom was such an early, powerful feminist and a woman who stood up and spoke truth to power.

Perhaps most of all, as I mentioned earlier, we saw it her work with Walter Reed on behalf of our Nation's veterans. In addition to the work she did in calling out what was happening at Walter Reed, it was CLAIRE who found out that contracting failures had led to thousands of graves at Arlington National Cemetery being unmarked or improperly marked.

It was CLAIRE whose legislation overhauled the IT systems at Arlington and ultimately held the Secretary of the Army accountable.

That was trademark CLAIRE: seeing an injustice, uncovering it, speaking out, and then never giving up until it is fixed. That is what she has done time and again.

What is cool about CLAIRE, despite what I wish had not happened—that she didn't win her election—is, she is the most resilient person I know, and she will continue to serve and continue to do that work in her way.

After a former political opponent once accused her of being unladylike, she once told an Iowa audience that the traits needed to excel in leadership—to speak out, be strong, take charge, change the world—are traits she sees as very, very ladylike.

CLAIRE has shown us how to be both strong and ladylike. It has been my privilege to serve with her. I am so honored to call her friend, and I am excited about what is to come for CLAIRE MCCASKILL.

TRIBUTE TO JOE DONNELLY

Mr. President, I am going to talk about my friend, Senator DONNELLY—also someone who made extraordinary contributions to his State, the State of Indiana, as well as to our country.

Indiana holds a special place in my heart. My husband, John, was born there. His parents met in a ballroom dance class at Ball State, of all places.

Our States share a lot of confusion because people always seem to not be able to tell the difference between Indianapolis and Minneapolis. There is a difference. We share some thriving metropolitan areas and a lot of tech jobs, things like that, in our two major metropolitan areas, but we also share rural areas.

Whenever I visited Indiana—and you know how much Indiana loves cars—well, JOE DONNELLY loves driving. I have been with him in South Bend, where he went to school at Notre Dame, close to where he lives in Granger. Actually, I will never forget one time when I was in Indianapolis for something, and JOE drove all the way just to accompany me on this trip. He was by himself, drove down there, and drove me around to these campaign events. He always had his lunch bag with him just in case he needed some lunch—a paper bag—but then he decided he would treat me to his favorite lunch stop, Panera Bread.

He also believes in a simple idea about public service; that is, you don't just go where it is comfortable, you go where it is uncomfortable. JOE DONNELLY exhibits that kind of leadership by taking on the tough issues every time he can. For JOE, that has meant going to factories that have been shut down to meet with the employees or standing with former Indianapolis United Steelworkers leader Chuck Jones, who took on the President over jobs at an Indiana plant that were being sent to Mexico.

Later, at his retirement party, Chuck Jones said of JOE DONNELLY's efforts on behalf of the workers: He got it done and he didn't get the fanfare, but people benefited all the same.

That is what is so special, so powerful about JOE DONNELLY's leadership. He doesn't always get all the attention he deserves, but he has this incredible, understated strength and conviction. He has this great sense of humor that I wish everyone could see.

Mostly, he has been a champion for the people of his State, whether it was farmers when he served on the Agriculture Committee—he recently worked with Senator STABENOW and others to get that farm bill done—whether it is the work he has done in the Armed Services Committee on behalf of our military, or whether it is working with our servicemembers to make sure they get the mental health care they need and deserve. Because of JOE's convictions, his very first bill as a Senator was the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act, which required annual mental health assessments for all servicemembers. Because of his leadership, that legislation became the law of the land. He also teamed up with Senator YOUNG on a bill to improve mental health services for the law enforcement officers who sacrifice so much to keep our communities safe.

JOE has stood up in the fight against the opioid epidemic, passing legislation to help ensure that nonaddictive medications are developed and that substance abuse and treatment providers work in areas that have high overdose rates, like our rural communities.

JOE stood up against high rates on student loans by helping our students pay for school with our Empowering Student Borrowers Act.

Whenever you are lucky enough to work with JOE DONNELLY, you see his heart, his effectiveness, that twinkle in his eye, and you also see his caring work that he does every single day.

One of my funniest moments with JOE is I called him once when a report came out that showed how much money people have when they are in Congress, and they always have the richest Members at the top, and you keep looking down to see where you end up. I called JOE DONNELLY once and said: Guess what. We are tied. We have the same amount of money.

JOE DONNELLY, without missing a beat, said: I am sorry. I am sorry for you.

In any case, that was him.

Earlier this year, Senator DONNELLY was at a practice for the Democrats on the congressional baseball team. He was chatting with Congressman STEVE SCALISE, who had been a victim of that horrific shooting at a practice the year before. When asked about the majority whip's return to the field, JOE said: It is great to see him. You know, in the end, we are all brothers and sisters.

It is very sad to be losing one of my favorite brothers here in the Senate, but what I know is this: JOE DONNELLY will never stop. He is going to be doing great work. He will always do great work, and we look forward to seeing him again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WICKER. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO REX BUFFINGTON

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to recognize Rex Buffington, who is retiring next year after 30 years as the executive director of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership.

Mr. Buffington had a tall order to fill in 1988 when he was named the first executive director of the newly created Stennis Center. This native of Meridian had been selected by John Stennis himself, demonstrating the confidence the Senator must have had in the young man. After all, the center would bear Stennis' name and would be located at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. The center would be a living tribute to his 41-year career in the Senate, which is still one of the longest in our Nation's history.

Under Rex Buffington's leadership and guidance, the Stennis Center has fulfilled its purpose as set forth by Congress. The center was established by statute for the purpose of ''promoting public service as a career choice'' and providing training and education to State and local leaders, congressional staff, and students.

As part of the legislative branch, the Stennis Center is subject to annual oversight, and it has always proved its value. A major success of the center—and no doubt a credit to its longevity—is the reach of its leadership development programs. The center truly offers something for everyone, whether that person be a student body president, a Hill intern, a veteran staffer, or a Member of Congress.

One of the center's best known programs is the Congressional Staff Fellows Program, which counts among its alumni hundreds of senior level staffers. These chiefs of staff, staff directors, and legislative directors—representing different political parties, different parts of the country, and both congressional Chambers—are given the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing Congress and how it can work better for the American people. Through this important dialogue, the program not only brings a wealth of talent to the table but also opens the door to future collaboration between staffers who might otherwise never have met.

Rex Buffington is also a key supporter of the Stennis-Montgomery Association, a collaboration between the Stennis Center and the G.V. ''Sonny'' Montgomery Foundation, named after another graduate of Mississippi State University. The association encourages greater political participation among a group of MSU students of all backgrounds and academic disciplines. When these students visit Washington, I never fail to meet with them, and I never fail to be impressed.

Another of the center's signature events is the annual Southern Women in Political Service Conference. Since 1991, the conference has brought together a diverse group of women in politics to learn new skills and make new connections. Rex was certainly ahead of his time in recognizing the need to bring more women to the table as important policy decisions are made at every level of government.

Rex learned firsthand from the ''Senator's Senator,'' as Senator Stennis was known, that a good mentor can have a profound impact on a young leader's career. He created the Emerging Leaders Program to connect senior congressional staff with those still early in their careers—a nod to Senator Stennis' legacy of lending his time and wisdom to new lawmakers.

In keeping with Senator Stennis' support for our Armed Forces, culminating in his role as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rex Buffington implemented initiatives to recognize military leaders and give them opportunities to speak directly with Members of Congress, often on an informal basis. As part of this initiative, I was privileged to cohost a series of meetings with Senator REED to bring together Members of this body and senior members of the military.

Rex Buffington and his staff of eight—four in Starkville and four in Washington—have encouraged young Americans to take part in their communities and their government. This small but mighty team has helped to build productive working relationships and lasting friendships between Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate staffers, and those at different stages in their careers. The Senate and House are better because of Rex Buffington and the Stennis Center. Our work product is better. Many of my colleagues would agree, and I mention in particular my friend, Senator COONS from Delaware, who served with me on the center's board of trustees. It is my understanding that Senator COONS may be submitting remarks for the RECORD in honor of Rex's career.

I have no doubt that retirement will bring more opportunities for Rex to serve the Starkville community and to spend time with his wife, Anne, and their two children, John Gavin and Catherine. He certainly will not sit still in retirement. I offer this unsung hero, Rex Buffington, my sincere thanks for making the Stennis Center what it is today, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator WICKER in honoring Rex Buffington, a friend and public servant who will soon retire from the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership, where he has served as executive director for three decades. Rex was present at the center's founding and has been instrumental in the development and success of this important legislative branch institution. He embodies the essence of its mission which endeavors to inspire and train new generations of leaders who seek out public service.

The late Senator John C. Stennis, who founded the center, embodied this commitment to public service, not only in his relationships with his colleagues, who called him a ''Senator's Senator,'' but to all who admired the way he lived his life. Integrity, courage, commitment to duty, and hard work are among the core principles that marked his time in the Senate.

Given the late Senator's focus on public service, the Stennis Center's congressional mandate became clear—to attract young people to careers in public service, to provide training for leaders and future leaders in public service, and to offer training and development opportunities for senior congressional staff, Members of Congress, and other public servants.

Rex has played a vital role in helping to realize Senator Stennis's vision. Rex has said:

> The Stennis Center believes that no government, regardless of its history and structure, can be better than the people who make it work. That is why our focus is on people over policy. We are confident that if we can get the best possible people in public service leadership, we will also get good policy.

From the creation of the Stennis Center in 1988, Rex Buffington has committed himself to memorializing those

ideals the late Senator Stennis embodied. At its core, the Stennis Center operates a unique, bipartisan development program for 30 of the most outstanding high-ranking congressional staff in the House and Senate. Best known for the flagship Stennis Congressional Staff Fellowship Program, Rex has ushered in nearly 400 senior-level congressional staff members through this practical, bipartisan, bicameral leadership development experience established in the 103rd Congress. These veteran staff members have in turn started a mentoring program for younger congressional staff, called Emerging Leaders.

Rex sought out many other ways to honor public service. He has been a strong supporter of our Nation's military servicemembers. Honoring the late Senator Stennis's relationship with the defense community, Rex has cultivated a unique civilian-military relations portfolio of programs at the Stennis Center. He was also instrumental in establishing programs that have inspired leaders at every level—from high school to newly elected Members of Congress. For example, over 300,000 high school students from across the country annually compete for a spot at the John C. Stennis National Student Congress.

Rex's hard work and dedication have been integral to the success of the Stennis Center and to thousands of public servants who have benefited from his counsel and leadership.

Prior to being appointed executive director, Rex served as Senator Stennis's press secretary and chief spokesperson and played a major role in shaping the Senator's legislative strategy. He has long been active in his local community and his church, serving in a variety of roles supporting youth, advocating for education, and participating in organizations such as Scouting, the United Way, the Rotary Club, the Boys and Girls Club, and many more.

Rex was born and raised in Meridian, MS, and graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in communication. He started out as a news reporter for the Memphis Commercial Appeal before moving to Washington to work for Senator Stennis.

Rex has long been a steady, thoughtful, and committed leader. He has dedicated his professional life to the bipartisan work of promoting and strengthening the highest ideals of public service leadership in America and has provided vital services and resources to Members of Congress and their staff for 30 years. I want to thank Rex and his family for their commitment to public service, and I wish them all the best in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

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

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

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember those killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, in 2012, just 6 years ago. Tomorrow will be the anniversary of that horrible day, when America lost 20 first graders and 6 adults in one of the worst mass shootings in our Nation's history.

Since 2012, I have kept—and I know others have done similar things to remind us—one page from a newspaper on my desk in the Russell Building. I will not show all of it, but here is the top half of it. It is obviously yellowed from 6 years. It just happens to be the Wall Street Journal, dated Monday, December 17, 2012. At the top of the page it says: Connecticut school shooting. The headline there just says two words: Shattered lives. Then it gives a photograph of almost every child and every adult. They missed a few because of the timing of this. But then it has a biography of each individual killed. As I said, 20 of them were children.

We have to remember tragedies like this to remind ourselves of our obligation—on many issues, but this is certainly one of them. I wanted to start by reading the names of all of those 26 Americans who were killed on that day. I will just read through them, and after reading each name I will also note the age of the individual on that horrible day in December of 2012:

Charlotte Bacon, 6 years old; Daniel Barden 7; Rachel D'Avino, 29; Olivia Engel, 6; Josephine Gay, 7; Dylan Hockley, 6; Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, 47; Madeleine Hsu, 6; Catherine Hubbard, 6; Chase Kowalski, 7; Jesse Lewis, 6; Ana Marquez-Greene, 6; James Mattioli, 6; Grace McDonnell, 7; Anne Marie Murphy, 52; Emilie Parker, 6; Jack Pinto, 6; Noah Pozner, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Avielle Richman, 6; Lauren Rousseau, 30; Mary Sherlach, 56; Victoria Soto, 27; Benjamin Wheeler, 6; and, Allison Wyatt, age 6.

Those are the 26 individuals.

There are so many ways to express our sorrow and to continue mourning as we did as a nation. I can't even imagine what each family had to live through and still lives through today, and how that community had to endure in that moment of horror—those days of horror and mourning and sadness and all these years later.

The great recording artist Bruce Springsteen, after the 9/11 attacks, wrote a number of songs reflecting upon that tragedy. One of the songs he wrote—at least the lyrics that I remember—probably capture the same sentiment that we all think about when we are thinking about that kind of a tragedy. The name of the song is ''You're Missing,'' and a refrain of the song goes like this:

> You're missing, when I shut out the lights.
> You're missing, when I close my eyes.
> You're missing, when I see the sun rise.

I am sure that has been the circumstance for those families every day, missing the loved one—for 20 of those families missing a loved one who was age 6 or age 7, and for 6 other families missing an adult family member of various ages.

We have a lot to do in this body, not only in the next couple of days but certainly as we start both the new year and a new Congress. This scourge of violence, which has consumed our country for so many years now, should be at the top of that list of priority issues we focus on. Just think about it this way: The 20 children who died at Sandy Hook would be in the seventh grade right now. As we still mourn, we must make sure that we come together to make sure no other family has to endure a tragedy like that.

The shooting at Sandy Hook was a turning point for me as a public official and I am sure a turning point for many Americans about what our obligation is to respond to this problem. The tragedy in Connecticut fundamentally changed the way I view both our Nation's response to gun violence and my own responsibility as a public official. I believe that each of us has an obligation to help take action, to work as Members of the U.S. Senate. I would include Members of the House, of course, and the executive branch.

We must continually ask ourselves a number of questions. One of those questions surely is, Is there nothing our Nation can do to try to prevent this kind of tragedy or other tragedies that we will note in a few moments? Is there nothing we can do to prevent this? There is no law, no action, no policy change on which we can come together to at least reduce the likelihood that we will have another mass shooting in a grade school or in a lot of other places around the country?

Some people here in Washington seem to believe that there literally is nothing we can do, the most powerful country in the world that has solved some big problems. We haven't solved all of them. We have solved some pretty tough problems in this Chamber and in the other body, the House, working together on a number of big issues over the years. But on this one, some people in Washington just throw up their hands and say there is nothing we can do—absolutely not a single law that we can pass—other than enforce existing law; that that is all we can do, and we hope that enforcement will reduce the likelihood, but if it doesn't, then we just have to throw up our hands. I don't believe that. I don't think many Americans believe that no matter what side of the political aisle they are on.

I believe we have an obligation to take a couple of steps. The first one ought to be easy because some of the data tells us that it is supported by 90 percent of Americans or maybe even more than 90 percent; that is, universal background checks.

We undertook an effort in the Senate in 2013, in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook massacre, and we made progress on getting bipartisan support for a universal background check bill, but we

haven't done a lot since then in the Senate on that issue. That is one bill we could vote on in 2019. I hope the majority leader will schedule a debate on that bill—whatever version we have now in front of us—or will in the new Congress. We can schedule debate and have a vote. Obviously, Senators can vote any way they want, but let's have a debate and let's vote on universal background checks.

Is that a magic wand which will wipe out this problem forever? No. Background checks will make it less likely that we will have the kinds of mass shootings we not only have endured as a nation but have grown, unfortunately, tragically accustomed to.

I believe as well—and I know there are plenty of people who disagree with me—that we ought to have a debate and a vote on another issue: banning military-style weapons. I know. I understand that we have, by some estimates, double-figure millions of these weapons already on our streets. I get that, but does that mean we should continue down this road and have 20 million and then 25 million of those weapons on our streets and then 30, 40, 50, 60 million? Just throw up our hands and say: That is all we can do; that we have to have tens of millions of military-style weapons—weapons that belong on a battlefield, not on our streets in our communities and our neighborhoods. That would be a good debate to have on that bill.

We ought to have a debate and a vote on a limitation on magazine capacity so we don't have one person who can spray hundreds of bullets in a matter of moments. Is there nothing we can do about that?

The greatest country in the world can't do anything about these issues, these votes?

How about preventing people on the terrorist watch list from getting their hands on a firearm? We made a determination after 9/11 that we were going to take certain steps—even against political pressure not to take certain steps—to protect our Nation from terrorists. One of them was, if you are a terrorist, we are going to do everything we can to prevent you from getting on an airplane, or if we have a reasonable suspicion that you are a terrorist, we are going to try to prevent you from being on an airplane so we don't have another 9/11.

The same country that did that, so far, because of inaction by the Congress over many years, allows that same individual who is too dangerous—we have deemed them too dangerous—to get on an airplane, to get a firearm because we haven't yet plugged that loophole. We have tried a couple of times but not nearly enough.

Let's at least have a debate on a few of these issues and have up-or-down votes. If you want to vote against them, fine, but let's not pretend that we are dealing with an issue when we don't even have a debate and don't even have votes. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me, and I am sure it doesn't make sense to Americans, no matter what side of the debate they are on.

We can't simply throw up our hands and do nothing as thousands of lives are lost each year. Why not try to do something to reduce that number? We need a sustained debate and a series of votes. It is a good time, by the way, coming up. New year. New Congress in 2019. A brandnew Congress. We can start fresh by putting these issues on the floor of the Senate.

We need to make sure the American people know where their legislators—in this case, Federal legislators, Members of the House and Senate—stand so they can be held accountable. That is as American as anything we can do in this body.

We need to do it for the children and the staff who were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. We need to make sure their lives are remembered—not just in mourning, not just in recognition of a tragedy, but are actually remembered by way of our action, of taking action and doing something substantial that will reduce the likelihood.

We have had too many of these tragedies in the last couple of years. I will do a partial list or a partial itemization of other tragedies—not all of them but just a few. We know these cities by the tragedies that took place in them: Orlando, in a nightclub; Charleston, in a house of worship; Sutherland Springs; Las Vegas; Parkland; Thousand Oaks; in my home State of Pennsylvania almost 2 months ago now at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, where the killer came into another house of worship on a Saturday morning and gunned down people who range in age, in that circumstance—not children but range in age from midfifties all the way to late eighties, early nineties, in age—11 people.

Whether it is Sandy Hook Elementary School or the Tree of Life synagogue or a lot of places in between—and I am mentioning just the ones since 2006, roughly; there were plenty before that—we have to not just remember but take action.

In 2018—just 1 year not yet completed—so far in 2018, there have been 13,743 gun deaths and 26,581 injuries. This is a uniquely American problem. It doesn't happen around the world; it is happening here. That is yet another reason for the American people to demand that we do our job in the Senate, in the House, and in the executive branch. If it is a uniquely American problem, Americans should try to solve it or at least get on the road to solving it.

I hope we would have a measure of satisfaction if we pass just one bill in 2019. Even if nothing else happens for years, maybe 25 years from now, we could prevent one school shooting, prevent just one shooting in a synagogue where 11 people lose their lives in a house of worship, prevent a school or another place in our community from being unfortunately etched in that wall of tragedy and loss and horror forever, the name of a town, the name of a community remembered only in some cases because of the violence that took place there.

I will say it again. This is a uniquely American problem, and we have to try to solve it together. To say the status quo is unacceptable is a terrible understatement, but that is the truth. I think people understand that.

I know this is an issue people on both sides care very deeply about. We haven't come together yet to take very much action. If you look at the record on taking action on gun violence—I hate to use the word, but it is true—it is pathetic in terms of Federal action.

I am still hopeful that the American people will continue to demand more of all of us—both parties, both Houses, and two branches of the Federal Government coming together not just to mourn and to remember and to pay tribute and to offer prayers and condolences, but to take action, to do what Americans do when we are faced with a problem—take action, just as we did after 9/11. We didn't throw up our hands and say: This is just the new normal. We said: No, we are going to take action to try to stop it or at least reduce the likelihood. We can do the same on this issue of gun violence.

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

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

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this evening, I want to talk a little about the nexus of high prescription drug costs and the opioid epidemic that has gripped my State and our country—the No. 1 public health crisis in America today. It is a story of greed, frankly, and it is a story of the need for some fixes here in Congress to keep it from happening again.

With regard to the opioid crisis, I think the degree that this is affecting our communities is well documented. Some 72,000 Americans died last year of overdoses from drugs. This is the high water mark for our country. It is a grim statistic. More than two-thirds of those overdose deaths involve what is called opioids. This would be heroin, prescription drugs, and pain killers, and also the new synthetic opioids—the fentanyl, which is responsible for most of those opioid deaths.

I think we have made good progress over the past couple of years here in Congress in passing new legislation to help to address this problem—new innovative ways to get people into treatment and longer term recovery, which

we know works well in some instances—and also to do a better job on prevention and education.

So I do think those numbers will begin to turn around, but they haven't yet. They haven't yet. We have much more work to do. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which we passed, is starting to work. The Cures Act is starting to work. Most recently, the President signed legislation to try to reduce the cost of this synthetic opioid coming into our country, mostly from China, mostly through the U.S. mail system, based on research that we had done. That is called the STOP Act.

So, again, we are making some progress, but these overdose death rates are just unbelievably high, and it is a tragic situation, not just in my State, which is probably top three or four in the country, but throughout our Nation.

There is a miracle drug that can be used to reverse the effects of an overdose, and one reason we are beginning to see some progress in some regions of my State and around the country is that we are getting this drug out to more first responders and others who can, in effect, save people from an overdose. Then, of course, the trick is to get that person into treatment, and not to just have these overdoses continue to occur. That is where the more innovative programming is starting to make a difference. But I guess I could say that we have never in our history as a country had more of a need for this miracle drug to reduce the effects, to reverse the effect, of an overdose. It is called naloxone, and naloxone, again, is something that we are using more and more, and we are saving more and more lives.

I am going to talk this evening about a company that exploited the opioid epidemic by dramatically increasing the price of this naloxone drug by more than 600 percent just in the space of a few years.

The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair alongside TOM CARPER, a Democrat from Delaware, conducted a yearlong investigation—a bipartisan investigation, a really nonpartisan investigation—into this naloxone issue. We were concerned about the rising cost in order to find out why it was happening.

We focused on a pharmaceutical company called Kaleo and their naloxone auto-injector, called Evzio. While naloxone is available in generic form, two branded products exist for take-home use by untrained individuals in the case of an overdose. One is Adapt's nasal spray, called Narcan. You may have heard of that. Narcan is something that many first responders use and know about.

But the other one is this Evzio drug which is, again, the other branded naloxone product.

Narcan is available at a cost of about 125 bucks for two doses—$125 for two doses.

Evzio, I thought, was an innovative product when it came out, and indeed, it has some innovative aspects to it. A unit includes two auto-injectors and a training device that provides verbal instructions to talk the user through using the product.

Before Kaleo took Evzio to the market, industry experts, who were impressed with the product, said they should probably charge between $250 and $300 for this product. Again, it is miracle drug to reverse the effects of an overdose. They told the company they could ''own the market'' at that price of $250 to $300 a unit.

Instead, the company decided on charging a higher price, taking it to the market in October of 2014. So about 4 years ago they took it to the market for a price of $575 per unit.

With sluggish sales—I think because the price was a little higher than, again, was advised—Kaleo could have lowered the price. Instead, the company went the other direction. It implemented a new distribution model proposed by an outside drug pricing consultant—who has installed similar distribution models at other pharmaceutical companies, by the way—and this involves dramatically raising the drug price.

Now, let me explain this. As part of the distribution model, Kaleo increased Evzio's price from $575 per unit in 2014—again, October 2014—to $3,750 in February of 2016, and then to its current price of $4,100 in January of 2017.

So they started off a little high, had sluggish sales, and instead of going lower, they went from 575 bucks to $4,100. That is a 600-percent increase over the space of about 2½ years—a 600-percent increase in this drug that is so needed right now in our communities.

Why did they do this? Well, according to company documents, the new distribution model for Evzio was designed to ''capitalize on the opportunity of opioid overdose at epidemic levels.''

So, in effect, from the company's own documents, they chose to capitalize or exploit the opportunity of the opioid epidemic—this tragic epidemic that is killing more Americans than any other thing right now in my home State of Ohio and the No. 1 cause of death of Americans under the age of 50 in the entire country—72,000 is the number from last year of overdose deaths.

So as part of this new model the company worked to ensure that doctors' offices signed the paperwork indicating that Evzio was medically necessary.

Why is that important?

Well, this ensured government programs like Medicare and Medicaid—these are programs that, as you know, we already look at every year and think: Gosh, how do these costs keep going up? What do we do to maintain these important programs?

But they said they would increase the cost of this drug because they could get doctors to say that this was medically necessary, and that meant that these government programs—Medicare and Medicaid—would cover the cost regardless of what the cost was, even though it had increased 600 percent in 2½ years.

So that was the concept behind this new distribution model. It relied on a portion of the prescriptions being filled by patients with commercial health plans that covered Evzio at the much higher cost—and it worked.

For people whose plans didn't cover Evzio or who didn't have insurance, Kaleo gave the drug to the patient for free. In these instances, the company incurred the roughly $52 in cost of the goods. It was worth it because they could get these incredibly high prices from Medicare and Medicaid.

This distribution model worked, as I mentioned, when physicians deemed that Evzio was medically necessary. Then it would cover the cost—Medicare and Medicaid—all the way up to $4,100 a unit.

Under this new model, Evzio fill rates jumped from 39 percent to 81 percent. So it worked. They sold more product. They made a killing, but at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer and at the expense of all of us, really.

The majority of Kaleo's initial revenue was from Medicare and Medicaid, and the resulting cost to the taxpayer to date has been about $142 million, despite the fact that a much less costly alternative was readily available.

You will remember that for most of this time Narcan, this other product—not Evzio but Narcan—was available for $125 for two doses.

So instead of following recommendations by drug pricing experts to take the product to market at that lower price, the company decided to exploit this loophole in our health insurance market and charge this much higher price to the American taxpayer through Medicare and Medicaid.

Our report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was released on the same day that 60 Minutes aired a new story on Kaleo, its products, and why the price was so high. The findings of our report were used in that segment to highlight Kaleo's distribution model that transferred the cost of this drug, effectively, to American taxpayers. Now, you can see our report online at the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations' website. That PSI report and the 60 Minutes segment were both released on November 18.

Today, less than a month later, I am very pleased to tell you that Kaleo has publicly stated its plan to take steps toward now reducing the cost—the price—of its naloxone auto-injector from the current price of $4,100 per unit down to $178.

This is a very positive step forward, and I am hopeful that it will increase access to Naloxone—this critically important overdose reversal drug that has saved so many thousands of lives already. But I am also pleased that they made this change because it is going to save taxpayers a lot of money.

Make no mistake. I don't believe that this change would have occurred but

for our year-long investigation, the PSI report, and the 60 Minutes story shining a light on these incredibly high drug prices. Does anybody really believe that these prices would have been lowered if not for exposing it and the transparency that was then able to show what was happening?

So the bipartisan investigation has produced a good result, but we need to do a lot more.

The report includes recommendations to prevent similar situations moving forward. Among other things, the report recommends that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, or CMS, should review its policies governing physicians' use of medical necessity exceptions for Part D in Medicare to prevent companies from inappropriately influencing prescribing. That is the least they should do.

While there are legitimate uses of the exception sometimes, we need to be sure it is not exploited, as it was in this case.

Congress should also require CMS to improve transparency regarding the total amount spent for drugs purchased by government healthcare programs so we can identify these problems early on and stop them.

To combat the underlying factors affecting addiction, of course, Congress has to do more here. We should put in place a 3-day limit, in my view, on prescription pain medication for acute pain—not for chronic pain, not for cancer, but for acute pain. That would make a huge difference.

By the way, it is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendations requiring all States to utilize prescription monitoring programs—another thing we should do—and we should allocate more funding for immediate overdose remedies and first responder training.

There is reason to be optimistic, as I said earlier, about the direction our country is now headed in overcoming the opioid epidemic. We have committed ourselves here at the Federal Government to do more and to be better partners with State government and local government and non-profits. That is good, and I am proud of the work this Congress has done.

But the tragedy of overwhelming opioid overdoses has also created this opportunity for companies like Kaleo to exploit or, as they said, capitalize on this public health crisis. That is wrong. It is shameful.

I am proud of the investigative work we have done. I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to do what we can to reduce prescription drug prices and also protect taxpayer-funded programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. President, today on the floor the Senate voted on legislation dealing with Saudi Arabia; two issues, the death of journalist Khashoggi and also the ongoing and tragic war in Yemen.

You may have seen on the floor somebody who helped to orchestrate this debate. I thought it was a healthy debate. I thought it was good. People offered amendments and had an opportunity to discuss their amendments and debate them in full.

I appreciate the fact that the Senate voted by an overwhelming margin and, in fact, by unanimous consent for a resolution that I think sends a very clear signal to Saudi Arabia and to other partners in the region and, frankly, to the Trump administration.

The person who was orchestrating this, you may have seen him down on the floor of the Senate, is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His name is BOB CORKER.

Senator CORKER is leaving after this week, assuming Congress is going to be out of session this week or next week. I think we will. He has chosen to retire, not to run for reelection. So come January, we will have another Senator from Tennessee who will be joining us, but BOB CORKER is going back into the private sector.

So today I want to talk a little bit about Chairman CORKER, the person you saw on the floor if you were watching earlier. He is a friend, but he is also a very valuable Member of the U.S. Senate.

The reason other people aren't on the floor talking about him right now is that he chose not to give a departure speech, which is unusual. Most Senators take to the floor and give a speech about their departure and their reflections on being here and what they might do in the future, and other Members come and talk about them. BOB CORKER, in his typical style, being a guy who is here for all the right reasons and that is not him—it is about others for him—said: I don't think I am going to give a departure speech.

So I don't think I will have a chance to talk about him as I have with other colleagues in their presence because he is not going to give that speech, but I will say, he deserves to have others like me talk about his record because he has had so many accomplishments.

He has been a leading voice in this body on so many important initiatives and issues. As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a global stage, of course, he has been active focusing on issues to improve the U.S. image around the world. Our diplomacy is something he believes in and has supported. He is concerned about the U.S. role in the world. He wants to be sure America continues to play a leading role on things like human rights, spreading democracy, and opening up channels of commerce.

He has also been very involved in budget issues, focusing on the debt, the deficit, and the problems we face in this country.

Finally, he has been active on other legislative matters. One that comes to mind is banking issues. He is on the Banking Committee and very involved in how to deal with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and, after the financial crisis, some of the issues that arose after the great recession. So he has been very active as a legislator.

He also brings an interesting perspective to this place because to this day, he will tell you he is a businessperson, not a politician. He came up as a developer, a builder. He didn't come up through politics. He did become the mayor of Chattanooga, and that is how he got involved in the political world, but he has this business approach to things around here which I think is refreshing.

He also has the work ethic that comes with somebody from the private sector, and that is relentless. I see it on display every day, but I think it has been part of BOB'S personality since he was a kid.

He started his first job at age 13. That was picking up trash and bagging ice. He started his own construction company at age 25. By the way, that construction company later expanded to 18 States—17 States in addition to his home State of Tennessee.

He first entered public service, not in a glamorous job, but having been successful in the private sector, he wanted to give back, and he was offered an opportunity to help his State. He said he wanted to be the Finance and Administration department director of Tennessee. Sort of like the budget person, and he was very helpful to the Governor and to the State of Tennessee in that role and then became mayor of Chattanooga, his hometown.

In 2006, he ran for Federal office for the first time, and that was for the U.S. Senate. He quickly rose to prominence as someone who again had expertise on some of the issues. That was after the housing crisis, so he was focused on that issue—the housing market crash and someone who advocated for conservative principles like reining in Federal spending and reducing the U.S. deficit.

In 2012, he was reelected to the Senate handily and has been chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the past 4 years. I am a member of that committee, so I have had the opportunity to see his work up close and watched how he works patiently with Republicans and Democrats alike and focuses not just on sound bites and throwing out the rhetoric but on actually how do you get something done that helps our great country.

I can tell you with certainty that during Chairman CORKER's tenure before the Foreign Relations Committee, our allies around the world have benefited and our adversaries have been held accountable. That is his approach—pretty simple.

He has played a key role in helping restore America's leadership role in the world, and I am pleased the work was accomplished, combating Russia's continued aggression in Eastern Europe and standing up for our friend and ally, Israel, and for what we did today, sending a clear message on values.

Just recently, legislation he championed was called the BUILD Act, and

it was signed into law with the President without a lot of fanfare, but it is going to make a big difference in terms of helping our country and helping not just our image around the world but ensuring we are helping to bring other countries out of poverty by using U.S. market forces that work. It helps bring U.S. private sector investment to low-income countries around the world to reduce poverty, to grow investment. This is important in any context but certainly today with one of our competitors, China, trying to do the same thing. They are using another tactic—not the private sector but the public sector. It is a perfect example of the kind of impact BOB CORKER has had on this body.

He has built up international relationships and has bolstered our national security all at once. It was a pleasure working with him, and I wish him all the best.

He is a restless guy, so he is going to end up doing something else very creative with his life, I am sure, and I know he will enjoy spending more time with his wife, Elizabeth, of 30 years and their two daughters and grandchildren, but I am eager to see what BOB is going to do next. I know we will be hearing from him because his thirst for public service and helping others is just too great.

So to BOB CORKER, congratulations on a career of public service, and I hope you enjoy the next exciting chapter of your life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DAVIS AND DOUG CURTIS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to honor two people from my State and yours who served in World War II and are being celebrated in Northwest Louisiana—Charles Davis and Doug Curtis. Both are 92 years old.

Mr. Davis celebrates his 93rd birthday in 2 days, and so on the behalf of the Presiding Officer and certainly on my behalf, I wish him a happy birthday.

These American heroes are part of the ''greatest generation.''

Mr. Davis joined the Navy when he was 16 years old, just after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. Imagine that—16 years old, leaving home, volunteering to face a world of danger to defend our country.

He bravely served 6 years at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Cape Esperance, and more. His courage was tested on numerous occasions. One example was when the ship on which he served was destroyed, leaving him and his fellow crew members stranded in the middle of the ocean, with only life vests to keep them alive for 37 hours. Charles said he spent a lot of time talking to God during those painful hours—particularly painful because his brother, serving on the same ship, did not live. Such a trying ordeal, a terrible loss.

When Charles talks about his life, he speaks with humility and gratitude about his life experiences. He says he lived a great life, in no small part due to the great country we live in.

Asked how he remains always so positive, he says: Every morning, you can decide to have a good day or a bad day, and for him, he says, it is not a tough choice.

Mr. Doug Curtis served from January 1944 to August 1946, starting in Little Rock, AR. He deployed overseas to the Philippines and Japan, prepared to do whatever was needed, pledging patriotic duty to protect our country and the people he loved.

A special celebration is being thrown on December 14, tomorrow in Many, LA, to honor Charles and Doug. My office will present them both with American flags which have flown over this Capitol Building. It is a small gesture but meant to honor these two men and to celebrate their service and sacrifice.

I thank these great Louisiana heroes for their service to our country, and, Mr. President, I will convey your thanks as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

STIGLER ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2017

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 698, H.R. 2606.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2606) to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lankford amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The Lankford amendment (No. 4110) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify certain provisions)

On page 3, line 9, strike '', as of said date,'' and insert '', as of the date of enactment of the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018,''.

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION PROVIDING FOR NO RETROACTIVITY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to revise or extend the restricted status of any lands under the Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 731, chapter 458) that lost restricted status under such Act before the date of enactment of this Act.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2606), as amended, was passed.

LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE RESERVATION RESTORATION ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 685, S. 2599.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2599) to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 2599

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act''.

SEC. 2. LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE RESERVATION RESTORATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal land described in subsection (b)(1) was taken from members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe during a period—

(A) beginning in 1948;

(B) during which the Bureau of Indian Affairs incorrectly interpreted an order of the Secretary of the Interior to mean that the Department of the Interior had the authority to sell tribal allotments without the consent of a majority of the rightful landowners; and

(C) ending in 1959, when the Secretary of the Interior was—

(i) advised that sales described in subparagraph (B) were illegal; and

(ii) ordered to cease conducting those sales;

(2) as a result of the Federal land described in subsection (b)(1) being taken from members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe hold the smallest percentage of its original reservation lands of any Ojibwe bands in Minnesota;

[2**]***(3)*(A) the applicable statute of limitations prohibits individuals from pursuing through litigation the return of the land taken as described in paragraph (1); but

(B) a Federal judge ruled that the land could be restored to the affected individuals through the legislative process;

[3**]***(4)* a comprehensive review of the Federal land demonstrated that—

(A) **[**a large portion of the Federal land is overloaded with**]** *a portion of the Federal land is encumbered by*—

(i) utility easements;

(ii) rights-of-way for roads; and

(iii) flowage and reservoir rights; and

(B) there are no *known* cabins, campgrounds, lodges, or resorts located on any portion of the Federal land; and

[4**]***(5)* on reacquisition by the Tribe of the Federal land, the Tribe—

(A) has pledged to respect the easements, rights-of-way, and other rights described in paragraph **[**3**]** *(4)*(A); and

(B)(i) does not intend immediately to modify the use of the Federal land; but

(ii) will keep the Federal land in tax-exempt fee status as part of the Chippewa National Forest until the Tribe develops a plan that allows for a gradual subdivision of some tracts for economic and residential development by the Tribe.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Federal land'' means the approximately 11,760 acres of Federal land located in the Chippewa National Forest in Cass County, Minnesota, the boundaries of which shall be depicted on the map, and described in the legal description, submitted under subsection (d)(1)(B).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''Federal land'' includes—

(i) any improvement located on the Federal land described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) any appurtenance to the Federal land.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) TRIBE.—The term ''Tribe'' means the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

(c) TRANSFER TO RESERVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(2) TREATMENT.—Effective immediately on the transfer under paragraph (1), the Federal land shall be—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(B) considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) SURVEY, MAP, AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, complete a plan of survey to establish the boundaries of the Federal land; and

(B) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a map and legal description of the Federal land to—

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

(ii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical error in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Secretary.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, nothing in this section affects any right or claim of the Tribe, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, to any land or interest in land.

(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

(A) EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Federal land.

(B) NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.—The Federal land shall not be eligible or used for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(3) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Any commercial forestry activity carried out on the Federal land shall be managed in accordance with applicable Federal law.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I know of no other debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2599), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 2599

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act''.

SEC. 2. LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE RESERVATION RESTORATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Federal land described in subsection (b)(1) was taken from members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe during a period—

(A) beginning in 1948;

(B) during which the Bureau of Indian Affairs incorrectly interpreted an order of the Secretary of the Interior to mean that the Department of the Interior had the authority to sell tribal allotments without the consent of a majority of the rightful landowners; and

(C) ending in 1959, when the Secretary of the Interior was—

(i) advised that sales described in subparagraph (B) were illegal; and

(ii) ordered to cease conducting those sales;

(2) as a result of the Federal land described in subsection (b)(1) being taken from members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe hold the smallest percentage of its original reservation lands of any Ojibwe bands in Minnesota;

(3)(A) the applicable statute of limitations prohibits individuals from pursuing through litigation the return of the land taken as described in paragraph (1); but

(B) a Federal judge ruled that the land could be restored to the affected individuals through the legislative process;

(4) a comprehensive review of the Federal land demonstrated that—

(A) a portion of the Federal land is encumbered by—

(i) utility easements;

(ii) rights-of-way for roads; and

(iii) flowage and reservoir rights; and

(B) there are no known cabins, campgrounds, lodges, or resorts located on any portion of the Federal land; and

(5) on reacquisition by the Tribe of the Federal land, the Tribe—

(A) has pledged to respect the easements, rights-of-way, and other rights described in paragraph (4)(A); and

(B)(i) does not intend immediately to modify the use of the Federal land; but

(ii) will keep the Federal land in tax-exempt fee status as part of the Chippewa National Forest until the Tribe develops a plan that allows for a gradual subdivision of some tracts for economic and residential development by the Tribe.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Federal land'' means the approximately 11,760 acres of Federal land located in the Chippewa National Forest in Cass County, Minnesota, the boundaries of which shall be depicted on the map, and described in the legal description, submitted under subsection (d)(1)(B).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''Federal land'' includes—

(i) any improvement located on the Federal land described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) any appurtenance to the Federal land.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) TRIBE.—The term ''Tribe'' means the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

(c) TRANSFER TO RESERVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (2), the Secretary shall transfer to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(2) TREATMENT.—Effective immediately on the transfer under paragraph (1), the Federal land shall be—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(B) considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(d) SURVEY, MAP, AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, complete a plan of survey to establish the boundaries of the Federal land; and

(B) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a map and legal description of the Federal land to—

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

(ii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical error in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Secretary.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, nothing in this section affects any right or claim of the Tribe, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, to any land or interest in land.

(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

(A) EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Federal land.

(B) NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.—The Federal land shall not be eligible or used for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(3) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Any commercial forestry activity carried out on the Federal land shall be managed in accordance with applicable Federal law.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY FEDERAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY, EASEMENTS AND BOUNDARY CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 699, H.R. 4032.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4032) to confirm undocumented Federal rights-of-way or easements on the Gila River Indian Reservation, clarify the northern boundary of the Gila River Indian Community's Reservation, to take certain land located in Maricopa County and Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. LANKFORD. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4032) was passed.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 707.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 707) commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LANKFORD. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 707) was agreed to.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 27, 2018, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING FRED M. FEHSENFELD

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise in memory of Fred M. Fehsenfeld, a Hoosier, an innovator, a philanthropist, and a true American hero.

Fred was born in Indianapolis in 1924, and he graduated from Shortridge High School. As a sophomore at Purdue University in 1942, he left school to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Fred flew 89 missions in Europe with the 354th Pioneer Mustang Fighter Group. He was awarded the Air Medal with three silver clusters and a Silver Star. He also led the 353rd fighter squadron on the last official flight in the European theatre, where he barrel-rolled over an Austrian POW camp to signal that the war in Europe was over.

After the war, Fred returned to Indiana and married Midge, his college sweetheart. He graduated from Purdue in 1948. The couple had seven children. He was married to Midge for 57 years before she passed. In 2003, he married Barbara, his lovely second wife.

Upon entering the workforce, Fred was operating Crystal Flash Petroleum, which owned gas stations around the State of Indiana, when he decided he needed a new adventure. So, in 1960, Fred went to the library and taught himself how to manufacture asphalt. His companies literally began paving what we in Indiana call the Crossroads of America.

Over the years, Fred gave his company his all. He grew The Heritage Group to more than 6,500 employees worldwide, and he tackled real-world problems along the way. In fact, Fred is credited with creating and promoting separate lanes for cars and trucks to save lives, reduce pollution, and alleviate congestion. His companies detoxified waste from circuit boards and solved environmental problems facing the steel industry.

Fred asked that his tombstone simply read ''I tried.'' I am here to report that Fred Fehsenfeld did far more than try—he succeeded. Fred's forward-thinking leadership has truly made America a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous nation. For that, I recognize him today.

Fred will be dearly missed by all who loved him and all who came to know him. He was a great Hoosier and a great American.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

S.J. RES. 54

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the United States must fundamentally reshape our relationship with Saudi Arabia. Whether it is the catastrophic war in Yemen or the brutal murder of a U.S. resident, Saudi leaders believe they can behave recklessly and criminally without any consequences. We simply cannot continue business as usual with the Kingdom, specifically with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

President Trump has enabled Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's most egregious behavior. After our intelligence community assessed that the Crown Prince was implicated in the murder of U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi, Trump responded, ''it could very well be that the Crown Prince had knowledge of this tragic event—maybe he did and maybe he didn't!'' Once again, the President has chosen to trust the word of a brutal autocrat above that of his own intelligence community. Once again, Trump has cast aside our Nation's values.

Even more tragically, the devastating and brutal war in Yemen rages on, pitting the reckless Crown Prince against the Houthis. The Crown Prince's actions have driven the Houthis even farther into the hands of their Iranian backers and, inadvertently, strengthened Tehran's position. The result is the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed. More than 8 million Yemenis are on the brink of starvation. The worst cholera outbreak in modern history has afflicted over 1 million people, including over 600,000 children. Millions more are displaced from their homes. As the years wear on, and with no end in sight, the cycle of desperation, destruction, and death continues unabated.

Though the administration recently suspended aerial refueling for the Saudi-led coalition, it claims that munitions sales and targeting assistance provide leverage in the conflict; yet President Trump seems unable and indeed unwilling to use this leverage to place meaningful restraints on the Saudi attacks in Yemen.

So we must ask ourselves these questions: Why is the United States complicit in this endless war? Why is the President providing cover for the Saudi Crown Prince, at all costs? Finally, what must we do to reset this relationship?

I believe there are two clear, near-term actions we must take to answer these questions and reshape our relationship with Saudi Arabia.

We took our first step today. In an historic moment, the U.S. Senate voted to suspend military support for the Saudi-led operations in Yemen. The administration should heed this clear signal and end all military support, including supplies of U.S. spare parts and technical support. We must refocus our efforts to help broker an end to the conflict.

Second, the United States must send a clear message to Saudi Arabia or any other autocratic regime: We do not tolerate the slaughter of political dissidents. We must hold accountable all those responsible for murder of Jamal Khashoggi. That means we must impose sanctions on the Crown Prince himself.

The Senate's vote today sends a clear message to Saudi Arabia and President Trump: We will hold you accountable, we will not trade away our Nation's values, and we will not abdicate our responsibility in decisions of peace and war. S.J. Res. 54 reins in the President's largely unencumbered war-making powers and ends unconditional U.S. military support for the Saudi campaign in Yemen without an authorization from Congress. For these reasons, I was proud to vote in support of this resolution.

REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS SELECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am placing a hold on S. 1010, the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017, out of deep concern for the implications of this bill for the Copyright Office and its administration of U.S. copyright laws. The Constitution delegates to Congress the power to ''promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.'' Currently, the Librarian of Congress appoints the Register, who acts under the Librarian's direction. The Librarian is uniquely positioned to bring to bear the interest of the public and concerns around freedom of speech, scholarship, access for the disabled and other societal values, as well as incentivizing creators to continue to innovate and produce new works.

At certain times, I have been deeply concerned that rights holders have seemed to capture the Copyright Office. Politicizing the appointment of the Register and reducing the influence of the Librarian would only cement that tendency. The voice of the public will always be more diffuse than those with vested interest in locking up works for as long as possible. Congress must ensure that all voices are heard, and the structure of the Copyright Office is integral to achieving that goal. Again, this is Congress's responsibility, and ceding ever more power to the Executive, as this bill does, over matters within our purview is an abdication of our responsibility which I believe we will regret.

For these reasons, I have placed a hold on S. 1010, and I encourage my colleagues to give serious consideration to the concerns I have expressed about this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, at the end of each session of the Congress, we, the Senate, take a moment to express our appreciation and acknowledge the efforts of those Members who will be retiring in just a few weeks. This year, one of our colleagues who will be leaving is Senator JEFF FLAKE.

JEFF will be leaving us after a career of nearly 20 years in Congress. He has impressed many of us with whom he has worked with the strength of his views and determination to fight for those things in which he truly believes, both as a Senator and a proud husband to his wife Cheryl and father to his five children. He has been a reliable advocate for what he sees as the best interests of Arizona and the future of the Nation. He leaves behind a legacy of which he should be very proud.

JEFF was born in Snowflake, AZ. His family name was well known to the people in his neighborhood in part because it was named for his great-great-grandfather, William J. Flake, an early pioneer. His family played an important role in the founding and day-to-day life of their town, and JEFF always embodied the pioneering spirit through his work in Congress.

After graduating from Brigham Young University with a bachelors of arts in international relations and a master of arts in political science, he took a 2-year leave of absence to serve as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in South Africa.

JEFF's early career work as the executive director of the Foundation for Democracy in Namibia and executive director of the Goldwater Institute helped prepare him for the House of Representatives. He became a strong voice for the political views of the people from back home.

Several years later Arizona's Senate seat was open and JEFF took up the challenge. The people of Arizona and our Nation were fortunate to have him to rely on for so many issues. He has been a steady and dependable force for tackling difficult, complex, and occasionally unpopular issues in the Senate while remaining respectful of his fellow colleagues and loyal to Arizona.

As a Senator, JEFF worked tirelessly to reduce the deficit and control government spending. As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, I sincerely appreciate his efforts and share the same goal of reducing waste and ensuring the government operates efficiently. His keen insight and attention to these critical issues will surely be missed in Congress.

While serving with him in the Senate, I also learned that JEFF is an avid survivalist. It was a pleasure to read about his excursions to small, distant islands with only a few key survivalist tools in tow. As an Eagle Scout, I understand how important these skills are to have, and it is always fun to hear about others putting these critical skills to use and what they learn along the way. If he would like to continue participating in survivalist adventures after leaving Congress, I would be happy to recommend some places in Wyoming that he might enjoy camping in for an extended period of time.

We both have a strong western heartbeat that we express every day in everything we do. Diana joins in sending our best wishes to JEFF and his family and we thank him for his hard work and dedication to the State of Arizona and this country. I appreciate his willingness to serve and work so hard for what he believes in. He has helped encourage and inspire another generation of leaders. In that way and so many others he has made a positive difference.

TRIBUTE TO BILL NELSON

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to someone whose passion for service is literally out of this world.

As a payload specialist, BILL NELSON spent 6 days orbiting our planet aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

When he looked down on Earth, he didn't see blue States or red States.

Instead, he saw green land, blue oceans and lakes, including some big ones in Michigan, and a whole wide world worth protecting.

A decade and a half later, BILL NELSON was sworn in as U.S. Senator for Florida.

His previous experiences in space, as a U.S. Army captain, as a State legislator, and in the U.S. House of Representatives have shaped every decision he has made since then.

I remember Senator NELSON's swearing-in, because it was my first day, too, and we have been serving together ever since.

Senator NELSON has been such a forceful advocate for technology—no surprise given his time at NASA—and for protecting consumers.

He has fought every day to do right by our seniors, keeping Medicare and Social Security strong, working to eliminate the Medicare Part D ''donut hole,'' and expanding access to home healthcare.

He has been a strong voice for protecting our environment, particularly from oil drilling, an issue close to the hearts of people in both Florida and Michigan.

One of my favorite memories of Senator NELSON actually took place in Michigan, during a 2016 codel.

Senator NELSON came to Michigan to tour our Coast Guard installations as ranking member on Commerce.

He got the full tour: Station Grand Haven, Air Station Detroit, Station St.

lgnace, Air Station Traverse City, and even the CGC *Mackinaw*.

That is a heavy icebreaker that helps keep Great Lakes channels and harbors open during the cold winter months.

It is something he doesn't get a chance to see very often in Florida.

Well, I don't remember exactly how it happened, but Senator NELSON decided to challenge a member of the Coast Guard, who was in his 20s, to a pull-up contest.

If you guess that the young guy lost, you would be right.

That is when I decided never to settle disagreements with Senator NELSON by challenging him to an arm-wrestling contest.

I think I speak for many of us when I say that I will miss working with BILL.

BILL has always believed that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Perhaps that is the perspective he gained looking down from space.

His passion for public service shines through in everything he does.

On a personal note, I would like to thank him for taking such good care of my snowbird constituents during the winter months.

BILL: Thank you for your hard work, leadership, and lifetime of serving Florida and our country.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to someone who has spent her entire career making life better for the people of Missouri and the people of this country.

If I had to describe Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL using one word, I think I would choose ''fighter.''

I think most Members, on both sides of the aisle, would agree with me.

As the first woman elected Jackson County prosecutor, she fought for crime victims and created some of the first drug courts and domestic violence units in the country.

As State auditor, she fought to ensure that the State of Missouri spent taxpayer dollars wisely.

During her 12 years representing Missouri in the Senate, she has fought every day to keep government accountable, protect consumers, strengthen our national security, and expand access to healthcare.

I have been especially honored to partner with her on this last goal.

We worked together to make sure that pharmacists can tell their patients the lowest price at the pharmacy counter and to protect Americans from junk insurance plans.

We have fought to keep American manufacturers competitive and to end unfair trade practices that hurt our companies and our workers.

I have been inspired by her work to end sexual violence, particularly in our military, and to ensure that families affected by the opioid crisis get the help they need to recover.

I will always remember the trip we took together to the Middle East.

In Jordan, we saw firsthand the challenge of responding to the Syrian refugee crisis and spoke with refugees themselves.

That is classic CLAIRE: ensuring that the government is doing its job while also watching out for the most vulnerable.

Perhaps that skill has been on display best during oversight hearings, when CLAIRE has made great use of her skills as a former prosecutor.

I know that I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of her questioning.

I am going to miss working with her. However, I am glad we haven't heard the last of CLAIRE.

Just follow her Twitter account, and you will see what I mean.

Senator MCCASKILL: Thank you for keeping government honest, protecting the most vulnerable, and always putting the people of Missouri first.

Most of all, thank you for always, always being a fighter.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA TRACY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a brave and passionate Oregonian who is an incredible example of a person finding bold solutions to challenging problems.

I am proud to boast about my friend, Brenda Tracy, being named a Woman of Impact by Politico at its sixth annual Women Rule Summit.

Brenda Tracy survived childhood sexual abuse. She is also a survivor of a brutal sexual assault that happened to her as a young single mother in Oregon. Brenda reported her sexual assault but she didn't speak of it publicly. She says that, at the time, she was saved by the compassion of a trauma nurse who treated her with dignity. Soon, Brenda went into nursing herself, graduating from the Oregon Health and Science University.

After 16 years of silence, Brenda courageously decided, in 2014, to share her sexual assault survival story publicly. Going public has exposed her to harsh judgments, disbelief, unwanted publicity, and harassment.

But since 2014, Brenda's story of survival also has positively reverberated across the entire country, sparking productive conversations and genuine reforms along the way.

In 2016, Brenda began traveling the country to speak to high school and college athletic departments. As the founder of ''Set the Expectation,'' she has spoken to nearly 100 college athletic programs and several high schools, setting the expectation with thousands of athletes that physical assault and sexual violence are never okay.

Set the Expectation is combating sexual and physical violence by directly engaging with men, who perpetrate 9 in 10 instances of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Brenda says her efforts are geared toward men because, if women could stop sexual violence, they would have already. This is an all-hands-on-deck nonpartisan national issue. Today, Brenda continues to share her story in order to educate, engage, and inspire athletes and coaches to become involved in the fight against sexual and physical violence.

Sexual assault on college campuses is pervasive. An estimated one in five women who attend college will be sexually assaulted during her time there. Sexual assaults on campus spike by 40 percent when a Division I football team has a home game.

When repeating those awful statistics, I hear folks grumble about their accuracy or about people falsely reporting assaults. The truth is; one assault is too many. Every year in college, too many students will have their lives permanently changed by assault. The reality is often worse for students in K–12 schools, where abused children, like Brenda once was, may be forced to suffer in silence, as even less attention is paid to their plight.

Even knowing this, we have seen the President mock survivors of sexual violence on the national stage. His unacceptable words and actions reaffirm the dangerous notion that powerful men can take—advantage of their influential positions to abuse women.

We are now seeing Trump's Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, move to dismantle Federal enforcement of sexual violence protections. Secretary DeVos has doubled down even though survivor advocates, like Brenda, agree and have told her that these changes would make it much harder for sexual assault survivors to report their assaults.

The fight against physical and sexual violence is far from over. It couldn't be more clear: there is more to do to ensure that fewer students experience sexual assaults and that more students feel protected and advocated for on campus. Like I said before, even one assault is too many. Until our society steps up and accepts this as a fact, we have work to do.

Brenda said to me earlier this week that she can't wait to talk to her 10–month-old granddaughter about going to college. She said she can't wait for her granddaughter to say, ''Wow, Grandma. Things were really that bad? They are so much better now.''

This really struck me because Brenda's unfailing optimism and candor are what will change the norms around sexual violence. Her courage in sharing her story is inspiring, and I know I join folks from around the country in saying: Congratulations, Brenda, and thank you!

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DEMETRIUS KEISHUN ''D.K.'' MORRIS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to thank U.S. Army CPT Demetrius Keishun Morris, an extraordinary man who has contributed to my office through the Army Congressional Fellowship Program. Captain Morris, known as

''D.K.'', has been exceptional to work with over the last year. My staff and I have benefited enormously from D.K.'s knowledge and expertise on U.S. national security and Armed Services policy.

D.K. draws upon nearly two decades of service, which includes deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar. D.K. enlisted in the Army in 2000 and was commissioned as an officer in 2010. As an officer, D.K. distinguished himself by serving at the battalion, brigade, and division levels while operating in combined, joint, and partnered environments. Before D.K. joined my office, he served as the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, TX. At each post and here in the Senate, D.K. has served with distinction.

D.K. has always been one to go above and beyond because it is just part of his nature. He graduated from George Washington University in 2008 with a bachelor of science in health sciences while earning a place on the dean's list. His education also includes a master of arts in intelligence studies with honors from American Military University and a master of professional studies degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University. D.K. is also a graduate of the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course at Fort Huachuca, AZ, where he achieved placement in the top 20 percent of his class.

CPT Demetrius Keishun Morris is the epitome of a dedicated public servant. He has put himself in harm's way to defend our rights and freedom and to help secure freedom for people in other countries. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, especially those who make a career in the military. It is always important to acknowledge their family members who share in the sacrifice, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank D.K.'s wife Lakisha and their three wonderful children, Cornelius, Samara, and Roman, for their support and for allowing us to utilize the expertise and experience of their husband and father this last year. My staff and I will miss D.K.; at the same, however, we are also excited to see what's in store next for this exceptional individual, who will always be part of Team Cardin.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY A. SCHEIDHAUER

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the distinguished career of U.S. Army Reserve COL Gregory A. Scheidhauer as he retires from his nearly three decades of service to our Nation. Dedication to his country and commitment to his fellow servicemembers are qualities that define Greg's career, and his years of effort have made lasting improvements to our Nation's defense.

Born in Silver Spring, MD, Greg went on to attend Bowie High School and, later, West Virginia University, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in sports management in 1990. He joined the Army ROTC program at West Virginia University in 1988 and began his military service upon graduation, commissioning in 1990.

In 2009, Greg joined my office in the House of Representatives as a defense fellow, where he served alongside my staff for the year. His expertise, assistance, and advice were invaluable to the team, and our office, as well as all Hoosiers, greatly benefitted from his work. After his service in my office, Colonel Scheidhauer became a legislative liaison for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve at Fort Belvoir.

In 2010, Greg deployed to Iraq and served as the director of logistics for the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command-Iraq, JSOCC-I, during Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation New Dawn. He worked to ensure the U.S. Special Operations Forces servicemembers throughout Iraq had the supplies and equipment they needed for counterterrorism operations and training. Upon his return, he was selected to serve as a congressional budget liaison in the Army's Congressional Budget Office.

Greg's hard work in that role led to his being named the Chief of the Army Reserve Legislative Affairs Division in 2014, where, for nearly 5 years, he oversaw the legislative liaison team and worked to engage and inform Members of Congress and our staff members on the Army Reserve.

As we thank Greg for his dedicated work over his career, we must also thank his family who have been his support system through it all: his wife Andrea; daughter, Alexis; and sons, Brennan and Christopher. The sacrifice of our servicemembers is immense, but so is that of their families, and we are grateful that they have shared Greg's time and expertise in the service of our county.

Greg has served with distinction and honor and now will be retiring to spend time playing golf and basketball, cheering on the Mountaineers and the Redskins, and, of course, spending time with his family. I congratulate Greg on his career of service and wish him the best as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO DARREN HEDLUND

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Darren Hedlund, a legislative assistant in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, his colleagues, and the State of South Dakota.

Darren is a native of Wall, SD. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Dakota before receiving his master of public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. While working on his undergraduate degree, Darren also served as president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha.

Darren was one of the first people I hired after being sworn in as Senator in January of 2015. He began his career at the front desk in my office, answering phones. Through hard work and dedication, Darren worked his way up to legislative assistant, handling cybersecurity, Veterans Affairs, foreign affairs, telecommunication, and homeland security issues for my office. Darren has played an instrumental role in my office by providing insight and guidance into these issues.

Darren has been a dedicated and faithful public servant during his time spent here in the Senate. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Darren for the fine work he has done. I wish him and his wife Reagan well as they take on life's new challenges together. As he continues his career of public service, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MATTHEW J. BURGER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Col. Matthew J. Burger on his promotion to brigadier general. Matthew Burger graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1990 and served on Active Duty as an HH–1 instructor pilot and chief of safety with the 27th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, and later as chief of group Standardization and Evaluation, 85th Operations Group, Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland. Following 10 years on Active Duty, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has served in numerous command positions during his career. He has over 4,500 flight hours and is a command pilot. While serving, he has earned the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal with three silver oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, and many other awards and decorations. Matthew is also the grandson of my late longtime staffer, Betty Burger, from Fairfield, IA. On December 12, 2018, he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to the rank of brigadier general.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL V. BANKSTON

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his dedication to duty and service as an Army legislative fellow on my staff. In January 2019, Paul will transfer to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, where he will serve as a congressional budget liaison.

A native of Okeechobee, FL, Paul received a bachelor of science degree in applied science and technology from Thomas Edison State College. He also earned a master of arts degree in legislative affairs from George Washington

University. Paul enlisted in the Army in 2000, rose through the enlisted ranks to sergeant first class, and received his commission in 2008.

Most recently, Paul served as the Army legislative fellow on my staff, and for the Honorable Senator Thad Cochran prior to that. His operational experience in Africa and the Middle East, in addition to his technical expertise in special operations, medical logistics, and combat medical care, have been pivotal in helping to shape Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

He has served the State of Mississippi and the Nation admirably. The staff and I have enjoyed the benefit of Paul's counsel and have truly enjoyed working with him. Paul's leadership has brought great credit to the army, and I appreciate and commend his commitment to continue to serve our Nation.

It is a pleasure to recognize and thank MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his exceptional service to our country. My staff and I extend our gratitude to Paul and his family for their sacrifices and service to the Nation, and we wish him well as he takes the next step in his admirable career.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN ''SKI'' SUCHARSKI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the tremendous service of Stephen ''Ski'' Sucharski, who joined our staff as a Brookings Fellow this year. Ski's expertise in defense, veterans, and homeland security issues was invaluable, helping to ensure we met the needs of constituents throughout our great State of Maryland. Ski came to our office with a wealth of policy knowledge from his civilian work at the Department of Defense and his many years serving our country in the U.S. Army. Ski's years of service enhanced our office in many ways, perhaps most notably in veterans affairs. I am particularly grateful to Ski for his dedication to improving services for veterans in our State and across our Nation. Ski's generosity, willingness to pitch in wherever needed, and sense of humor made him a great colleague and terrific staffer in my office. We owe him a debt of gratitude, and we will miss him greatly. My whole staff and I wish him well as he embarks on his next journey in service to our country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1050. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 2101. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 3170. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2736. An act 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.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6964) to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2454. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1918. An act to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3237. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the ''Richard W. Williams, Jr., Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I.A.) Post Office''.

S. 3209. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the ''Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building''.

S. 825. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 2465. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

S. 3029. An act to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

S. 3119. An act to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

H.R. 3996. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to permit other courts to transfer certain cases to United States Tax Court.

H.R. 1872. An act to promote access for United States diplomats and other officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5759. An act to improve executive agency digital services, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, 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 for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 3747. A bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 13, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 825. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 2465. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

S. 3029. An act to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

S. 3119. An act to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

S. 3209. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the ''Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building''.

S. 3237. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the ''Richard W. Williams, Jr., Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I A.) Post Office''.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–7425. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''6-Benzyladenine; Tolerances for Residues'' (FRL No. 9986–73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Continuous Opacity Monitoring Requirements for Municipal Waste Combustors and Cement Plants'' (FRL No. 9987–81–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7427. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Alternate Participant Program'' (RIN0960–AI24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Finance .

EC–7428. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7429. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting , pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7430. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7431. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7432. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a legislative proposal to improve current legal framework for collateral-review litigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7433. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters; Adjusted Customs Value for Cigarette Lighters'' (16 CFR Part 1210) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7434. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to Safety Standard for Infant Bath Tubs'' ((16 CFR Part 1234) (Docket No. CPSC–2015–0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7435. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Temporary Rule for Emergency Action to Specify Annual Catch Limits (ACL) for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Region in 2017'' (RIN0648–BH10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7436. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Framework Adjustment 56 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plans'' (RIN0648–BG53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7437. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Amendment to Revise the State Waters Scallop Exemption Program for the State of Maine under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan'' (RIN0648–BG70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7438. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Windowpane Flounder Emergency Rule'' (RIN0648–BH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7439. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species; Annual Specifications; Final Rule; 2017–2018 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications'' (RIN0648–XF311) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7440. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Restrictions on Fishing for Sharks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean'' (RIN0648–BG85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7441. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XG379) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7442. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean; Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery Off of the Southern Atlantic States; Reopening of the Penaeid Shrimp Fishery Off South Carolina'' (RIN0648–XG294) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7443. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean; Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 37'' (RIN0648–BG33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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–317. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to taxation; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1953. A bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–433).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Kyle McCarter, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya.

Nominee: Kyle McCarter.

Post: Ambassador to Kenya.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Kyle McCarter: $2,600, Mike Bost; $2000, Darin LaHood; $500, Ted Cruz.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Zachary McCarter (Claire): None.
4. Austin McCarter (Cathryn): None.
5. Calvin & Linda McCarter: None.
6. Grandparents: (Deceased).
7. Barry & Kelly Watson: $100, Ben Carson.
8. Jeff & Laurie McCarter: None.
9. Scott & Laurie Young: None.

Michael S. Klecheski, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mongolia.

Nominee: Michael S. Klecheski.

Post: Mongolia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Eloisa D. Klecheski: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Stefan D. Klecheski: None; Kara D. Klecheski: None: Adam D. Klecheski: None.
4. Parents: Alfred Klecheski—Deceased; Maria Klecheski—Deceased.
5. Grandparents: Zygmunt Epstein—Deceased; Bronislawa Epstein—Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: I have no siblings.
7. Sisters and Spouses: I have no siblings.

Matthew John Matthews, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Nominee: Matthew John Matthews.

Post: Brunei.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Rachel Lin Matthews: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Kristen Lin Matthews: None; Daniel Lin Matthews: None; Wife—Elizabeth Matthews: None.
4. Parents: Matthew Anthony Matthews: (deceased); $100.00, 2014, Dennis Richardson; $25.00, 2014, Monica Welby; $25.00, 2014, Oregon Republican Party; $25.00, 2014, Sullivan; $25.00, 2014, Prosperity Pack; $25.00, 2014, Paul Ryan; $25.00, 2014, John Thune; $25.00, 2014, Mitch McConnell; $25.00, 2014, Republican National Committee; Adele Burnadette Matthews: None. (deceased).
5. Grandparents: All deceased. Matthew Perlingieri: None; Florence Perlingieri: None; John Kane: None; Margret Kane: None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Christopher John Matthews and Patty: None; William John Matthews—(deceased): None; James Michael Matthews: None; John Anthony Matthews: None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Maureen Ann Gonzales and Augustine: None.

Earle D. Litzenberger, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Nominee: Earle D. Litzenberger, Jr.

Post: Azerbaijan.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: Earle D. Litzenberger: None.
2. Spouse: Marianne W. Litzenberger: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Andrew L. Litzenberger: None; Tara Litzenberger: None; Ashley Litzenberger: None.
4. Parents: Earle D. Litzenberger: None—Deceased; Mary B. Litzenberger: None.
5. Grandparents: Andrew W. Litzenberger: None—Deceased; Virgin R. Litzenberger: None—Deceased; Paul W. Bailey: None—Deceased; Deliah W Bailey: None—Deceased.

6 Brothers and Spouses : None.

7 Sisters and Spouses: Elizabeth L. Holbrook: None; Steven Holbrook: None—Deceased.

Sarah-Ann Lynch, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Nominee: Sarah-Ann Lynch.

Post: Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Nominated: September 24, 2018.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions: donee, date, amount:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Kevin F. Healy, None.
3. Children and Spouses: Mariah L. Healy, None; Garrett L. Healy, None; Dylan L. Healy, None.
4. Parents: Robert L. Lynch, Sr., Deceased; Evelyn F. Lynch, None.
5. Grandparents: John M. Lynch, Deceased; Margaret V. Lynch, Deceased; William J. McDonald, Deceased; Katheryn E. McDonald, Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Robert L. Lynch, Jr.: $52,000, 2013–18, See attached.

Political Contributions From 2013–2018

Contribution Recipient, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, Grand Total.

Alaska Democratic Party, $534.51, $534.51.

Americans For The Arts Fund PAC, $5,000.00, $5,000.00, $5,000.00, $5,000.00, $5,000.00, $25,000.00.

Arts And Humanities for America Political Action Committee, $5,000.00, $2,500.00, $7,500.00.

Bonamici For Congress, $1,000.00, $1,000.00.

Cicilline Committee, $2,500.00, $1,000.00, $1,000.00, $4,500.00.

Colorado Democratic Party, $534.50, $534.50.

Democractic Excecutive of Committee of Florida, $534.50, $534.50.

Democractic Party of New Mexico, $534.48, $534.48.

Democractic Party of Oregon, $534.48, $534.48.

Democractic Party of South Carolina, $534.48, $534.48.

Democractic Party of Virginia, $534.46, $534.46.

Democractic Party of Wisconsin, $534.46, $534.46.

Democractic State Central Committee Of LA, $352.63, $352.63.

Democratic State Committee (Delaware), $534.49, $534.49.

DNC Services Corp./Dem. Nat'l Committee, $250.00, $33,400.00, $250.00, $33,900.00.

DNC Services Corporation/Democratic National Committee, $1,000.00, $1,000.00.

Georgia Federal Elections Committee, $534.48, $534.48.

Hillary For America, $2,700, $2,600.00, $5,300.00.

Hillary Victory Fund, $56,310.00, $56,310.00.

Idaho State Democratic Party, $534.49, $534.49.

Indiana Democratic Congressional Victory Committee, $534.49, $534.49.

Iowa Democratic Party, $534.49, $534.49.

Kathleen Matthews for Congress, $1,500.00, $1,500.00.

Kentucky State Democratic Central Executive Committee, $534.49, $534.49.

Louise Slaughter Re-Election Committee, $250.00, $250.00.

Maine Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Massachusltts Democratic State Committee, $528.96, $528.96.

Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, $528.96, $528.96.

Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Mississippi Democratic State Committee, $534.48, $534.48.

Missouri Democratic State Committee, $534.48, $534.48.

Montana Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Nevada State Democratic Party, $534.48 $534.48.

New Hampshire Democratic Party, $534.48 $534.48.

New Jersey Democratic State Committee, $534.48, $534.48.

North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, $534.48, $534.48.

Ohio Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Oklahoma Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Parity PAC, $250.00, $250.00.

Pennsylvania Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

Rhode Island Democratic State Committee, $534.48, $534.48.

South Dakota Democratic Party, $534.47, $534.47.

Tennessee Democratic Party, $534.47, $534.47.

Texas Democratic Party, $534.48, $534.48.

WV State Democratic Executive Committee, $534.47, $534.47.

WY Democratic State Central Committee, $534.16, $534.16.

Grand Total, $5,000.00, $6,250.00, $13,950.00, $119,823.64, $8,750.00, $1,250.00, $155,023,64.

Note: Robert L. Lynch's Personal Campaign Contributions totaled approximately $52,000 (per Robert L. Lynch); the remainder

of these funds was attributed to him per his role as Treasurer for Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC.

No. Spouse. Roger A. Lynch: None.

Lindsey Fletcher-Lynch: (spouse), None. Donald J. Lynch: $75.00, 4/29/2014, Democratic National Committee; $100.00, 3/29/2016, Hillary Victory Fund; $16.55, 7/28/2016, Hillary Victory Fund; $50.00, 7/28/2016, Hillary for America; $10.00, 8/11/2016 Hillary for America; $100.00, 10/5/2016 Hillary for America; $75.00, 2018, Democratic National Committee. Leslie Carney Lynch: (spouse) None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: No sisters.

Christopher Paul Henzel, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen.

Nominee: Christopher Henzel.

Post: Yemen.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Adrienne V. Henzel: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Claire Henzel: None; Brendan Henzel: None; Joseph Henzel: None.

4. Parents: Richard E. Henzel: $93, 1/20/17, Trump for President; $93, 11/29/16, Trump for President; Adrienne R. Henzel: None.

5. Grandparents: All deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory Henzel & Paula Ditton: None; Matthew Henzel: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Laura Henzel: $5, 8/11/16, Hillary Victory Fund; Michael Lavine: $27, 6/18/17, Jon Ossoff; $3, 5/18/17, Jon Ossoff; $3, 4/18/17, Jon Ossoff; Throughout 2016: Several contributions totaling $216 to Hillary Victory Fund; Throughout 2016: Several contributions totaling $27 to Act Blue.

Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Nominee: Lynne Marie Tracy.

Post: Yerevan, Armenia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: not applicable.

3. Children and Spouses: not applicable.

4. Parents: Albert and Carol Tracy, none.

5. Grandparents: Albert (deceased 1973) and Arletta Tracy (deceased 1990); Clarence (deceased 1999) and Isabel Pontius, none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: not applicable.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Anita and Arthur Jepsky, $ -0-; Mary Lou and Donald Carter, $ -0-.

Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Nominee: Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.

Post: Ambassador [Chief of Mission], Australia, Department of State.

Nominated: 11/15/2018.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.: $2,700.00, 08/25/2017, Bob Corker for Senate; $210.00, 11/30/2016, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $2,700.00, 09/14/2016, Friends of Roy Blunt; $210.00, 08/31/2016, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $2,700.00, 07/26/2016, Portman for U.S. Senate (FEC website erroneously shows two $2,700.00 contributions); $420.00, 05/31/2016, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $1,000.00, 05/17/2016, Comstock for Congress; $2,700.00, 03/21/2016, Friends of John McCain; $210.00, 12/08/2015, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $2,700.00, 09/11/2015, Jeb 2016, Inc. (Jeb Bush for President); $210.00, 09/10/2015, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $420.00, 06/10/2015, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $300.00, 12/10/2014, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $300.00, 09/10/2014, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee; $2,600.00, 07/17/2014, Alexander for Senate Inc; $600.00, 06/10/2014, O'Melveny & Myers Federal Political Action Committee.

2. Spouse (No Spouse).

3. Children and Spouses: Sarah Culvahouse Mills: $100.00, 02/23/2016, Marco Rubio for President; James Mills; None; Arthur B. Culvahouse III (deceased): None; Elizabeth L. Callahan: None; Stephen T. Callahan: None; Anne Culvahouse Teague: None; Michael R. Teague: None.

4. Parents: Arthur Boggess Culvahouse, Sr. (deceased): None; Ruth Wear Culvahouse (deceased): None.

5. Grandparents: Chester A. Culvahouse (deceased): None; Martha Dixie Culvahouse (deceased): None; Sheridan Highway Wear (deceased): None; Callie Webb Wear (deceased): None.

6. Brothers and Spouses: S. Wear Culvahouse: $100.00, 03/22/2017, Act Blue; $100.00, 03/22/2017, Act Blue; Douglas Graneto, $500.00, 09/20/2016, Hillary Victory Fund.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Melinda C. Hardy: None; William E. Hardy (deceased): None; Martha S. Culvahouse: None; John S. Waggett*: $100.00, 10/18/2018, Mariah Phillips for Congress; $100.00, 08/03/2018, Mariah Phillips for Congress; $10.00, 08/30/2017, Our Revolution; $5.00, 12/01/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $5.00, 11/07/2016, Missourians for Kander; $15.00, 11/04/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $50.00, 11/01/2016, Missourians for Kander; 15.00, 10/28/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $17.00, 10/22/2016, Missourians for Kander; $15.00, 10/21/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $25.00, 10/15/2016, Missourians for Kander; $15.00, 10/14/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $15.00, 10/07/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $2.77, 09/30/2016, Catherine Cortez Masto for Senate $2.78, 09/30/2016, Strickland for Senate; $2.78, 09/30/2016, Maggie for New Hampshire; $2.78, 09/30/2016, Deborah Ross for Senate; $2.77, 09/30/2016, Elizabeth for Massachusetts; $2 78, 09/30/2016, Tammy Duckworth for Illinois; $2.78, 09/30/2016, Katie McGinty for Senate; $2.78, 09/30/2016, Missourians for Kander; $2.78, 09/30/2016, Russ for Wisconsin; $15.00, 09/30/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $15.00, 09/23/2016, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $10.00, 08/30/2016, Our Revolution; $27 00, 07/26/2016, Our Revolution; $25.00, 06/21/2016, Zephyr Teachout for Congress; $27.00, 04/15/2016, Bernie 2016; $12.50, 04/13/2016, Lucy Flores for Congress; $12.50, 04/13/2016, Bernie 2016; $12.50, 04/13/2016, Pramilla for Congress; $12.50, 04/13/2016, Zephyr Teachout for Congress; $27.00, 03/05/2016, Bernie 2016; $6.25, 02/24/2016, Elizabeth for Massachusetts; $6.25, 02/24/2016, Maggie for New Hampshire; $6.25, 02/24/2016, Russ for Wisconsin; $6.25, 02/24/2016, Strickland for Senate; $27.00, 01/04/2016, Bernie 2016; $25.00, 12/14/2015, Bernie 2016; $50.00, 08/12/2015, Bernie 2016; $50.00, 05/27/2015, Bernie 2016; $5.00, 10/30/2014, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $10.00, 10/25/2014, Alison Lundergan Grimes for Senate; $10.00, 10/25/2014, Democracy for America (DFA); $25.00, 10/24/2014, Rick Weiland for Senate; $25.00, 10/14/2014, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $20.00, 10/08/2014, Alison Lundergan Grimes for Senate; $20.00, 10/08/2014, MayDay.US; $20.00, 09/03/2014, Alison Lundergan Grimes for Senate; $5.00, 08/21/2014, Amanda Curtis for Senate; $10.00, 08/18/2014, Zephyr Teachout for Governor; $5.00, 07/25/2014, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC); $12.50, 07/04/2014, Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC); $5.00, 01/08/2014, Kelly Westlund for Congress; $20.00, 01/08/2014, Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC).

*Note that the donees in most cases were earmarked via contributions to Act Blue.

Bonnie Glick, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

John Barsa, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Kelly E. Adams-Smith and ending with Jorge R. Vazquez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 13, 2018. (minus 1 nominee: Jay P. Williams)

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Richard D. Clarke, to be General.

Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., to be General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Scott C. Bridgers and ending with Col. Justin R. Walrath, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 4, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. John D. Caine and ending with Brig. Gen. Brian M. Simpler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 4, 2018.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Steven D. Michaud and ending with Col. Raymond H. Siegfried II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 4, 2018.

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

*Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3749. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, 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 for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3750. A bill to delay the effective date of the rule issued by the National Credit Union Administration titled ''Risk-Based Capital'' ; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3751. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth services for remote imaging for chronic eye disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 3752. A bill to require the transfer of certain land to be held in trust for the benefit of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3753. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3754. A bill to prohibit price gouging in the sale of drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3755. A bill to establish a demonstration program regarding background checks for certain employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3757. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3758. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iranian financial institutions and the development and use of Iranian digital currency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3759. A bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section and to strengthen internal migration systems in countries surrounding Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 724. A resolution amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit the time during which a nomination shall be confirmed or rejected, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 725. A resolution modifying extended debate in the Senate to improve the legislative process; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 726. A resolution amending rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for timely establishment of conference committees; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 727. A resolution providing for consideration of changes to rules for the proceedings of the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 728. A resolution amending rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit debate on motions to proceed; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 729. A resolution amending rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for consideration of a minimum number of amendments; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 730. A resolution condemning the tragic mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, California, supporting all of the people impacted by the horrific event, and thanking law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical teams for their courageous efforts to respond to the attack and save lives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 731. A resolution designating December 10, 2018, as ''Human Rights Day'' and recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 352

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1036, a bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1292

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1292, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 2227

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2227, a bill to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit review of certain Medicare payment determinations for disproportionate share hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2971, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit animal fighting in the United States territories.

S. 3181

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3181, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 3319

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3319, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 3501

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3501, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and providing individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes.

S. 3549

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3549, a bill to establish the Palestinian Partnership Fund to promote joint economic development and finance joint ventures between Palestinian entrepreneurs and companies in the United States, Israel, and countries in the Middle East to improve economic cooperation and people to people exchanges to further shared community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

S. 3559

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3559, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the credit for new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles and to provide for a Federal Highway user fee on alternative fuel vehicles.

S. 3577

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3577, a bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 3602

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 3602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize school-based health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 3622

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3622, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 3649

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3649, a bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

S. 3702

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3702, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program.

S. 3728

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3728, a bill to promote the provision of exercise or fitness equipment, and exercise or fitness classes and instruction, that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

S. 3729

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3729, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 3746

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3746, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. RES. 717

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 717, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand.

AMENDMENT NO. 4090

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4090 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4095

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4095 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4096

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4096 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 4097

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4097 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4098

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4098 proposed to S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3753. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to provide for the establishment of the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today Senator CRAPO of Idaho and I are introducing the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act. This legislation replaces the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to provide revenue sharing with and compensation to over 700 rural forested counties in the over 40 States that host America's treasured, public forested lands and wildlife refuges.

In 2000, then-Senator Larry Craig, also of Idaho, and I, had signed into law SRS: a 6-year long safety-net program to stabilize county budgets following years of depleted revenue sharing payments from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Oregon and California Grant Lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Over its lifetime, SRS has been a success, providing more than $6.8 billion nationwide for rural roads, schools, and healthy forest projects. SRS also provided the basis for the beginning of, and the now growing propensity for, the USFS and the BLM to collaborate with local people and interests on the management of these public lands, and for local folks and counties to collaborate together and with the USFS and BLM, in return.

Despite its many successes, the continuation of SRS is in jeopardy. The program expired in fiscal year 2016. Congress passed a two-year extension of the program, but after its expiration. And this was not the first time nor the last time Congress allowed it to expire—SRS is expired right now, though Senator CRAPO and I are attempting, in these last moments of the 115th Congress, to reauthorize it again for at least a year, perhaps two.

This stop and start existence of this program hits at the heart of any attempts at collaboration. And it certainly undermines any attempts for a county to budget. Our rural counties should not continue to suffer neither this uncertainty, nor the market based uncertainty that comes with simply relying on revenue sharing and forest management for support.

That is why Senator CRAPO and I propose an SRS modernization, funding certainty while supporting active forest management. The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act establishes a permanent endowment fund, the Natural Resources Permanent Fund, to provide stable, reliable, increasing payments to counties, in perpetuity, removing them from the vagaries of Congress or the market.

Under this legislation, Congress charters a fiduciary corporation, the Forest and Refuge County Foundation, to manage the endowed fund. The corporation will be independent from any instrumentality of the U.S. government, including Congress, to ensure the principle balance is held in perpetuity and is separate from annual appropriations. The corporation will be overseen by a board of directors responsible for a transparent governance structure. The principle of the fund will be invested to earn interest. To grow the fund, in addition to the investment income, the USFS, BLM, and the Fish and Wildlife Service will deposit their annual revenue sharing receipts into the fund. The interest the fund generates will constitute the payments to the counties, distributed annually using the existing SRS formula. Initial payments to counties will be equal what counties received for Fiscal Year 2017 SRS payments.

The Forest Management for Rural Stability Act continues Congress's commitment to fostering economic growth in rural counties by continuing Forest Service Resource Advisory Committees. In addition, the bill gives county governments greater flexibility in how these funds are spent for economic development and rural jobs.

Passing the the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act will update SRS for 2018 and beyond—looking forward for our forested counties, rather than backward to last century efforts. This bill updates an already successful program that deserves action. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3749. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, 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 for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 3749

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act''.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

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

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

''(a) FILING AND REVIEW OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

''(1) the filing of a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402;

''(2) the preliminary review of the claim, to be conducted by a hearing officer as provided in section 403;

''(3) mediation as provided in section 404, if requested and agreed to by the parties under that section; and

''(4) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406 and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407.

''(b) RIGHT OF EMPLOYEE TO FILE CIVIL ACTION.—

''(1) CIVIL ACTION.—Only a covered employee who has filed a claim timely as provided in section 402 and who has not submitted a request for a hearing on the claim pursuant to section 405(a) may, during the period described in paragraph (3), file a civil action in a District Court of the United States with respect to the violation alleged in the claim, as provided in section 408.

''(2) EFFECT OF FILING CIVIL ACTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a), if the covered employee files such a civil action—

''(A) the preliminary review of the claim by the hearing officer as provided in section 403 shall terminate upon the filing of the action by the covered employee; and

''(B) the procedure for consideration of the alleged violation shall not include any further review of the claim by the hearing officer as provided in section 403.

''(3) PERIOD FOR FILING CIVIL ACTION.—The period described in this paragraph with respect to a claim is the 70-day period which begins on the date the covered employee files the claim under section 402.

''(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR EMPLOYEES WHO FAIL TO STATE A CLAIM FOR WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), if a covered employee receives a written notice from the hearing officer under section 403(d)(2) that the employee has the right to file a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408, the covered employee may file the civil action not later than 90 days after receiving such written notice.

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE.—In the case of an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, the Office, after receiving a claim filed under section 402, may recommend that the employee use the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police for resolution of the employee's grievance for a specific period of time. Any deadline in this Act relating to a claim for which the employee is using the grievance procedures, that has not already passed by the first day of that specific period, shall be stayed during that specific period.

''(d) ELECTION OF REMEDIES FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECT ACT.—The term 'direct Act' means an Act (other than this Act), or provision of the Revised Statutes, that is specified in section 201, 202, or 203.

''(B) DIRECT PROVISION.—The term 'direct provision' means a provision (including a definitional provision) of a direct Act that applies the rights or protections of a direct Act (including rights and protections relating to nonretaliation or noncoercion) to a Library claimant.

''(C) LIBRARY CLAIMANT.—The term 'Library claimant' means, with respect to a direct provision, an employee of the Library of Congress who is covered by that direct provision.

''(2) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER THIS ACT.—A Library claimant who initially files a claim for an alleged violation as provided in section 402 may, at any time before the date that is 10 days after a hearing officer submits the report on the preliminary review of the claim under section 403(c), elect to bring the claim for a proceeding before the corresponding Federal agency under the corresponding direct provision, instead of continuing with the procedures applicable to the claim under this title or filing a civil action in accordance with section 408.

''(3) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS OR LABOR LAW.—A Library claimant who initially brings a claim, complaint, or charge under a direct provision for a proceeding before a Federal agency may, prior to requesting a hearing under the agency's procedures, elect to—

''(A) continue with the agency's procedures and preserve the option (if any) to bring any civil action relating to the claim, complaint, or charge, that is available to the Library claimant; or

''(B) file a claim with the Office under section 402 and continue with the corresponding procedures of this title available and applicable to a covered employee.

''(4) TIMING.—A Library claimant who meets the initial deadline under section 402(d) for filing a claim under this title, or any initial deadline for bringing a claim, complaint, or charge under the applicable direct provision, and then elects to change to alternative procedures as described in paragraph (2) or (3)(B), shall be considered to meet any initial deadline for the alternative procedures.

''(5) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall take effect and shall apply as described in section 153(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) (except to the extent such section applies to any violation of section 210 or a provision of an Act specified in section 210).

''(e) RIGHTS OF PARTIES TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of any individual (including a covered employee, the head of an employing office, or an individual who is alleged to have committed personally an act which consists of a violation of part A of title II) to retain counsel to protect the interests of the individual at any point during any of the procedures provided under this title for the consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II, including as provided under section 415(d)(8) with respect to individuals subject to a reimbursement requirement of section 415(d).

''(f) STANDARDS FOR ASSERTIONS MADE BY PARTIES.—Any party in any of the procedures provided under this title, as well as any counsel or other person representing a party in any of such procedures, shall have an obligation to ensure that, to the best of the party's knowledge, information, and belief, as formed after an inquiry which is reasonable under the circumstances, each of the following is correct:

''(1) No pleading, written motion, or other paper is presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of resolution of the matter.

''(2) The claims, defenses, and other legal contentions the party advocates are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law.

''(3) The factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further review or discovery.

''(4) The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of information.

''(g) PROCEDURE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede or limit section 225(d)(2).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CIVIL ACTION.—Section 408(a) (2 U.S.C. 1408(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 404'' and inserting ''section 401'';

(2) by striking ''who has completed counseling under section 402 and mediation under section 403''; and

(3) by striking the second sentence.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE IV.—Title IV is amended—

(1) by striking section 404 (2 U.S.C. 1404); and

(2) by redesignating section 403 (2 U.S.C. 1403) as section 404.

(d) MISCELLANEOUS CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 225 (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 404; and

(2) by redesignating the item relating to section 403 as relating to section 404.

SEC. 102. REFORM OF PROCESS FOR INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

(a) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section 402 (2 U.S.C. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 402. INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) CLAIM.—

''(1) FILING OF CLAIM.—To commence a proceeding under this title, a covered employee alleging a violation of law made applicable under part A of title II shall file a claim with the Office. The Office shall not accept a claim which is filed after the deadline applicable under subsection (d).

''(2) CONTENTS OF CLAIM.—The claim filed under this section shall be made in writing under oath or affirmation, shall describe the facts that form the basis of the claim and the violation that is being alleged, shall identify the employing office alleged to have committed the violation or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, and shall be in such form as the Office requires.

''(3) NO EFFECT ON ABILITY OF COVERED EMPLOYEE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM OFFICE OR PURSUE RELIEF.—Nothing in paragraph (2), or subsection (b) or (c), may be construed to limit the ability of a covered employee—

''(A) to contact the Office or any other appropriate office prior to filing a claim under this section to seek information regarding the employee's rights under this Act and the procedures available under this Act;

''(B) in the case of a covered employee of an employing office of the House of Representatives or Senate, to refer information

regarding an alleged violation of part A of title II to the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate (as the case may be); or

''(C) to file a civil action in accordance with section 401(b).

''(b) INITIAL PROCESSING OF CLAIM.—

''(1) INTAKE AND RECORDING; NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon the filing of a claim by a covered employee under subsection (a), the Office shall take such steps as may be necessary for the initial intake and recording of the claim, including providing each party with all relevant information with respect to the rights of the party under this Act, and shall transmit immediately a copy of the claim to the head of the employing office and the designated representative of that office.

''(2) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLAIMS BASED ON ACTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (B) which consists of a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(A) by an individual, upon the filing of the claim under subsection (a), the Office shall notify immediately such individual of the claim, the possibility that the individual may be required to reimburse the account described in section 415(a) for the reimbursable portion of any award or settlement in connection with the claim, and the right of the individual under section 415(d)(8) to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title with respect to the claim.

''(B) VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) harassment that is unlawful under section 201(a) or 206(a); or

''(ii) intimidation, reprisal, or discrimination that is unlawful under section 207 and is taken against a covered employee because of a claim alleging a violation described in clause (i).

''(c) USE OF SECURE ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND TRACKING SYSTEM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SECURE SYSTEM.—The Office shall establish and operate a secure electronic reporting system through which a covered employee may initiate a proceeding under this title, and which will keep an electronic record of the date and time at which the proceeding is initiated and will track all subsequent actions or proceedings occurring with respect to the proceeding under this title.

''(2) ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARTIES.—The system shall be accessible to all parties to such actions or proceedings, but only until the completion of such actions or proceedings.

''(3) ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCEDURES.—The Office shall use the information contained in the system to make regular assessments of the effectiveness of the procedures under this title in providing for the timely resolution of claims, and shall submit semi-annual reports on such assessments each year to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

''(d) DEADLINE.—A covered employee may not file a claim under this section with respect to an allegation of a violation of law after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the alleged violation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by amending the item relating to section 402 to read as follows:

''Sec. 402. Initiation of procedures.''.

SEC. 103. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CLAIMS BY HEARING OFFICER.

(a) PRELIMINARY REVIEW DESCRIBED.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), as amended by section 101(c), is further amended by inserting after section 402 the following new section:

''SEC. 403. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CLAIMS.

''(a) PRELIMINARY REVIEW BY HEARING OFFICER.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 7 days after transmission to the employing office of a claim pursuant to section 402(b), the Executive Director shall appoint a hearing officer to conduct a preliminary review of the claim.

''(2) PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT.—The Executive Director shall appoint a hearing officer under this subsection in the same manner and in accordance with the same requirements and procedures applicable to the appointment of a hearing officer under section 405(c).

''(b) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—In conducting a preliminary review of a claim under this section, the hearing officer shall assess each of the following:

''(1) Whether the claimant is a covered employee authorized to obtain relief relating to the claim under this title.

''(2) Whether the office which is the subject of the claim is an employing office under this Act.

''(3) Whether the individual filing the claim has met the applicable deadlines for filing the claim under this title.

''(4) The identification of factual and legal issues involved with respect to the claim.

''(5) The specific relief sought by the individual.

''(6) Whether, on the basis of the assessments made under paragraphs (1) through (5), the individual filing the claim is a covered employee who has stated a claim for which, if the allegations contained in the claim are true, relief may be granted under this title.

''(7) The potential for the settlement of the claim without a formal hearing as provided under section 405 or a civil action as provided under section 408.

''(c) REPORT ON REVIEW.—

''(1) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after a claim is filed under section 402, the hearing officer shall submit to the individual filing the claim and the office which is the subject of the claim a report on the preliminary review conducted under this section, and shall include in the report the hearing officer's determination as to whether the individual is a covered employee who has stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title (as described in paragraph (6) of subsection (b)). The submission of the report shall conclude the preliminary review.

''(2) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—The hearing officer may (upon notice to the individual filing the claim and the employing office which is the subject of the claim) use an additional period of not to exceed 30 days to conclude the preliminary review.

''(d) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION OF FAILURE TO STATE CLAIM FOR WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED.—If the hearing officer's report on the preliminary review of a claim under subsection (c) includes the determination that the individual filing the claim is not a covered employee or has not stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title—

''(1) the individual (including an individual who is a Library claimant, as defined in section 401(d)(1)) may not obtain a formal hearing with respect to the claim as provided under section 405; and

''(2) the hearing officer shall provide the individual and the Executive Director with a written notice that the individual may file a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408.

''(e) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT ON PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CERTAIN CLAIMS TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES.—In the case of a hearing officer's report under subsection (c) on the preliminary review of a claim alleging a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(A), the hearing officer shall transmit the report to—

''(1) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of such an act by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

''(2) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of such an act by a Senator.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING HEARING AFTER PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—Section 405(a) (2 U.S.C. 1405(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR HEARINGS TO COMMENCE IN OFFICE.—

''(1) HEARING REQUIRED UPON REQUEST.—If, not later than 10 days after a hearing officer submits the report on the preliminary review of a claim under section 403(c), a covered employee submits a request to the Executive Director for a hearing under this section, the Executive Director shall appoint an independent hearing officer pursuant to subsection (c) to consider the claim and render a decision, and a hearing shall be commenced in the Office.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to the claim if—

''(A) the hearing officer's report on the preliminary review of the claim under section 403(c) includes the determination that the individual filing the claim is not a covered employee who has stated a claim for which relief may be granted under this title (as described in section 403(d)); or

''(B) the covered employee files a civil action as provided in section 408 with respect to the claim.''.

(c) PROHIBITING HEARING OFFICER CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY REVIEW FROM CONDUCTING HEARING.—Section 405(c) (2 U.S.C. 1405(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) PROHIBITING HEARING OFFICER CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY REVIEW FROM CONDUCTING HEARING.—The Executive Director may not appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing under this section with respect to a claim if the hearing officer conducted the preliminary review with respect to the claim under section 403.''.

(d) DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF HEARING; PERMITTING ADDITIONAL TIME.—Section 405(d) (2 U.S.C. 1405(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) commenced no later than 90 days after the Executive Director receives the covered employee's request for the hearing under subsection (a), except that, upon mutual agreement of the parties or for good cause, the Office shall extend the time for commencing a hearing for not more than an additional 30 days; and''.

(e) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—Section 405 (2 U.S.C. 1405) is amended as follows:

(1) In the heading, by striking ''**COMPLAINT AND**''.

(2) In subsection (c)(1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''request for a hearing under subsection (a)''.

(3) In subsection (d) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(4) In subsection (g), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(f) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 414 (2 U.S.C. 1414) is amended by striking ''**OF COMPLAINTS**''.

(g) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents, as amended by section 101(e), is further amended as follows:

(1) By inserting after the item relating to section 402 the following new item:

''Sec. 403. Preliminary review of claims.''.

(2) By amending the item relating to section 405 to read as follows:

''Sec. 405. Hearing.''.

(3) By amending the item relating to section 414 to read as follows:

''Sec. 414. Settlement.''.

SEC. 104. AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING PROCESS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—Section 404(a) (2 U.S.C. 1403(a)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION REGARDING MEDIATION.—

''(A) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—Upon receipt of a claim under section 402, the Office shall notify the covered employee who filed the claim about the process for mediation under this section and the deadlines applicable to such mediation.

''(B) EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon transmission to the employing office of the claim pursuant to section 402(b), the Office shall notify the employing office about the process for mediation under this section and the deadlines applicable to such mediation.

''(2) INITIATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—During the period described in subparagraph (B), either the covered employee who filed a claim under section 402 or the employing office named in the claim may file a request for mediation with the Office, which shall promptly notify the other party. If the other party agrees to the request, the Office shall promptly assign a mediator to the claim, and conduct mediation under this section.

''(B) TIMING.—A covered employee or an employing office may file a request for mediation under subparagraph (A) during the period beginning on the date that the covered employee or employing office, respectively, receives a notification under paragraph (1) regarding a claim under section 402 and ending on the date on which a hearing officer issues a written decision relating to the claim under section 405(g) or the covered employee files a civil action with respect to the claim in accordance with section 408, as applicable.

''(3) FAILURE TO REQUEST OR ACCEPT MEDIATION TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON TREATMENT OF CLAIM.—The failure of a party to request mediation under this section with respect to a claim, or the failure of a party to agree to a request for mediation under this section, may not be taken into consideration under any procedure under this title with respect to the claim, including a preliminary review under section 403, a formal hearing under section 405, or a civil action under section 408.''.

(b) REQUIRING PARTIES TO BE SEPARATED DURING MEDIATION AT REQUEST OF EMPLOYEE.—Section 404(b)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1403(b)(2)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended by striking ''meetings with the parties separately or jointly'' and inserting ''meetings with the parties during which, at the request of any of the parties, the parties shall be separated,''.

(c) PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—Section 404(c) (2 U.S.C. 1403(c)), as redesignated by section 101(c), is amended by striking the first 2 sentences and inserting the following: ''The mediation period shall be 30 days, beginning on the first day after the second party agrees to the request for the mediation. The mediation period may be extended for one additional period of 30 days at the joint request of the covered employee and employing office. Any deadline in this Act relating to a claim for which mediation has been agreed to in this section, that has not already passed by the first day of the mediation period, shall be stayed during the mediation period.''.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

SEC. 111. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS IN CASES OF ACTS BY MEMBERS.

(a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

''(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (D), if a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (C) committed personally by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, the individual shall reimburse the account for the amount of the award or settlement for the claim involved.

''(B) CONDITIONS.—In the case of an award made pursuant to a decision of a hearing officer under section 405, or a court in a civil action, subparagraph (A) shall apply only if the hearing officer or court makes a separate finding that a violation described in subparagraph (C) occurred which was committed personally by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, and such individual shall reimburse the account for the amount of compensatory damages included in the award as would be available if awarded under section 1977A(b)(3) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981a(b)(3)) irrespective of the size of the employing office. In the case of a settlement for a claim described in section 416(d)(3), subparagraph (A) shall apply only if the conditions specified in section 416(d)(3) for requesting reimbursement are met.

''(C) VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) harassment that is unlawful under section 201(a) or 206(a); or

''(ii) intimidation, reprisal, or discrimination that is unlawful under section 207 and is taken against a covered employee because of a claim alleging a violation described in clause (i).

''(D) MULTIPLE CLAIMS.—If an award or settlement is made for multiple claims, some of which do not require reimbursement under this subsection, the individual described in subparagraph (A) shall only be required to reimburse for the amount (referred to in this Act as the 'reimbursable portion') that is—

''(i) described in subparagraph (A), subject to subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) included in the portion of the award or settlement attributable to a claim requiring reimbursement.

''(2) WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS FROM COMPENSATION.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES BY COMMITTEES.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (B), the applicable Committee shall establish a timetable and procedures for the withholding of amounts from the compensation of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator.

''(B) DEADLINE.—The payroll administrator shall withhold from an individual's compensation and transfer to the account described in subsection (a) (after making any deposit required under section 8432(f) of title 5, United States Code) such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) if the individual has not reimbursed the account as required under paragraph (1) prior to the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date a payment is made from the account for such an award or settlement.

''(C) APPLICABLE COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'applicable Committee' means—

''(i) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Member of the House; or

''(ii) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Senator.

''(3) USE OF AMOUNTS IN THRIFT SAVINGS FUND AS SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If, by the expiration of the 180-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1), withholding and transfers of amounts shall continue under paragraph (2) if the individual remains employed in the same position, and the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board shall make a transfer described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) TRANSFERS.—The transfer by such Executive Director is a transfer, from the account of the individual in the Thrift Savings Fund to the account described in subsection (a), of an amount equal to the amount of that reimbursable portion of the award or settlement, reduced by—

''(i) any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld under paragraph (2); and

''(ii) if the individual remains employed in the same position, any amount that the individual is scheduled to reimburse, taking into account any amounts to be withheld under the individual's timetable under paragraph (2).

''(C) INITIATION OF TRANSFER.—Notwithstanding section 8435 of title 5, United States Code, the Executive Director described in subparagraph (A) shall make the transfer under subparagraph (A) upon receipt of a written request to the Executive Director from the Secretary of the Treasury, in the form and manner required by the Executive Director.

''(D) COORDINATION BETWEEN PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The payroll administrator and the Executive Director described in subparagraph (A) shall carry out this paragraph in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under this paragraph, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board under section 303 and such Executive Director.

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE WAGE GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES FROM A SUBSEQUENT POSITION.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, at any time after the expiration of the 270-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the individual—

''(i) has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1), through withholdings or transfers under paragraphs (2) and (3);

''(ii) is not serving in a position as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator; and

''(iii) is employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES.—On the expiration of that 270-day period, the amount of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (reduced by any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld or transferred under paragraph (2) or (3)) shall be treated as a claim of the United States and transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for collection. Upon that transfer, the Secretary of the Treasury shall collect the claim, in accordance with section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, including by administrative wage garnishment of the wages of the individual described in subparagraph (A) from the position described in subparagraph (A)(iii). The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer the collected amount to the account described in subsection (a).

''(5) NOTIFICATION TO OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO ANNUITY OR SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, at any time after the expiration of the 270-day period described in paragraph (4)(A), the individual—

''(i) has not served in a position as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator during the preceding 90 days; and

''(ii) is not employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) ANNUITY OR SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING.—If, at any time after the 270-day period described in paragraph (4)(A), the individual described in subparagraph (A) has not reimbursed the account described in subsection (a) for the entire reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury), through withholdings, transfers, or collections under paragraphs (2) through (4), the Secretary of the Treasury (after consultation with the payroll administrator)—

''(i) shall notify the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who shall take such actions as the Director considers appropriate to withhold from any annuity payable to the individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the remainder of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1); and

''(ii) shall (if necessary), notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407), take such actions as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate to withhold from any payment to the individual under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the remainder of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1).

''(6) COORDINATION BETWEEN OPM AND TREASURY.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out paragraph (5) in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under such paragraph, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Director and the Secretary.

''(7) CERTIFICATION.—Once the Executive Director determines that an individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection has reimbursed the account described in subsection (a) for the entire reimbursable portion, the Executive Director shall prepare a certification that the individual has completed that reimbursement, and submit the certification to—

''(A) the Committees on House Administration and Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of committing the act involved, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); and

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of committing the act involved, was a Senator.

''(8) RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—An individual who is subject to a reimbursement requirement of this subsection shall have the unconditional right to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title to protect the interests of the individual in the determination of whether an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) should be made, and the amount of any such award or settlement, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the covered employee who filed the claim to be deposed by counsel for the individual in a deposition that is separate from any other deposition taken from the employee in connection with the hearing or civil action.

''(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) NON-FEDERAL POSITION.—The term 'non-Federal position' means a position other than the position of an employee, as defined in section 2105(a) of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'payroll administrator' means—

''(i) in the case of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this subsection; or

''(ii) in the case of an individual who is a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8437(e)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''an obligation of the Executive Director to make a transfer under section 415(d)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(d)(3)),'' before ''or an obligation''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to claims made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 112. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.

Section 416(e) (2 U.S.C. 1416(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE OF DISPOSITIONS OF CLAIMS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.—

''(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition under this title (as described in paragraph (6)) of a claim alleging a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or by a senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate, the Executive Director shall refer the claim to—

''(A) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a Member or senior staff of the House; or

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a Senator or senior staff of the Senate.

''(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—If the Executive Director refers a claim to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive Director shall provide the Committee with access to the records of any preliminary reviews, hearings, or decisions of the hearing officers and the Board under this Act, and any information relating to an award or settlement paid, in response to such claim.

''(3) REVIEW BY SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF SETTLEMENTS OF CERTAIN CLAIMS.—After the receipt of a settlement agreement for a claim that includes an allegation of a violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by a Senator, the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate shall—

''(A) not later than 90 days after that receipt, review the settlement agreement;

''(B) determine whether an investigation of the claim is warranted; and

''(C) if the Select Committee determines, after the investigation, that the claim that resulted in the settlement involved an actual violation described in section 415(d)(1)(C) committed personally by the Senator, then the Select Committee shall notify the Executive Director to request the reimbursement described in section 415(d) and include the settlement in the report required by section 301(l).

''(4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report with respect to the claim, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

''(5) COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) AUTHORITY.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report as described in paragraph (4) concerning a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or a senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate, the Committee may make an appropriate redaction to the information or data included in the report if the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee reach agreement—

''(i) that including the information or data considered for redaction may lead to the unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant; and

''(ii) on the precise information or data to be redacted.

''(B) NOTATION AND STATEMENT.—The report including any such redaction shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(C) RETENTION OF REPORTS.—The Committee making a redaction in accordance with this paragraph shall retain a copy of the report, without a redaction.

''(6) FINAL DISPOSITION DESCRIBED.—In this subsection, the 'final disposition' of a claim means any of the following:

''(A) An order or agreement to pay an award or settlement, including an agreement reached pursuant to mediation under section 404.

''(B) A final decision of a hearing officer under section 405(g) that is no longer subject to review by the Board under section 406.

''(C) A final decision of the Board under section 406(e) that is no longer subject to appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit under section 407.

''(D) A final decision in a civil action under section 408 that is no longer subject to appeal.

''(7) SENIOR STAFF DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'senior staff' means any individual who, at the time a violation occurred, was required to file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.).''.

SEC. 113. AVAILABILITY OF REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 417. OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT.—At the request of a covered employee who files a claim alleging a violation of part A of title II by the covered employee's employing office, during the pendency of any of the procedures available under this title for consideration of the claim, the employing office may permit the covered employee to carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location (referred to in this section as 'permitting a remote work assignment') where such relocation would have the effect of materially reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation, instead of from a location of the employing office.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ONSITE.—If, in the determination of the covered employee's employing office, a covered employee who makes a request under this subsection cannot carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location or such relocation would not have the effect described in paragraph (1), the employing office may during the pendency of the procedures described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee;

''(B) permit a remote work assignment and grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee; or

''(C) make another workplace adjustment, or permit a remote work assignment, that would have the effect of reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ENSURING NO RETALIATION.—An employing office may not grant a covered employee's request under this subsection in a manner which would constitute a violation of section 207.

''(4) NO IMPACT ON VACATION OR PERSONAL LEAVE.—In granting leave for a paid leave of absence under this section, an employing office shall not require the covered employee to substitute, for that leave, any of the accrued paid vacation or personal leave of the covered employee.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that it is inconsistent with the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining agreement which is in effect with respect to an employing office.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the following new item:

''Sec. 417. Option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.''.

SEC. 114. MODIFICATION OF RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS.

(a) MEDIATION.—Section 416(b) (2 U.S.C. 1416(b)) is amended by striking ''All mediation'' and inserting ''All information discussed or disclosed in the course of any mediation''.

(b) CLAIMS.—Section 416 (2 U.S.C. 1416), as amended by section 112 and subsection (a) of this section, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking ''subsections (d), (e), and (f)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CLAIMS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a covered employee from disclosing the factual allegations underlying the covered employee's claim, or to prohibit an employing office from disclosing the factual allegations underlying the employing office's defense to the claim, in the course of any proceeding under this title.''.

SEC. 115. REIMBURSEMENT BY OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415), as amended by section 111, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYING OFFICES.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM ACCOUNT.—As soon as practicable after the Executive Director is made aware that a payment of an award or settlement under this Act has been made from the account described in subsection (a) in connection with a claim alleging a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) by an employing office (other than an employing office of the House of Representatives or an employing office of the Senate), the Executive Director shall notify the head of the employing office that the payment has been made, and shall include in the notification a statement of the amount of the payment.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT BY OFFICE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a notification from the Executive Director under paragraph (1), the head of the employing office involved shall transfer to the account described in subsection (a), out of any funds available for operating expenses of the office, a payment equal to the amount specified in the notification.

''(3) TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—The head of an employing office shall transfer a payment under paragraph (2) in accordance with such timetable and procedures as may be established under regulations promulgated by the Office.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made under section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) for claims filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

SEC. 201. REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

(1) REQUIRING SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''complaint'' each place it appears and inserting ''claim''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the rules issued by the applicable committee pursuant to paragraph (2):

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Office shall prepare and submit to Congress, and publish on the public website of the Office, an annual report regarding payments from the account described in section 415(a) that were the result of claims alleging a violation of part A of title II (referred to in this subsection as 'covered payments').

''(B) REPORTING.—The reporting required under this paragraph shall—

''(i) for a covered payment, or the reimbursable portion of a covered payment, described in paragraph (2), conform to the requirements of the rules issued by the applicable committee under such paragraph; and

''(ii) for a covered payment, or the portion of a covered payment, not described in paragraph (2)—

''(I) include the amount of the covered payment or portion of the covered payment and information on the employing office involved; and

''(II) identify each provision of part A of title II that was the subject of a claim resulting in the covered payment or portion of the covered payment.

''(C) REPORTING PERIODS AND DATES.—The reporting required under this paragraph—

''(i) for 2019, shall be submitted by the 60th day after the date on which the committees described in paragraph (2) issue the rules described in paragraph (2) and shall reflect covered payments made in calendar year 2019; and

''(ii) for 2020 and each subsequent calendar year, shall be submitted by January 31 of that year and shall reflect covered payments made in the previous calendar year.

''(2) RULES REGARDING REPORTING OF COVERED PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYING OFFICES OF THE HOUSE AND EMPLOYING OFFICES OF THE SENATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall each issue rules establishing the content, format, and other requirements for the reporting required under paragraph (1)(B)(i) with respect to—

''(i) any covered payment made for claims involving an employing office described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(9) of the House of Representatives or of the Senate, respectively; and

''(ii) the reimbursable portion of any such covered payment for which there is a finding requiring reimbursement under section 415(d)(1)(B) from a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, respectively.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The rules issued under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall apply to covered payments made for claims involving employing offices described in subparagraph (A)(i) of the House; and

''(ii) by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall apply to covered payments made for claims involving employing offices described in subparagraph (A)(i) of the Senate.

''(3) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—In preparing, submitting, and publishing the

reports required under paragraph (1), the Office shall ensure that the identity or position of any claimant is not disclosed.

''(4) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (3), the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, may make an appropriate redaction to the data included in the report described in paragraph (1) if the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, determines that including the data considered for redaction may lead to the identity or position of a claimant unintentionally being disclosed. The report shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) RECORDKEEPING.—The Executive Director shall retain a copy of the report described in paragraph (1), without redactions.

''(5) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'claimant' means an individual who received an award or settlement, or who made an allegation of a violation against an employing office, under part A of title II.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(B) shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

(b) REPORT ON AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on the Office's public website a report on all payments made with public funds (to include funds paid from the account described in section 415(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(a)), an account of the House of Representatives or Senate, or any other account of the Federal Government) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act for awards and settlements in connection with violations of section 201(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1311(a)), or section 207 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1317), and shall include in the report the following information:

(A) The amount paid for each such award or settlement.

(B) The source of the public funds used for the award or settlement.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSE AND SENATE ACCOUNTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(B) may be construed to require or permit the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to report the account of any specific office of the House of Representatives or Senate as the source of funds used for an award or settlement.

(c) RULEMAKING POWERS.—Section 501 (2 U.S.C. 1431) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting '', section 301(l),'' before ''and 304(c)''.

SEC. 202. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING SURVEYS.—Title III (2 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 307. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT SECURE SURVEYS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Office shall conduct a secure survey of employing offices under this Act regarding the workplace environment of such offices. Employee responses to the survey shall be voluntary.

''(b) SPECIAL INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—In each survey conducted under this section, the Office shall survey respondents on attitudes regarding sexual harassment.

''(c) METHODOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall conduct each survey under this section in accordance with methodologies established by the Office.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Under the methodologies established under paragraph (1), all responses to all portions of the survey shall be anonymous and confidential, and each respondent shall be told throughout the survey that all responses shall be anonymous and confidential.

''(3) SURVEY FORM.—The Office shall limit the use of any information code or information on the survey form that makes a respondent to the survey, or the respondent's employing office, individually identifiable.

''(d) USE OF RESULTS OF SURVEYS.—The Office shall furnish the information obtained from the surveys conducted under this section to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.

''(e) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The Office shall carry out this section, including establishment of methodologies and procedures under subsection (c), in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following new item:

''Sec. 307. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.''.

SEC. 203. RECORD RETENTION.

Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by section 201(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) RECORD RETENTION.—The Office shall establish and maintain a program for the permanent retention of its records, including the records of preliminary reviews, mediations, hearings, and other proceedings conducted under title IV.''.

SEC. 204. CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS.

Section 302 (2 U.S.C. 1382) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director shall—

''(A) appoint, and fix the compensation of, and may remove, 1 or more confidential advisors to carry out the duties described in this subsection; or

''(B) designate 1 or more employees of the Office to serve as a confidential advisor.

''(2) DUTIES.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1) shall offer to provide to covered employees described in paragraph (4) the services described in subparagraph (B), which a covered employee may accept or decline.

''(B) SERVICES.—The services referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

''(i) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the employee's rights under this Act;

''(ii) consulting, on a privileged and confidential basis, with a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding—

''(I) the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the Office; and

''(II) the relative merits of securing private counsel, designating a non-attorney representative, or proceeding without representation for proceedings before the Office;

''(iii) advising and consulting with, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding any claims the covered employee may have under title IV, the factual allegations that support each such claim, and the relative merits of the procedural options available to the employee for each such claim;

''(iv) assisting, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who seeks consideration under title IV of an allegation of a violation of part A of title II in understanding the procedures, and the significance of the procedures, described in title IV, including—

''(I) assisting or consulting with the covered employee regarding the drafting of a claim to be filed under section 402(a); and

''(II) consulting with the covered employee regarding the procedural options available to the covered employee after a claim is filed, and the relative merits of each option; and

''(v) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has been subject to a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the option of pursuing, in appropriate circumstances, a complaint with the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

''(C) CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.—Once a covered employee has accepted and received any services offered under this section from a confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1), any other services requested under this subsection by the covered employee shall be provided, to the extent practicable, by the same confidential advisor.

''(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1) shall be a lawyer who—

''(A) is admitted to practice before, and is in good standing with, the bar of a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States; and

''(B) has experience representing clients in cases involving the workplace laws incorporated by part A of title II.

''(4) INDIVIDUALS COVERED.—The services described in paragraph (2) are available to any covered employee (which, for purposes of this subsection, shall include any staff member described in section 201(d) and any former covered employee (including any such former staff member)), except that—

''(A) a former covered employee may only request such services if the practice that may be a violation of part A of title II occurred during the employment or service of the employee; and

''(B) a covered employee described in this paragraph may only request such services before the expiration of the 180-day period described in section 402(d).

''(5) RESTRICTIONS.—A confidential advisor appointed or designated under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall not act as the designated representative for any covered employee in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding, including any proceeding under this Act, any judicial proceeding, or any proceeding before any committee of Congress;

''(B) shall not offer or provide services described in paragraph (2)(B) to a covered employee if the covered employee has designated an attorney representative in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding under this Act, except that a confidential advisor may provide

general assistance and information to such attorney representative regarding this Act and the role of the Office as the confidential advisor determines appropriate; and

''(C) shall not serve as a mediator in any mediation conducted pursuant to section 404.''.

SEC. 205. GAO STUDY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

SEC. 206. GAO AUDIT OF CYBERSECURITY.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the audit conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

SEC. 301. APPLICATION OF GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.

Section 102 (2 U.S.C. 1302) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of section 201(a)(1) shall be considered to apply to a violation of title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), consistent with section 207(c) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000ff–6(c)).

''(2) CONSTRUCTION.—

''(A) NO LIMITATION ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section limits the provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of a law described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) OTHER LAWS.—A law described in this subparagraph is a law (even if not listed in subsection (a) or this subsection) that explicitly applies one or more provisions of this Act to a violation.''.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION TO UNPAID STAFF OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 201 (2 U.S.C. 1311) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) APPLICATION TO UNPAID STAFF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to—

''(A) any staff member of an employing office who carries out official duties of the employing office but who is not paid by the employing office for carrying out such duties (referred to in this subsection as an 'unpaid staff member'), including an intern, an individual detailed to an employing office, and an individual participating in a fellowship program, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsections apply with respect to a covered employee; and

''(B) a former unpaid staff member, if the act that may be a violation of subsection (a) occurred during the service of the former unpaid staffer for the employing office.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to extend liability for a violation of subsection (a) to an employing office on the basis of an action taken by any person who is not under the supervision or control of the employing office.

''(3) INTERN DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'intern' means an individual who performs service for an employing office which is uncompensated by the United States to earn credit awarded by an educational institution or to learn a trade or occupation, and includes any individual participating in a page program operated by any House of Congress.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF PAY TO HOUSE EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(7) (2 U.S.C. 1301(7)) is amended by striking ''disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives''.

SEC. 303. CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VISITORS.

(a) CLARIFICATION.—Section 210 (2 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) ELECTION OF REMEDIES RELATING TO RIGHTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LIBRARY VISITORS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LIBRARY VISITOR.—In this subsection, the term 'Library visitor' means an individual who is eligible to bring a claim for a violation under title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (other than a violation for which the exclusive remedy is under section 201) against the Library of Congress.

''(2) ELECTION OF REMEDIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Library visitor who alleges a violation of subsection (b) by the Library of Congress may, subject to subparagraph (B)—

''(i) file a charge against the Library of Congress under subsection (d); or

''(ii) use the remedies and procedures set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), as provided under section 510 (other than paragraph (5)) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12209).

''(B) TIMING.—A Library visitor that has initiated proceedings under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) may elect to change and initiate a proceeding under the other clause—

''(i) in the case of a Library visitor who first filed a charge pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), before the General Counsel files a complaint under subsection (d)(3); or

''(ii) in the case of a Library visitor who first initiated a proceeding under subparagraph (A)(ii), before the Library visitor requests a hearing under the procedures of the Library of Congress described in such subparagraph.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 210(d)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1331(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''section 403'' and inserting ''section 404''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if such amendments were included in the enactment of section 153 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), and shall apply as specified in section 153(c) of such Act.

SEC. 304. NOTICES.

(a) REQUIRING EMPLOYING OFFICES TO POST NOTICES.—Part E of title II (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 226. NOTICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Every employing office shall post and keep posted (in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to covered employees are customarily posted) a notice provided by the Office that—

''(1) describes the rights, protections, and procedures applicable to covered employees of the employing office under this Act, concerning violations described in subsection (b); and

''(2) includes contact information for the Office.

''(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation described in this subsection is—

''(1) discrimination prohibited by section 201(a) (including, in accordance with section 102(c), discrimination prohibited by title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.)) or 206(a); and

''(2) a violation of section 207 that is related to discrimination described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to part E of title II the following new item:

''Sec. 226. Notices.''.

SEC. 305. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF HELSINKI AND CHINA COMMISSIONS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301), as amended by section 302(b), is further amended—

(1) by striking ''Except as otherwise'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN COMMISSIONS.—

''(1) COVERAGE.—With respect to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(A) any individual who is an employee of such Commission shall be considered a covered employee for purposes of this Act; and

''(B) the Commission shall be considered an employing office for purposes of this Act.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), legal assistance and representation under this Act, including assistance and representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this Act, shall be provided to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(A) by the Office of House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Member of the House, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under title IV related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties; or

''(B) by the Office of Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Senator, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under title IV related to the initial

claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'China Review Commission' means the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as enacted into law by section 1 of Public Law 106–398;

''(B) the term 'Congressional-Executive China Commission' means the Congressional–Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China established under title III of the U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.); and

''(C) the term 'Helsinki Commission' means the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe established under the Act entitled 'An Act to establish a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe', approved June 3, 1976 (Public Law 94–304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).''.

(b) COVERAGE OF STENNIS CENTER.—

(1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COVERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(a)(3) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (I);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(K) the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.''.

(2) TREATMENT OF CENTER AS EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(a)(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''and the Office of Technology Assessment'' and inserting the following: ''the Office of Technology Assessment, and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 101(a) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)) are each amended by striking ''subparagraphs (C) through (I)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (C) through (K)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

SEC. 306. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 509 as section 510; and

(2) by inserting after section 508 the following new section:

''SEC. 509. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Each employing office shall develop and implement a program to train and educate covered employees of the office in the rights and protections provided under this Act, including the procedures available under title IV to consider alleged violations of this Act.

''(b) REPORT TO COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each Congress (beginning with the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress), each employing office shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on the implementation of the program required under subsection (a).

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, each employing office shall submit the report described in paragraph (1) to the Committees described in such paragraph.

''(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICES OF CONGRESS.—This section does not apply to an employing office of the House of Representatives or an employing office of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 509 as relating to section 510; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

''Sec. 509. Training and education programs of employing offices.''.

SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 306(a), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 510 as section 511; and

(2) by inserting after section 509, as inserted by section 306(a), the following:

''SEC. 510. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—All covered employees whose location of employment is outside of the Washington, DC area (referred to in this section as 'out-of-area covered employees') shall have equitable access to the resources and services provided by the Office and under this Act as is provided to covered employees who work in the Washington, DC area.

''(b) OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—The Office shall—

''(1) establish a method by which out-of-area covered employees may communicate securely with the Office, which shall include an option for real-time audiovisual communication; and

''(2) provide guidance to employing offices regarding how each office can facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for its out-of-area covered employees, including information regarding the communication methods described in paragraph (1).

''(c) EMPLOYING OFFICES.—It is the sense of Congress that each employing office with out-of-area covered employees should use its best efforts to facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for those employees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents, as amended by section 306(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 510 as relating to section 511; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as inserted by section 306(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 510. Support for out-of-area covered employees.''.

SEC. 308. RENAMING OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AS OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.

(a) RENAMING.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, as amended by section 305(a), is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 101(a)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(2) In section 101(a)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(2)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(3) In section 101(a)(3)(H) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(3)(H)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(4) In section 101(a)(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(9)(D)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(5) In section 101(a)(10) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(10)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(6) In section 101(a)(11) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(11)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(7) In section 101(a)(12) (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)(12)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(8) In section 210(a)(9) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(9)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(9) In section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(10) In section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(11) In the title heading of title III, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''.

(12) In section 304(c)(4) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(4)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(13) In section 304(c)(5) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(5)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to the heading of title III to read as follows:

''TITLE III—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS''; AND

(2) by amending the item relating to section 301 to read as follows:

''Sec. 301. Establishment of Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. Any reference to the Office of Compliance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper in effect as of such date shall be considered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) which is pending as of the date after that 180-day period. If, as of that date, an employee has begun any of the proceedings under that title that were available to the employee prior to that date, the employee may complete, or initiate and complete, all such proceedings, and such proceedings shall remain in effect with respect to, and provide the exclusive proceedings for,

the claim involved until the completion of all such proceedings.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution supporting a Diplomatic Solution in Yemen and Condemning the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi; considered and passed.

S.J. RES. 69

Whereas the ongoing civil war in Yemen has exacerbated that country's humanitarian crisis, in which nearly 12,000,000 people are suffering from ''severe hunger,'' according to the United Nations' World Food Programme;

Whereas there is no military solution to the conflict;

Whereas the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship is important to United States national security and economic interests;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has, in recent years, engaged in concerning behavior, including its conduct in the civil war in Yemen, apparent detention of the Prime Minister of Lebanon, undermining the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council, expulsion of the Canadian ambassador, suppression of dissent within the Kingdom, and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

Whereas misleading statements by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the murder of Jamal Khashoggi have undermined trust and confidence in the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas such erratic actions place unnecessary strain on the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship, which is an essential element of regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Senate—

(1) believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(2) acknowledges the United States Government has sanctioned 17 Saudi individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) for their roles in the murder;

(3) calls for the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ensure appropriate accountability for all those responsible for Jamal Khashoggi's murder;

(4) calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release Raif Badawi, Samar Badawi, and the Saudi women's rights activists who were arrested as political prisoners in 2018;

(5) encourages the Government of Saudi Arabia to redouble its efforts to enact economic and social reforms;

(6) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to respect the rights of its citizens and moderate its increasingly erratic foreign policy;

(7) warns that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's increasing purchases of military equipment from, and cooperation with, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, challenges the strength and integrity of the long-standing military-to-military relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and may introduce significant national security and economic risks to both parties;

(8) demands that all parties seek an immediate cease-fire and negotiated political solution to the Yemen conflict and increased humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict;

(9) condemns the Government of Iran's provision of advanced lethal weapons to Houthi rebels, which have perpetuated the conflict and have been used indiscriminately against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Bab al Mandeb waterway;

(10) condemns Houthi rebels for egregious human rights abuses, including torture, use of human shields, and interference with, and diversion of, humanitarian aid shipments;

(11) demands that the Saudi-led coalition and all parties to the Yemen conflict seek to minimize civilian casualties at all times;

(12) supports the peace negotiations currently being managed by United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and encourages the United States Government to provide all possible support to these diplomatic efforts;

(13) declares that there is no statutory authorization for United States involvement in hostilities in the Yemen civil war; and

(14) supports the end of air-to-air refueling of Saudi-led coalition aircraft operating in Yemen.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—AMENDING RULE XXXI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO LIMIT THE TIME DURING WHICH A NOMINATION SHALL BE CONFIRMED OR REJECTED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 724

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROCEEDINGS ON NOMINATIONS.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''A covered nominee shall submit the basic requirements to the appropriate committee within 30 legislative days of the covered nomination being transmitted to the Senate. The appropriate committee shall vote on the covered nomination within 30 legislative days of receipt of the basic requirements. By agreement of the chairman and ranking minority member, the committee may extend or suspend the deadline on the committee to vote. If the committee does not hold a vote, the nominee is deemed reported to the full Senate. For a covered nomination for a position described in section 5312 of title 5, United States Code, the Senate shall vote on the covered nomination within 40 legislative days of the committee reporting the covered nomination. For a covered nomination other than for a position described in section 5312 of title 5, United States Code, if not fewer than 10 Senators, within 30 legislative days of the committee reporting on the covered nomination, have submitted written requests for the record that the covered nomination be considered by the full Senate in executive session within 40 days of the committee reporting the covered nomination, the Senate shall vote on the covered nomination. If the covered nomination is not confirmed or rejected within 40 days of the committee reporting the covered nomination, the nomination shall be deemed to be confirmed. Debate on any covered nomination other than for a position described in section 5312 of title 5, United States Code, debate shall be limited to not more than 2 hours.'' after ''consent.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''8. (a) In paragraph (1)—

''(1) the term 'basic requirements' means—

''(A) an agreement with the Office of Government Ethics;

''(B) a financial disclosure form;

''(C) a background check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

''(D) responses to a questionnaire of each relevant committee;

''(E) tax forms, if required by a relevant committee; and

''(F) any other requirements of a relevant committee; and

''(2) the term 'covered nomination' means a nomination of an individual to a position in an executive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—MODIFYING EXTENDED DEBATE IN THE SENATE TO IMPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 725

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EXTENDED DEBATE.

Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking the second undesignated paragraph and inserting the following:

'' 'Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?' And unless that question shall be decided in the negative by one more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (except on a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules, in which case the necessary vote shall be two-thirds of the Senators present and voting in the affirmative, a quorum being present), then cloture has been invoked.

''If that question is on disposition of a bill or joint resolution, a resolution or concurrent resolution, a substitute amendment for a bill or resolution, a motion with respect to amendments between the Houses, a conference report, or advice and consent to a nomination or treaty, and if such question shall be decided in the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, and in the negative by more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (or in the affirmative by less than two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, in the case of a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules), then it shall be in order for the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to initiate a period of extended debate upon the measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, in relation to which the motion to close debate was offered, in which case the period of extended debate shall begin one hour later.

''During a period of extended debate, such measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business, except on action or motion by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee).

''During a period of extended debate it shall not be in order for a Senator other than the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to raise a question as to the presence of a quorum, except immediately prior to a vote

or when it has been more than forty-eight hours since a quorum was demonstrated. If upon a roll call it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present, then the Senate shall adjourn to a time previously decided by order of the Senate or, if no such time has been established, then to a time certain determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader.

''During a period of extended debate a motion to adjourn or recess shall not be in order, unless made by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) or if the absence of a quorum has been demonstrated. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of rule XIX, there shall be no limit to the number of times a Senator may speak upon any question during a period of extended debate.

''If, during the course of extended debate, the Presiding Officer puts any question to a vote, the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) may postpone any such vote, which shall occur at a time determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader, but not later than the time at which a quorum is next demonstrated.

''If at any time during a period of extended debate no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer shall inquire as to whether any Senator seeks recognition. If no Senator seeks recognition, then the Presiding Officer shall again put the question as to bringing debate to a close (and the Majority Leader or his or her designee may postpone such vote in accordance with the preceding paragraph), which shall be decided without further debate or intervening motion. If that question shall be decided in the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, then cloture has been invoked and the period of extended debate has ended. If that question shall be decided in the negative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, then the period of extended debate has ended.

''If cloture is invoked, then the measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, in relation to which the motion to close debate was offered, shall remain the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 726—AMENDING RULE XXVIII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 726

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE.

Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking paragraph 2(b) and inserting the following:

''(b) Consideration of a motion described in subparagraph (a), including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO RULES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 727

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO RULES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE.

Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs 1 and 2 as paragraphs 5 and 6, respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph 5 (as redesignated) the following:

''1.(a) At the beginning of a new Congress, the first matters considered by the Senate (other than a resolution described in subparagraph (b)) shall be a resolution appointing majority and minority members of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate. No other matter shall be in order, except by unanimous consent, until the Senate has agreed to a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate.

''(b) A resolution described in this subparagraph is a resolution—

''(1) informing the President that a quorum of each House is assembled;

''(2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled;

''(3) electing the President pro tempore of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election;

''(4) fixing the hour of the daily meeting of the Senate;

''(5) electing the Secretary of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election;

''(6) electing a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and notifying the President and the House of Representatives of such election; or

''(7) electing Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate.

''2. At the beginning of a new Congress, and until the Senate has agreed to a resolution adopting or amending rules for the proceedings of the Senate, if the Committee on Rules and Administration reports to the full Senate a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate, the Senate shall immediately proceed to consideration of the resolution.

''3. On and after the third day of session of the Senate, if the Committee on Rules has not reported to the full Senate a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate, it shall be in order for any Senator to introduce and immediately move to proceed to consider a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate. Consideration of such a motion to proceed, including consideration of any motions or appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to 2 hours.

''4. On and after the third day of session of the Senate during which a resolution amending or adopting rules for the proceedings of the Senate is being considered, it shall be in order for any Senator to move to end debate on such resolution. Consideration of such motion, including consideration of any motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to 2 hours. If such motion is decided in the affirmative, the Senate shall proceed immediately to vote on the resolution adopting or amending rules for the proceedings of the Senate, as amended if such resolution has been amended.''; and

(3) in paragraph 5 (as redesignated), by striking ''No motion'' and inserting ''Other than at the beginning of a new Congress, no motion''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—AMENDING RULE XXII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO LIMIT DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 728

Resolved,

SECTION 1. LIMITING DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED UNDER RULE XXII.

Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''2. Other than a motion made during the first 2 hours of a new legislative day, as described in paragraph 2 of rule VIII, consideration of a motion to proceed to the consideration of any debatable matter, including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, to be divided equally between the majority and the minority. This paragraph shall not apply to motions considered nondebatable by the Senate pursuant to rule or precedent.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 729—AMENDING RULE XV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROVIDE FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MINIMUM NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 729

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GUARANTEED AMENDMENTS.

Rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

''6.(a) During the consideration of any bill, resolution, or other amendable matter, it shall be in order for the Senate to consider not less than 5 amendments offered by members of the majority and not less than 5 amendments offered by members of the minority. If a motion to invoke cloture under the provisions of rule XXII is presented to the Senate, and fewer than the 5 amendments guaranteed to each of the minority and the majority under this paragraph have been considered, then, notwithstanding the status of any pending amendments, it shall be in order for as many members of the majority as appropriate, and as many members of the minority as appropriate, to offer 1 amendment each, in alternating order, until in total 5 amendments offered by members of the majority and 5 amendments offered by members of the minority have been considered.

''(b) Amendments offered under this paragraph may only pertain to matter encompassed by the title of the bill, resolution, or other matter, except that 1 amendment offered by a member of the majority and 1 amendment offered by a member of the minority may be exempted from this requirement. An amendment exempted from this requirement shall only be agreed to upon an affirmative vote of three-fifths of Senators duly chosen and sworn.

''(c) The majority leader and minority leader may, by mutual agreement, call up

additional amendments under the provisions of this paragraph. Such additional amendments shall be offered in equal number by members of the majority and members of the minority, and may only pertain to subject matter encompassed by the title of the bill, resolution, or other matter.

''(d) Consideration by the Senate of an amendment offered under the provisions of this paragraph shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, divided equally between the majority and the minority.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 730—CONDEMNING THE TRAGIC MASS SHOOTING IN THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING ALL OF THE PEOPLE IMPACTED BY THE HORRIFIC EVENT, AND THANKING LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO THE ATTACK AND SAVE LIVES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 730

Whereas, on November 7, 2018, a mass shooting took place at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, where residents and students were enjoying a night of country music and dancing;

Whereas many individuals were wounded and 12 innocent people were tragically killed in the attack, including—

(1) students;

(2) a law enforcement officer;

(3) veterans; and

(4) a survivor of the mass shooting that took place at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October 2017 and at which 58 people were tragically killed;

Whereas the people of California and the United States are thankful to law enforcement officials, firefighters, and emergency medical teams for their quick response to the shooting;

Whereas the attack was committed by a gunman armed with smoke bombs and a Glock semiautomatic pistol equipped with a high-capacity ammunition magazine;

Whereas the shooting in Thousand Oaks is the deadliest mass shooting in the State of California since the 2015 terror attack in San Bernardino that took the lives of 14 people;

Whereas Thousand Oaks is considered one of the safest cities in the United States by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, demonstrating that no community in the United States is safe from the threat of gun violence;

Whereas mass shootings are an increasingly pervasive danger in the United States and threaten schools, theaters, malls, offices, bars, concerts, and places of worship; and

Whereas the people of Thousand Oaks have now joined the ever-growing list of communities that have been forced to endure a mass shooting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the deadly mass shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, that occurred on November 7, 2018, and tragically cut short the lives of 12 beautiful people;

(2) expresses deepest condolences to the families of the victims and offers continued support to—

(A) the people injured in the attack; and

(B) the Thousand Oaks community as the community begins the long process of healing and recovering from the tragedy;

(3) honors the lives and memories of the victims lost in the tragedy;

(4) honors the families of the victims that are now working to rebuild their lives;

(5) recognizes the service of Ventura County Sheriff Sergeant Ron Helus, who was killed in the attack when bravely rushing onto the scene to confront the shooter;

(6) applauds the dedication of the law enforcement officials, firefighters, and emergency medical teams who saved precious lives through service and care during and after the attack; and

(7) reaffirms the continuing commitment of the Senate—

(A) to protect the public safety of the people of the United States; and

(B) to support the recovery of all of the people impacted by the horrific attack in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a Senate Resolution honoring the victims of the mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, California.

On November 7, 2018, a shooter armed with a semiautomatic pistol and high-capacity ammunition magazine attacked the Borderline Bar and Grill. Borderline is known as a popular meeting place for residents and country music fans. That night was a ''college night,'' and students had gathered there for a night of music and dancing.

What happened next was the deadliest mass shooting in California since the 2015 terror attack in San Bernardino. Twelve people lost their lives that night in Thousand Oaks. They included students, military veterans, and 27 year old Telemachus Orfanos, who was a survivor of the October 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Just think about that for a moment. A survivor of the deadliest mass shooting in our Nation's history lost his life in another mass shooting a year later.

Ventura County Sheriff Sergeant Ron Helus also lost his life that night. He was one of the first law enforcement officers on the scene, and he gave his life confronting the assailant and protecting his community. Thousand Oaks is one of the safest cities in America. If an attack like this can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

This Resolution condemns the terrible violence experienced by the Thousand Oaks community and honors the memory of those who we have lost. This Resolution also recognizes the efforts of law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical teams, whose steadfast dedication and service to the victims and survivors in Thousand Oaks undoubtedly saved lives.

Finally, this Resolution reaffirms our commitment to ensure that the victims' families and those who were injured receive the assistance they need.

Mr. President, our Nation suffers one mass shooting after another. We no longer have time to grieve before gun violence devastates another community. Thousand Oaks has now joined the ever growing list of communities across America that are mourning the loss of loved ones from this ongoing epidemic. I call upon all of my Republican colleagues to work with us and do everything we can to prevent another attack.

I also ask that each member of this chamber remember the victims, their families, the survivors, and the entire community of Thousand Oaks, and continue to hold them in their hearts.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 731—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 10, 2018, AS ''HUMAN RIGHTS DAY'' AND RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 731

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, represents the first comprehensive agreement among countries as to the specific rights and freedoms of all human beings;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights upholds the basic principles of liberty and freedom enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (known as the ''Declaration on Human Rights Defenders'') was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1998;

Whereas awareness of human rights—

(1) is essential to the realization of fundamental freedoms;

(2) promotes equality;

(3) contributes to preventing conflict and human rights violations; and

(4) enhances participation in democratic processes;

Whereas Congress has a proud history of promoting human rights that are internationally recognized; and

Whereas December 10 of each year is celebrated around the world as ''Human Rights Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 10, 2018, as ''Human Rights Day'';

(2) recognizes—

(A) the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

(B) the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (known as the ''Declaration on Human Rights Defenders'');

(3) reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(4) supports the right of human rights defenders all over the world to promote the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe Human Rights Day; and

(B) to continue a commitment to upholding freedom, democracy, and human rights around the globe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4106. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1862, to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to modify the criteria for determining whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4107. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2200, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4108. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 756, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

SA 4109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. COTTON)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4108 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 756, supra.

SA 4110. Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2606, to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

SA 4111. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3461, to amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 4112. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. BARRASSO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2827, to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act.

SA 4113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2322, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese.

SA 4114. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6227, to provide for a coordinated Federal program to accelerate quantum research and development for the economic and national security of the United States.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4106. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1862, to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to modify the criteria for determining whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, line 12, strike ''unreasonable''.

On page 28, strike lines 19 and 20 and insert the following:

''(6) CREDIBLE INFORMATION.—The term 'credible information' includes all of the following:

On page 30, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON PLACEMENT OR RECRUITMENT FEES.

Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively, and moving such paragraphs 4 ems to the left; and

(2) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (V) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 4 ems to the left;

(B) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated, by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and moving such clauses 4 ems to the left; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking ''unreasonable placement or recruitment fees'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''placement or recruitment fees.''.

On page 30, line 20, strike ''4'' and insert ''5''.

On page 31, line 1, strike ''5'' and insert ''6''.

On page 33, line 8, strike ''credible evidence'' and insert ''credible information''.

On page 35, line 24, strike ''credible evidence'' and insert ''credible information''.

On page 37, line 1, strike ''6'' and insert ''7''.

On page 38, line 5, strike ''7'' and insert ''8''.

SA 4107. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2200, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 9, insert '', in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor,'' after ''Services''.

On page 57, line 16, insert ''the Secretary of Labor'' after ''Administration,''.

Beginning on page 58, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 65, line 14.

On page 71, strike lines 1 through 25.

SA 4108. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 756, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''First Step Act of 2018''.

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

TITLE I—RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

SEC. 101. RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subchapter C the following:

''SUBCHAPTER D—RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

''§ 3631. Duties of the Attorney General

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall carry out this subchapter in consultation with—

''(1) the Director of the Bureau of Prisons;

''(2) the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts;

''(3) the Director of the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services;

''(4) the Director of the National Institute of Justice;

''(5) the Director of the National Institute of Corrections; and

''(6) the Independent Review Committee authorized by the First Step Act of 2018

''(b) DUTIES.—The Attorney General shall—

''(1) conduct a review of the existing prisoner risk and needs assessment systems in operation on the date of enactment of this subchapter;

''(2) develop recommendations regarding evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities in accordance with section 3633;

''(3) conduct ongoing research and data analysis on—

''(A) evidence-based recidivism reduction programs relating to the use of prisoner risk and needs assessment tools;

''(B) the most effective and efficient uses of such programs;

''(C) which evidence-based recidivism reduction programs are the most effective at reducing recidivism, and the type, amount, and intensity of programming that most effectively reduces the risk of recidivism; and

''(D) products purchased by Federal agencies that are manufactured overseas and could be manufactured by prisoners participating in a prison work program without reducing job opportunities for other workers in the United States;

''(4) on an annual basis, review, validate, and release publicly on the Department of Justice website the risk and needs assessment system, which review shall include—

''(A) any subsequent changes to the risk and needs assessment system made after the date of enactment of this subchapter;

''(B) the recommendations developed under paragraph (2), using the research conducted under paragraph (3);

''(C) an evaluation to ensure that the risk and needs assessment system bases the assessment of each prisoner's risk of recidivism on indicators of progress and of regression that are dynamic and that can reasonably be expected to change while in prison;

''(D) statistical validation of any tools that the risk and needs assessment system uses; and

''(E) an evaluation of the rates of recidivism among similarly classified prisoners to identify any unwarranted disparities, including disparities among similarly classified prisoners of different demographic groups, in such rates;

''(5) make any revisions or updates to the risk and needs assessment system that the Attorney General determines appropriate pursuant to the review under paragraph (4), including updates to ensure that any disparities identified in paragraph (4)(E) are reduced to the greatest extent possible; and

''(6) report to Congress in accordance with section 3634.

''§ 3632. Development of risk and needs assessment system

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 210 days after the date of enactment of this subchapter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Independent Review Committee authorized by the First Step Act of 2018, shall develop and release publicly on the Department of Justice website a risk and needs assessment system (referred to in this subchapter as the 'System'), which shall be used to—

''(1) determine the recidivism risk of each prisoner as part of the intake process, and classify each prisoner as having minimum, low, medium, or high risk for recidivism;

''(2) assess and determine, to the extent practicable, the risk of violent or serious misconduct of each prisoner;

''(3) determine the type and amount of evidence-based recidivism reduction programming that is appropriate for each prisoner and assign each prisoner to such programming accordingly, and based on the prisoner's specific criminogenic needs, and in accordance with subsection (b);

''(4) reassess the recidivism risk of each prisoner periodically, based on factors including indicators of progress, and of regression, that are dynamic and that can reasonably be expected to change while in prison;

''(5) reassign the prisoner to appropriate evidence-based recidivism reduction programs or productive activities based on the revised determination to ensure that—

''(A) all prisoners at each risk level have a meaningful opportunity to reduce their classification during the period of incarceration;

''(B) to address the specific criminogenic needs of the prisoner; and

''(C) all prisoners are able to successfully participate in such programs;

''(6) determine when to provide incentives and rewards for successful participation in evidence-based recidivism reduction programs or productive activities in accordance with subsection (e);

''(7) determine when a prisoner is ready to transfer into prerelease custody or supervised release in accordance with section 3624; and

''(8) determine the appropriate use of audio technology for program course materials with an understanding of dyslexia.

In carrying out this subsection, the Attorney General may use existing risk and needs assessment tools, as appropriate.

''(b) ASSIGNMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMS.—The System shall provide guidance on the type, amount, and intensity of evidence-based recidivism reduction programming and productive activities that shall be assigned for each prisoner, including—

''(1) programs in which the Bureau of Prisons shall assign the prisoner to participate, according to the prisoner's specific criminogenic needs; and

''(2) information on the best ways that the Bureau of Prisons can tailor the programs to the specific criminogenic needs of each prisoner so as to most effectively lower each prisoner's risk of recidivism.

''(c) HOUSING AND ASSIGNMENT DECISIONS.—The System shall provide guidance on program grouping and housing assignment determinations and, after accounting for the safety of each prisoner and other individuals at the prison, provide that prisoners with a similar risk level be grouped together in housing and assignment decisions to the extent practicable.

''(d) EVIDENCE-BASED RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM INCENTIVES AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES REWARDS.—The System shall provide incentives and rewards for prisoners to participate in and complete evidence-based recidivism reduction programs as follows:

''(1) PHONE AND VISITATION PRIVILEGES.—A prisoner who is successfully participating in an evidence-based recidivism reduction program shall receive—

''(A) phone privileges, or, if available, video conferencing privileges, for up to 30 minutes per day, and up to 510 minutes per month; and

''(B) additional time for visitation at the prison, as determined by the warden of the prison.

''(2) TRANSFER TO INSTITUTION CLOSER TO RELEASE RESIDENCE.—A prisoner who is successfully participating in an evidence-based recidivism reduction program shall be considered by the Bureau of Prisons for placement in a facility closer to the prisoner's release residence upon request from the prisoner and subject to—

''(A) bed availability at the transfer facility;

''(B) the prisoner's security designation; and

''(C) the recommendation from the warden of the prison at which the prisoner is incarcerated at the time of making the request.

''(3) ADDITIONAL POLICIES.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall develop additional policies to provide appropriate incentives for successful participation and completion of evidence-based recidivism reduction programming. The incentives shall include not less than 2 of the following:

''(A) Increased commissary spending limits and product offerings.

''(B) Extended opportunities to access the email system.

''(C) Consideration of transfer to preferred housing units (including transfer to different prison facilities).

''(D) Other incentives solicited from prisoners and determined appropriate by the Director.

''(4) TIME CREDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A prisoner, except for an ineligible prisoner under subparagraph (D), who successfully completes evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities, shall earn time credits as follows:

''(i) A prisoner shall earn 10 days of time credits for every 30 days of successful participation in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities.

''(ii) A prisoner determined by the Bureau of Prisons to be at a minimum or low risk for recidivating, who, over 2 consecutive assessments, has not increased their risk of recidivism, shall earn an additional 5 days of time credits for every 30 days of successful participation in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—A prisoner may not earn time credits under this paragraph for an evidence-based recidivism reduction program that the prisoner successfully completed—

''(i) prior to the date of enactment of this subchapter; or

''(ii) during official detention prior to the date that the prisoner's sentence commences under section 3585(a).

''(C) APPLICATION OF TIME CREDITS TOWARD PRERELEASE CUSTODY OR SUPERVISED RELEASE.—Time credits earned under this paragraph by prisoners who successfully participate in recidivism reduction programs or productive activities shall be applied toward time in prerelease custody or supervised release. The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall transfer eligible prisoners, as determined under section 3624(g), into prerelease custody or supervised release.

''(D) INELIGIBLE PRISONERS.—A prisoner is ineligible to receive time credits under this paragraph if the prisoner is serving a sentence for a conviction under any of the following provisions of law:

''(i) Section 81, relating to arson within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction.

''(ii) Section 111(b), relating to assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees using a deadly or dangerous weapon or inflicting bodily injury.

''(iii) Paragraph (1), (7), or (8) of section 113(a), relating to assault with intent to commit murder, assault resulting in substantial bodily injury to a spouse or intimate partner, a dating partner, or an individual who has not attained the age of 16 years, or assault of a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner by strangling, suffocating, or attempting to strangle or suffocate.

''(iv) Section 115, relating to influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a Federal official by injuring a family member, except for a threat made in violation of that section.

''(v) Section 116, relating to female genital mutilation.

''(vi) Section 117, relating to domestic assault by a habitual offender.

''(vii) Any section of chapter 10, relating to biological weapons.

''(viii) Any section of chapter 11B, relating to chemical weapons.

''(ix) Section 351, relating to Congressional, Cabinet, and Supreme Court assassination, kidnapping, and assault.

''(x) Section 521, relating to criminal street gangs.

''(xi) Section 751, relating to prisoners in custody of an institution or officer.

''(xii) Section 793, relating to gathering, transmitting, or losing defense information.

''(xiii) Section 794, relating to gathering or delivering defense information to aid a foreign government.

''(xiv) Any section of chapter 39, relating to explosives and other dangerous articles, except for section 836 (relating to the transportation of fireworks into a State prohibiting sale or use).

''(xv) Section 842(p), relating to distribution of information relating to explosives, destructive devices, and weapons of mass destruction, but only if the conviction involved a weapon of mass destruction (as defined in section 2332a(c)).

''(xvi) Subsection (f)(3), (h), or (i) of section 844, relating to the use of fire or an explosive.

''(xvii) Section 924(c), relating to unlawful possession or use of a firearm during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime.

''(xviii) Section 1030(a)(1), relating to fraud and related activity in connection with computers.

''(xix) Any section of chapter 51, relating to homicide, except for section 1112 (relating to manslaughter), 1113 (relating to attempt to commit murder or manslaughter, but only if the conviction was for an attempt to commit manslaughter), 1115 (relating to misconduct or neglect of ship officers), or 1122 (relating to protection against the human immunodeficiency virus).

''(xx) Any section of chapter 55, relating to kidnapping.

''(xxi) Any offense under chapter 77, relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons, except for sections 1593 through 1596.

''(xxii) Section 1751, relating to Presidential and Presidential staff assassination, kidnapping, and assault.

''(xxiii) Section 1791, relating to providing or possessing contraband in prison.

''(xxiv) Section 1792, relating to mutiny and riots.

''(xxv) Section 1841(a)(2)(C), relating to intentionally killing or attempting to kill an unborn child.

''(xxvi) Section 1992, relating to terrorist attacks and other violence against railroad carriers and against mass transportation systems on land, on water, or through the air.

''(xxvii) Section 2113(e), relating to bank robbery resulting in death.

''(xxviii) Section 2118(c), relating to robberies and burglaries involving controlled substances resulting in assault, putting in jeopardy the life of any person by the use of a dangerous weapon or device, or death.

''(xxix) Paragraph (2) or (3) of section 2119, relating to taking a motor vehicle (commonly referred to as 'carjacking') that results in serious bodily injury or death.

''(xxx) Any section of chapter 105, relating to sabotage, except for section 2152.

''(xxxi) Any section of chapter 109A, relating to sexual abuse.

''(xxxii) Section 2250, relating to failure to register as a sex offender.

''(xxxiii) Section 2251, relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

''(xxxiv) Section 2251A, relating to the selling or buying of children.

''(xxxv) Section 2252, relating to certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

''(xxxvi) Section 2252A, relating to certain activities involving material constituting or containing child pornography.

''(xxxvii) Section 2260, relating to the production of sexually explicit depictions of a minor for importation into the United States.

''(xxxviii) Section 2283, relating to the transportation of explosive, biological, chemical, or radioactive or nuclear materials.

''(xxxix) Section 2284, relating to the transportation of terrorists.

''(xl) Section 2291, relating to the destruction of a vessel or maritime facility, but only if the conduct that led to the conviction involved a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.

''(xli) Any section of chapter 113B, relating to terrorism.

''(xlii) Section 2340A, relating to torture.

''(xliii) Section 2381, relating to treason.

''(xliv) Section 2442, relating to the recruitment or use of child soldiers.

''(xlv) An offense described in section 3559(c)(2)(F), for which the offender was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, if the offender has a previous conviction, for which the offender served a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, for a Federal or State offense, by whatever designation and wherever committed, consisting of murder (as described in section 1111), voluntary manslaughter (as described in section 1112), assault with intent to commit murder (as described in section 113(a)), aggravated sexual abuse and sexual abuse (as described in sections 2241 and 2242), abusive sexual contact (as described in sections 2244(a)(1) and (a)(2)), kidnapping (as described in chapter 55), carjacking (as described in section 2119), arson (as described in section 844(f)(3), (h), or (i)), or terrorism (as described in chapter 113B).

''(xlvi) Section 57(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2077(b)), relating to the engagement or participation in the development or production of special nuclear material.

''(xlvii) Section 92 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2122), relating to prohibitions governing atomic weapons.

''(xlviii) Section 101 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2131), relating to the atomic energy license requirement.

''(xlix) Section 224 or 225 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2274, 2275), relating to the communication or receipt of restricted data.

''(l) Section 236 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2284), relating to the sabotage of nuclear facilities or fuel.

''(li) Section 60123(b) of title 49, relating to damaging or destroying a pipeline facility, but only if the conduct which led to the conviction involved a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.

''(lii) Section 401(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841), relating to manufacturing or distributing a controlled substance in the case of a conviction for an offense described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (b)(1) of that section for which death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of such substance.

''(liii) Section 276(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1326), relating to the reentry of a removed alien, but only if the alien is described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) of that section.

''(liv) Section 277 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1327), relating to aiding or assisting certain aliens to enter the United States.

''(lv) Section 278 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1328), relating to the importation of an alien into the United States for an immoral purpose.

''(lvi) Any section of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4611 et seq.)

''(lvii) Section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705).

''(lviii) Section 601 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3121), relating to the protection of identities of certain United States undercover intelligence officers, agents, informants, and sources.

''(lix) Subparagraph (A)(i) or (B)(i) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) or paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A) of section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)), relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or knowingly importing or exporting, a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin if the sentencing court finds that the offender was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the offense, as determined under the guidelines promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission.

''(lx) Subparagraph (A)(vi) or (B)(vi) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) or paragraph (1)(F) or (2)(F) of section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)), relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide, or any analogue thereof.

''(lxi) Subparagraph (A)(viii) or (B)(viii) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) or paragraph (1)(H) or (2)(H) of section 1010(b) the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)), relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or knowingly importing or exporting, a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers, if the sentencing court finds that the offender was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the offense, as determined under the guidelines promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission.

''(lii) Subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)), relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance, or knowingly importing or exporting a controlled substance, if the sentencing court finds that—

''(I) the offense involved a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide, or any analogue thereof; and

''(II) the offender was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the offense, as determined under the guidelines promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission.

''(E) DEPORTABLE PRISONERS INELIGIBLE TO APPLY TIME CREDITS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A prisoner is ineligible to apply time credits under subparagraph (C) if the prisoner is the subject of a final order of removal under any provision of the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))).

''(ii) PROCEEDINGS.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall ensure that any alien described in section 212 or 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182, 1227) who seeks to earn time credits are subject to proceedings described in section 238(a) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1228(a)) at a date as early as practicable during the prisoner's incarceration.

''(5) RISK REASSESSMENTS AND LEVEL ADJUSTMENT.—A prisoner who successfully participates in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities shall receive periodic risk reassessments not less often than annually, and a prisoner determined to be at a medium or high risk of recidivating and who has less than 5 years until his or her projected release date shall receive more frequent risk reassessments. If the reassessment shows that the prisoner's risk of recidivating or specific needs have changed, the Bureau of Prisons shall update the determination of the prisoner's risk of recidivating or information regarding the prisoner's specific needs and reassign the prisoner to appropriate evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities based on such changes.

''(6) RELATION TO OTHER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.—The incentives described in this subsection shall be in addition to any other rewards or incentives for which a prisoner may be eligible.

''(e) PENALTIES.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall develop guidelines for the reduction of rewards and incentives earned under subsection (d) for prisoners who violate prison rules or evidence-based recidivism reduction program or productive activity rules, which shall provide—

''(1) general levels of violations and resulting reductions;

''(2) that any reduction that includes the loss of time credits shall require written notice to the prisoner, shall be limited to time credits that a prisoner earned as of the date of the prisoner's rule violation, and shall not include any future time credits that the prisoner may earn; and

''(3) for a procedure to restore time credits that a prisoner lost as a result of a rule violation, based on the prisoner's individual progress after the date of the rule violation.

''(f) BUREAU OF PRISONS TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall develop and implement training programs for Bureau of Prisons officers and employees responsible for administering the System, which shall include—

''(1) initial training to educate officers and employees on how to use the System in an appropriate and consistent manner, as well as the reasons for using the System;

''(2) continuing education;

''(3) periodic training updates; and

''(4) a requirement that such officers and employees demonstrate competence in administering the System, including interrater reliability, on a biannual basis.

''(g) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—In order to ensure that the Bureau of Prisons is using the System in an appropriate and consistent manner, the Attorney General shall monitor and assess the use of the System, which shall include conducting annual audits of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the use of the System.

''(h) DYSLEXIA SCREENING.—

''(1) SCREENING.—The Attorney General shall incorporate a dyslexia screening program into the System, including by screening for dyslexia during—

''(A) the intake process; and

''(B) each periodic risk reassessment of a prisoner.

''(2) TREATMENT.—The Attorney General shall incorporate programs designed to treat dyslexia into the evidence-based recidivism reduction programs or productive activities required to be implemented under this section. The Attorney General may also incorporate programs designed to treat other learning disabilities.

''§ 3633. Evidence-based recidivism reduction program and recommendations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Prior to releasing the System, in consultation with the Independent Review Committee authorized by the First Step Act of 2018, the Attorney General shall—

''(1) review the effectiveness of evidence-based recidivism reduction programs that exist as of the date of enactment of this subchapter in prisons operated by the Bureau of Prisons;

''(2) review available information regarding the effectiveness of evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities that exist in State-operated prisons throughout the United States;

''(3) identify the most effective evidence-based recidivism reduction programs;

''(4) review the policies for entering into evidence-based recidivism reduction partnerships described in section 3621(h)(5); and

''(5) direct the Bureau of Prisons regarding—

''(A) evidence-based recidivism reduction programs;

''(B) the ability for faith-based organizations to function as a provider of educational evidence-based programs outside of the religious classes and services provided through the Chaplaincy; and

''(C) the addition of any new effective evidence-based recidivism reduction programs that the Attorney General finds.

''(b) REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DYSLEXIA MITIGATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Attorney General shall consider the prevalence and mitigation of dyslexia in prisons, including by—

''(1) reviewing statistics on the prevalence of dyslexia, and the effectiveness of any programs implemented to mitigate the effects of dyslexia, in prisons operated by the Bureau of Prisons and State-operated prisons throughout the United States; and

''(2) incorporating the findings of the Attorney General under paragraph (1) of this subsection into any directives given to the Bureau of Prisons under paragraph (5) of subsection (a).

''§ 3634. Report

''Beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this subchapter, and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives that contains the following:

''(1) A summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Attorney General in carrying out this Act.

''(2) A summary and assessment of the types and effectiveness of the evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities in prisons operated by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

''(A) evidence about which programs have been shown to reduce recidivism;

''(B) the capacity of each program and activity at each prison, including the number of prisoners along with the recidivism risk of each prisoner enrolled in each program; and

''(C) identification of any gaps or shortages in capacity of such programs and activities.

''(3) Rates of recidivism among individuals who have been released from Federal prison, based on the following criteria:

''(A) The primary offense of conviction.

''(B) The length of the sentence imposed and served.

''(C) The Bureau of Prisons facility or facilities in which the prisoner's sentence was served.

''(D) The evidence-based recidivism reduction programming that the prisoner successfully completed, if any.

''(E) The prisoner's assessed and reassessed risk of recidivism.

''(F) The productive activities that the prisoner successfully completed, if any.

''(4) The status of prison work programs at facilities operated by the Bureau of Prisons, including—

''(A) a strategy to expand the availability of such programs without reducing job opportunities for workers in the United States who are not in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, including the feasibility of prisoners manufacturing products purchased by Federal agencies that are manufactured overseas;

''(B) an assessment of the feasibility of expanding such programs, consistent with the strategy required under subparagraph (A), with the goal that 5 years after the date of enactment of this subchapter, not less than 75 percent of eligible minimum- and low-risk offenders have the opportunity to participate in a prison work program for not less than 20 hours per week; and

''(C) a detailed discussion of legal authorities that would be useful or necessary to achieve the goals described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

''(5) An assessment of the Bureau of Prisons' compliance with section 3621(h).

''(6) An assessment of progress made toward carrying out the purposes of this subchapter, including any savings associated with—

''(A) the transfer of prisoners into prerelease custody or supervised release under section 3624(g), including savings resulting from the avoidance or deferral of future construction, acquisition, and operations costs; and

''(B) any decrease in recidivism that may be attributed to the System or the increase in evidence-based recidivism reduction programs required under this subchapter.

''(7) An assessment of budgetary savings resulting from this subchapter, including—

''(A) a summary of the amount of savings resulting from the transfer of prisoners into prerelease custody under this chapter, including savings resulting from the avoidance or deferral of future construction, acquisition, or operations costs;

''(B) a summary of the amount of savings resulting from any decrease in recidivism that may be attributed to the implementation of the risk and needs assessment system or the increase in recidivism reduction programs and productive activities required by this subchapter;

''(C) a strategy to reinvest the savings described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) in other—

''(i) Federal, State, and local law enforcement activities; and

''(ii) expansions of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities in the Bureau of Prisons; and

''(D) a description of how the reduced expenditures on Federal corrections and the budgetary savings resulting from this subchapter are currently being used and will be used to—

''(i) increase investment in law enforcement and crime prevention to combat gangs of national significance and high-level drug traffickers through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program and other task forces;

''(ii) hire, train, and equip law enforcement officers and prosecutors; and

''(iii) promote crime reduction programs using evidence-based practices and strategic planning to help reduce crime and criminal recidivism.

''(8) Statistics on—

''(A) the prevalence of dyslexia among prisoners in prisons operated by the Bureau of Prisons; and

''(B) any change in the effectiveness of dyslexia mitigation programs among such prisoners that may be attributed to the incorporation of dyslexia screening into the System and of dyslexia treatment into the evidence-based recidivism reduction programs, as required under this chapter.

''§ 3635. Definitions

''In this subchapter the following definitions apply:

''(1) DYSLEXIA.—The term 'dyslexia' means an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in the phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell.

''(2) DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM.—The term 'dyslexia screening program' means a screening program for dyslexia that is—

''(A) evidence-based (as defined in section 8101(21) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21))) with proven psychometrics for validity;

''(B) efficient and low-cost; and

''(C) readily available.

''(3) EVIDENCE-BASED RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM.—The term 'evidence-based recidivism reduction program' means either a group or individual activity that—

''(A) has been shown by empirical evidence to reduce recidivism or is based on research indicating that it is likely to be effective in reducing recidivism;

''(B) is designed to help prisoners succeed in their communities upon release from prison; and

''(C) may include—

''(i) social learning and communication, interpersonal, anti-bullying, rejection response, and other life skills;

''(ii) family relationship building, structured parent-child interaction, and parenting skills;

''(iii) classes on morals or ethics;

''(iv) academic classes;

''(v) cognitive behavioral treatment;

''(vi) mentoring;

''(vii) substance abuse treatment;

''(viii) vocational training;

''(ix) faith-based classes or services;

''(x) civic engagement and reintegrative community services;

''(xi) a prison job, including through a prison work program;

''(xii) victim impact classes or other restorative justice programs; and

''(xiii) trauma counseling and trauma-informed support programs.

''(4) PRISONER.—The term 'prisoner' means a person who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for a Federal criminal offense, or a person in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

''(5) PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY.—The term 'productive activity' means either a group or individual activity that is designed to allow prisoners determined as having a minimum or low risk of recidivating to remain productive and thereby maintain a minimum or low risk of recidivating, and may include the delivery of the programs described in paragraph (1) to other prisoners.

''(6) RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL.—The term 'risk and needs assessment tool' means an objective and statistically validated method through which information is collected and evaluated to determine—

''(A) as part of the intake process, the risk that a prisoner will recidivate upon release from prison;

''(B) the recidivism reduction programs that will best minimize the risk that the prisoner will recidivate upon release from prison; and

''(C) the periodic reassessment of risk that a prisoner will recidivate upon release from prison, based on factors including indicators of progress and of regression, that are dynamic and that can reasonably be expected to change while in prison.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters for chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''D. Risk and Needs Assessment ..... 3631''.

SEC. 102. IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEM AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY BUREAU OF PRISONS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEM GENERALLY.—Section 3621 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the Attorney General completes and releases the risk and needs assessment system (referred to in this subsection as the 'System') developed under subchapter D, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, in accordance with that subchapter—

''(A) implement and complete the initial intake risk and needs assessment for each prisoner (including for each prisoner who was a prisoner prior to the effective date of this subsection), regardless of the prisoner's length of imposed term of imprisonment, and begin to assign prisoners to appropriate evidence-based recidivism reduction programs based on that determination;

''(B) begin to expand the effective evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities it offers and add any new evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities necessary to effectively implement the System; and

''(C) begin to implement the other risk and needs assessment tools necessary to effectively implement the System over time, while prisoners are participating in and completing the effective evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.

''(2) PHASE-IN.—In order to carry out paragraph (1), so that every prisoner has the opportunity to participate in and complete the type and amount of evidence-based recidivism reduction programs or productive activities they need, and be reassessed for recidivism risk as necessary to effectively implement the System, the Bureau of Prisons shall—

''(A) provide such evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities for all prisoners before the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Bureau of Prisons completes a risk and needs assessment for each prisoner under paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) develop and validate the risk and needs assessment tool to be used in the reassessments of risk of recidivism, while prisoners are participating in and completing evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.

''(3) PRIORITY DURING PHASE-IN.—During the 2-year period described in paragraph (2)(A), the priority for such programs and activities shall be accorded based on a prisoner's proximity to release date.

''(4) PRELIMINARY EXPANSION OF EVIDENCE-BASED RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND AUTHORITY TO USE INCENTIVES.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau of Prisons may begin to expand any evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities that exist at a prison as of such date, and may offer to prisoners who successfully participate in such programs and activities the incentives and rewards described in subchapter D.

''(5) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS.—In order to expand evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities, the Attorney General shall develop policies for the warden of each prison of the Bureau of Prisons to enter into partnerships, subject to the availability of appropriations, with any of the following:

''(A) Nonprofit and other private organizations, including faith-based, art, and community-based organizations that will deliver recidivism reduction programming on a paid or volunteer basis.

''(B) Institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that will deliver instruction on a paid or volunteer basis.

''(C) Private entities that will—

''(i) deliver vocational training and certifications;

''(ii) provide equipment to facilitate vocational training or employment opportunities for prisoners;

''(iii) employ prisoners; or

''(iv) assist prisoners in prerelease custody or supervised release in finding employment.

''(D) Industry-sponsored organizations that will deliver workforce development and training, on a paid or volunteer basis.

''(6) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS TO ALL PRISONERS; PRIORITY.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall provide all prisoners with the opportunity to actively participate in evidence-based recidivism reduction programs or productive activities, according to their specific criminogenic needs, throughout their entire term of incarceration. Priority for participation in recidivism reduction programs shall be given to medium-risk and high-risk prisoners, with access to productive activities given to minimum-risk and low-risk prisoners.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—The terms in this subsection have the meaning given those terms in section 3635.''.

(b) PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3624 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking '', beyond the time served, of up to 54 days at the end of each year of the prisoner's term of imprisonment, beginning at the end of the first year of the term,'' and inserting ''of up to 54 days for each year of the prisoner's sentence imposed by the court,''; and

(ii) by striking ''credit for the last year or portion of a year of the term of imprisonment shall be prorated and credited within the last six weeks of the sentence'' and inserting ''credit for the last year of a term of imprisonment shall be credited on the first day of the last year of the term of imprisonment''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) PRERELEASE CUSTODY OR SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM PARTICIPANTS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE PRISONERS.—This subsection applies in the case of a prisoner (as such term is defined in section 3635) who—

''(A) has earned time credits under the risk and needs assessment system developed under subchapter D (referred to in this subsection as the 'System') in an amount that is equal to the remainder of the prisoner's imposed term of imprisonment;

''(B) has shown through the periodic risk reassessments a demonstrated recidivism risk reduction or has maintained a minimum or low recidivism risk, during the prisoner's term of imprisonment;

''(C) has had the remainder of the prisoner's imposed term of imprisonment computed under applicable law; and

''(D)(i) in the case of a prisoner being placed in prerelease custody, the prisoner—

''(I) has been determined under the System to be a minimum or low risk to recidivate

pursuant to the last 2 reassessments of the prisoner; or

''(II) has had a petition to be transferred to prerelease custody or supervised release approved by the warden of the prison, after the warden's determination that—

''(aa) the prisoner would not be a danger to society if transferred to prerelease custody or supervised release;

''(bb) the prisoner has made a good faith effort to lower their recidivism risk through participation in recidivism reduction programs or productive activities; and

''(cc) the prisoner is unlikely to recidivate; or

''(ii) in the case of a prisoner being placed in supervised release, the prisoner has been determined under the System to be a minimum or low risk to recidivate pursuant to the last reassessment of the prisoner.

''(2) TYPES OF PRERELEASE CUSTODY.—A prisoner shall be placed in prerelease custody as follows:

''(A) HOME CONFINEMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A prisoner placed in prerelease custody pursuant to this subsection who is placed in home confinement shall—

''(I) be subject to 24-hour electronic monitoring that enables the prompt identification of the prisoner, location, and time, in the case of any violation of subclause (II);

''(II) remain in the prisoner's residence, except that the prisoner may leave the prisoner's home in order to, subject to the approval of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons—

''(aa) perform a job or job-related activities, including an apprenticeship, or participate in job-seeking activities;

''(bb) participate in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities assigned by the System, or similar activities;

''(cc) perform community service;

''(dd) participate in crime victim restoration activities;

''(ee) receive medical treatment;

''(ff) attend religious activities; or

''(gg) participate in other family-related activities that facilitate the prisoner's successful reentry such as a family funeral, a family wedding, or to visit a family member who is seriously ill; and

''(III) comply with such other conditions as the Director determines appropriate.

''(ii) ALTERNATE MEANS OF MONITORING.—If the electronic monitoring of a prisoner described in clause (i)(I) is infeasible for technical or religious reasons, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may use alternative means of monitoring a prisoner placed in home confinement that the Director determines are as effective or more effective than the electronic monitoring described in clause (i)(I).

''(iii) MODIFICATIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons may modify the conditions described in clause (i) if the Director determines that a compelling reason exists to do so, and that the prisoner has demonstrated exemplary compliance with such conditions.

''(iv) DURATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), a prisoner who is placed in home confinement shall remain in home confinement until the prisoner has served not less than 85 percent of the prisoner's imposed term of imprisonment.

''(B) RESIDENTIAL REENTRY CENTER.—A prisoner placed in prerelease custody pursuant to this subsection who is placed at a residential reentry center shall be subject to such conditions as the Director of the Bureau of Prisons determines appropriate.

''(3) SUPERVISED RELEASE.—If the sentencing court included as a part of the prisoner's sentence a requirement that the prisoner be placed on a term of supervised release after imprisonment pursuant to section 3583, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may transfer the prisoner to begin any such term of supervised release at an earlier date, not to exceed 12 months, based on the application of time credits under section 3632.

''(4) DETERMINATION OF CONDITIONS.—In determining appropriate conditions for prisoners placed in prerelease custody pursuant to this subsection, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the extent practicable, provide that increasingly less restrictive conditions shall be imposed on prisoners who demonstrate continued compliance with the conditions of such prerelease custody, so as to most effectively prepare such prisoners for reentry.

''(5) VIOLATIONS OF CONDITIONS.—If a prisoner violates a condition of the prisoner's prerelease custody, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may impose such additional conditions on the prisoner's prerelease custody as the Director of the Bureau of Prisons determines appropriate, or revoke the prisoner's prerelease custody and require the prisoner to serve the remainder of the term of imprisonment to which the prisoner was sentenced, or any portion thereof, in prison. If the violation is nontechnical in nature, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall revoke the prisoner's prerelease custody.

''(6) ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Assistant Director for the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, shall issue guidelines for use by the Bureau of Prisons in determining—

''(A) the appropriate type of prerelease custody or supervised release and level of supervision for a prisoner placed on prerelease custody pursuant to this subsection; and

''(B) consequences for a violation of a condition of such prerelease custody by such a prisoner, including a return to prison and a reassessment of evidence-based recidivism risk level under the System.

''(7) AGREEMENTS WITH UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the greatest extent practicable, enter into agreements with United States Probation and Pretrial Services to supervise prisoners placed in home confinement under this subsection. Such agreements shall—

''(A) authorize United States Probation and Pretrial Services to exercise the authority granted to the Director pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4); and

''(B) take into account the resource requirements of United States Probation and Pretrial Services as a result of the transfer of Bureau of Prisons prisoners to prerelease custody or supervised release.

''(8) ASSISTANCE.—United States Probation and Pretrial Services shall, to the greatest extent practicable, offer assistance to any prisoner not under its supervision during prerelease custody under this subsection.

''(9) MENTORING, REENTRY, AND SPIRITUAL SERVICES.—Any prerelease custody into which a prisoner is placed under this subsection may not include a condition prohibiting the prisoner from receiving mentoring, reentry, or spiritual services from a person who provided such services to the prisoner while the prisoner was incarcerated, except that the warden of the facility at which the prisoner was incarcerated may waive the requirement under this paragraph if the warden finds that the provision of such services would pose a significant security risk to the prisoner, persons who provide such services, or any other person. The warden shall provide written notice of any such waiver to the person providing such services and to the prisoner.

''(10) TIME LIMITS INAPPLICABLE.—The time limits under subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply to prerelease custody under this subsection.

''(11) PRERELEASE CUSTODY CAPACITY.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure there is sufficient prerelease custody capacity to accommodate all eligible prisoners.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect beginning on the date that the Attorney General completes and releases the risk and needs assessment system under subchapter D of chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to offenses committed before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act, except that such amendments shall not apply with respect to offenses committed before November 1, 1987.

SEC. 103. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the Director of the Bureau of Prisons implements the risk and needs assessment system under section 3621 of title 18, United States Code, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the use of the risk and needs assessment system at Bureau of Prisons facilities. The audit shall include analysis of the following:

(1) Whether inmates are being assessed under the risk and needs assessment system with the frequency required under such section 3621 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) Whether the Bureau of Prisons is able to offer recidivism reduction programs and productive activities (as such terms are defined in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act).

(3) Whether the Bureau of Prisons is offering the type, amount, and intensity of recidivism reduction programs and productive activities for prisoners to earn the maximum amount of time credits for which they are eligible.

(4) Whether the Attorney General is carrying out the duties under section 3631(b) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act.

(5) Whether officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons are receiving the training described in section 3632(f) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act.

(6) Whether the Bureau of Prisons offers work assignments to all prisoners who might benefit from such an assignment.

(7) Whether the Bureau of Prisons transfers prisoners to prerelease custody or supervised release as soon as they are eligible for such a transfer under section 3624(g) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 102(b) of this Act.

(8) The rates of recidivism among similarly classified prisoners to identify any unwarranted disparities, including disparities among similarly classified prisoners of different demographic groups, in such rates.

SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Of the amount appropriated under this subsection, 80 percent shall be reserved for use by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to implement the system under section 3621(h) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 102(a) of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS.—It is the sense of Congress that any savings associated with reductions in recidivism that result from this title should be reinvested—

(1) to supplement funding for programs that increase public safety by providing resources to State and local law enforcement

officials, including for the adoption of innovative technologies and information sharing capabilities;

(2) into evidence-based recidivism reduction programs offered by the Bureau of Prisons; and

(3) into ensuring eligible prisoners have access to such programs and productive activities offered by the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 105. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed to provide authority to place a prisoner in prerelease custody or supervised release who is serving a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for an offense under the laws of one of the 50 States, or of a territory or possession of the United States or to amend or affect the enforcement of the immigration laws, as defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

SEC. 106. FAITH-BASED CONSIDERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In considering any program, treatment, regimen, group, company, charity, person, or entity of any kind under any provision of this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, the fact that it may be or is faith-based may not be a basis for any discrimination against it in any manner or for any purpose.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR EARNED TIME CREDIT.—Participation in a faith-based program, treatment, or regimen may qualify a prisoner for earned time credit under subchapter D of chapter 229 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, however, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure that non-faith-based programs that qualify for earned time credit are offered at each Bureau of Prisons facility in addition to any such faith-based programs.

(c) LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES.—A group, company, charity, person, or entity may not engage in faith-based activities using direct financial assistance made available under this title or the amendments made by this title.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed to amend any requirement under Federal law or the Constitution of the United States regarding funding for faith-based programs or activities.

SEC. 107. INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall consult with an Independent Review Committee in carrying out the Attorney General's duties under sections 3631(b), 3632 and 3633 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act.

(b) FORMATION OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The National Institute of Justice shall select a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization with expertise in the study and development of risk and needs assessment tools to host the Independent Review Committee. The Independent Review Committee shall be established not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The organization selected by the National Institute of Justice shall appoint not fewer than 6 members to the Independent Review Committee.

(d) COMPOSITION OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The members of the Independent Review Committee shall all have expertise in risk and needs assessment systems and shall include—

(1) 2 individuals who have published peer-reviewed scholarship about risk and needs assessments in both corrections and community settings;

(2) 2 corrections practitioners who have developed and implemented a risk assessment tool in a corrections system or in a community supervision setting, including 1 with prior experience working within the Bureau of Prisons; and

(3) 1 individual with expertise in assessing risk assessment implementation.

(e) DUTIES OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The Independent Review Committee shall assist the Attorney General in carrying out the Attorney General's duties under sections 3631(b), 3632 and 3633 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, including by assisting in—

(1) conducting a review of the existing prisoner risk and needs assessment systems in operation on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) developing recommendations regarding evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities;

(3) conducting research and data analysis on—

(A) evidence-based recidivism reduction programs relating to the use of prisoner risk and needs assessment tools;

(B) the most effective and efficient uses of such programs; and

(C) which evidence-based recidivism reduction programs are the most effective at reducing recidivism, and the type, amount, and intensity of programming that most effectively reduces the risk of recidivism; and

(4) reviewing and validating the risk and needs assessment system.

(f) BUREAU OF PRISONS COOPERATION.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall assist the Independent Review Committee in performing the Committee's duties and promptly respond to requests from the Committee for access to Bureau of Prisons facilities, personnel, and information.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Independent Review Committee shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a list of all offenses of conviction for which prisoners were ineligible to receive time credits under section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, and for each offense the number of prisoners excluded, including demographic percentages by age, race, and sex;

(2) the criminal history categories of prisoners ineligible to receive time credits under section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, and for each category the number of prisoners excluded, including demographic percentages by age, race, and sex;

(3) the number of prisoners ineligible to apply time credits under section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, who do not participate in recidivism reduction programming or productive activities, including the demographic percentages by age, race, and sex;

(4) any recommendations for modifications to section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, and any other recommendations regarding recidivism reduction.

(h) TERMINATION.—The Independent Review Committee shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the risk and needs assessment system authorized by sections 3632 and 3633 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is released.

TITLE II—BUREAU OF PRISONS SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act of 2018''.

SEC. 202. SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 4050. Secure firearms storage

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'employee' means a qualified law enforcement officer employed by the Bureau of Prisons; and

''(2) the terms 'firearm' and 'qualified law enforcement officer' have the meanings given those terms under section 926B.

''(b) SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure that each chief executive officer of a Federal penal or correctional institution—

''(1)(A) provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the institution for employees to store firearms; or

''(B) allows employees to store firearms in a vehicle lockbox approved by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons; and

''(2) notwithstanding any other provision of law, allows employees to carry concealed firearms on the premises outside of the secure perimeter of the institution.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''4050. Secure firearms storage.''.

TITLE III—RESTRAINTS ON PREGNANT PRISONERS PROHIBITED

SEC. 301. USE OF RESTRAINTS ON PRISONERS DURING THE PERIOD OF PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM RECOVERY PROHIBITED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 317 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 4321 the following:

''§ 4322. Use of restraints on prisoners during the period of pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery prohibited

''(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), beginning on the date on which pregnancy is confirmed by a healthcare professional, and ending at the conclusion of postpartum recovery, a prisoner in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, or in the custody of the United States Marshals Service pursuant to section 4086, shall not be placed in restraints.

''(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply if—

''(A) an appropriate corrections official, or a United States marshal, as applicable, makes a determination that the prisoner—

''(i) is an immediate and credible flight risk that cannot reasonably be prevented by other means; or

''(ii) poses an immediate and serious threat of harm to herself or others that cannot reasonably be prevented by other means; or

''(B) a healthcare professional responsible for the health and safety of the prisoner determines that the use of restraints is appropriate for the medical safety of the prisoner.

''(2) LEAST RESTRICTIVE RESTRAINTS.—In the case that restraints are used pursuant to an exception under paragraph (1), only the least restrictive restraints necessary to prevent the harm or risk of escape described in paragraph (1) may be used.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The exceptions under paragraph (1) may not be applied—

''(i) to place restraints around the ankles, legs, or waist of a prisoner;

''(ii) to restrain a prisoner's hands behind her back;

''(iii) to restrain a prisoner using 4-point restraints; or

''(iv) to attach a prisoner to another prisoner.

''(B) MEDICAL REQUEST.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), upon the request of a healthcare professional who is responsible for the health and safety of a prisoner, a corrections official or United States marshal, as applicable, shall refrain from using restraints on the prisoner or shall remove restraints used on the prisoner.

''(c) REPORTS.—

''(1) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.—If a corrections official or United States marshal uses restraints on a prisoner under subsection (b)(1), that official or marshal shall submit, not later than 30 days after placing the prisoner in restraints, to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons or the Director of the United States Marshals Service, as applicable, and to the healthcare professional responsible for the health and safety of the prisoner, a written report that describes the facts and circumstances surrounding the use of restraints, and includes—

''(A) the reasoning upon which the determination to use restraints was made;

''(B) the details of the use of restraints, including the type of restraints used and length of time during which restraints were used; and

''(C) any resulting physical effects on the prisoner observed by or known to the corrections official or United States marshal, as applicable.

''(2) SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—Upon receipt of a report under paragraph (1), the healthcare professional responsible for the health and safety of the prisoner may submit to the Director such information as the healthcare professional determines is relevant to the use of restraints on the prisoner.

''(3) REPORT TO JUDICIARY COMMITTEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and the Director of the United States Marshals Service shall each submit to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and of the House of Representatives a report that certifies compliance with this section and includes the information required to be reported under paragraph (1).

''(B) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The report under this paragraph shall not contain any personally identifiable information of any prisoner.

''(d) NOTICE.—Not later than 48 hours after the confirmation of a prisoner's pregnancy by a healthcare professional, that prisoner shall be notified by an appropriate healthcare professional, corrections official, or United States marshal, as applicable, of the restrictions on the use of restraints under this section.

''(e) VIOLATION REPORTING PROCESS.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons, in consultation with the Director of the United States Marshals Service, shall establish a process through which a prisoner may report a violation of this section.

''(f) TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons and the Director of the United States Marshals Service shall each develop training guidelines regarding the use of restraints on female prisoners during the period of pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery, and shall incorporate such guidelines into appropriate training programs. Such training guidelines shall include—

''(A) how to identify certain symptoms of pregnancy that require immediate referral to a healthcare professional;

''(B) circumstances under which the exceptions under subsection (b) would apply;

''(C) in the case that an exception under subsection (b) applies, how to apply restraints in a way that does not harm the prisoner, the fetus, or the neonate;

''(D) the information required to be reported under subsection (c); and

''(E) the right of a healthcare professional to request that restraints not be used, and the requirement under subsection (b)(3)(B) to comply with such a request.

''(2) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.—In developing the guidelines required by paragraph (1), the Directors shall each consult with healthcare professionals with expertise in caring for women during the period of pregnancy and postpartum recovery.

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) POSTPARTUM RECOVERY.—The term 'postpartum recovery' means the 12-week period, or longer as determined by the healthcare professional responsible for the health and safety of the prisoner, following delivery, and shall include the entire period that the prisoner is in the hospital or infirmary.

''(2) PRISONER.—The term 'prisoner' means a person who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment pursuant to a conviction for a Federal criminal offense, or a person in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, including a person in a Bureau of Prisons contracted facility.

''(3) RESTRAINTS.—The term 'restraints' means any physical or mechanical device used to control the movement of a prisoner's body, limbs, or both.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 317 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 4321 the following:

''4322. Use of restraints on prisoners during the period of pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery prohibited.''.

TITLE IV—SENTENCING REFORM

SEC. 401. REDUCE AND RESTRICT ENHANCED SENTENCING FOR PRIOR DRUG FELONIES.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT AMENDMENTS.—The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102 (21 U.S.C. 802), by adding at the end the following:

''(57) The term 'serious drug felony' means an offense described in section 924(e)(2) of title 18, United States Code, for which—

''(A) the offender served a term of imprisonment of more than 12 months; and

''(B) the offender's release from any term of imprisonment was within 15 years of the commencement of the instant offense.

''(58) The term 'serious violent felony' means—

''(A) an offense described in section 3559(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, for which the offender served a term of imprisonment of more than 12 months; and

''(B) any offense that would be a felony violation of section 113 of title 18, United States Code, if the offense were committed in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, for which the offender served a term of imprisonment of more than 12 months.''; and

(2) in section 401(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1))—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter following clause (viii)—

(i) by striking ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a felony drug offense has become final, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment which may not be less than 20 years'' and inserting the following: ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years''; and

(ii) by striking ''after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final, such person shall be sentenced to a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release'' and inserting the following: ''after 2 or more prior convictions for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony have become final, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 25 years''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter following clause (viii), by striking ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a felony drug offense has become final'' and inserting the following: ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final''.

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter following subparagraph (H), by striking ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a felony drug offense has become final, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 20 years'' and inserting ''If any person commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final, such person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter following subparagraph (H), by striking ''felony drug offense'' and inserting ''serious drug felony or serious violent felony''.

(c) APPLICABILITY TO PENDING CASES.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any offense that was committed before the date of enactment of this Act, if a sentence for the offense has not been imposed as of such date of enactment.

SEC. 402. BROADENING OF EXISTING SAFETY VALVE.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 3553 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''or section 1010'' and inserting '', section 1010''; and

(ii) by inserting '', or section 70503 or 70506 of title 46'' after ''963)'';

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the defendant does not have—

''(A) more than 4 criminal history points, excluding any criminal history points resulting from a 1-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;

''(B) a prior 3-point offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines; and

''(C) a prior 2-point violent offense, as determined under the sentencing guidelines;''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''Information disclosed by a defendant under this subsection may not be used to enhance the sentence of the defendant unless the information relates to a violent offense.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DEFINITION OF VIOLENT OFFENSE.—As used in this section, the term 'violent offense' means a crime of violence, as defined in section 16, that is punishable by imprisonment.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply only to a conviction entered on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 403. CLARIFICATION OF SECTION 924(c) OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 924(c)(1)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''second or subsequent conviction under this subsection'' and inserting ''violation of this subsection that occurs after a prior conviction under this subsection has become final''.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO PENDING CASES.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any offense that was committed before the date of enactment of this Act, if a sentence for the offense has not been imposed as of such date of enactment.

SEC. 404. APPLICATION OF FAIR SENTENCING ACT.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED OFFENSE.—In this section, the term ''covered offense'' means a violation of a Federal criminal statute, the statutory penalties for which were modified by section 2 or 3 of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–220; 124 Stat. 2372), that was committed before August 3, 2010.

(b) DEFENDANTS PREVIOUSLY SENTENCED.—A court that imposed a sentence for a covered offense may, on motion of the defendant, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, the attorney for the Government, or the court, impose a reduced sentence as if sections 2 and 3 of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–220; 124 Stat. 2372) were in effect at the time the covered offense was committed.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—No court shall entertain a motion made under this section to reduce a sentence if the sentence was previously imposed or previously reduced in accordance with the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–220; 124 Stat. 2372) or if a previous motion made under this section to reduce the sentence was, after the date of enactment of this Act, denied after a complete review of the motion on the merits. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a court to reduce any sentence pursuant to this section.

TITLE V—SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007 REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018''.

SEC. 502. IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE OFFENDER STATE AND LOCAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney General shall make grants to States, local governments, territories, or Indian tribes, or any combination thereof (in this section referred to as an 'eligible entity'), in partnership with interested persons (including Federal corrections and supervision agencies), service providers, and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of strategic planning and implementation of adult and juvenile offender reentry projects.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or reentry courts,'' after ''community,'';

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) promoting employment opportunities consistent with the Transitional Jobs strategy (as defined in section 4 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60502)).''; and

(3) by striking subsections (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

''(d) COMBINED GRANT APPLICATION; PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall develop a procedure to allow applicants to submit a single application for a planning grant under subsection (e) and an implementation grant under subsection (f).

''(2) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.—The Attorney General shall give priority consideration to grant applications under subsections (e) and (f) that include a commitment by the applicant to partner with a local evaluator to identify and analyze data that will—

''(A) enable the grantee to target the intended offender population; and

''(B) serve as a baseline for purposes of the evaluation.

''(e) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Attorney General may make a grant to an eligible entity of not more than $75,000 to develop a strategic, collaborative plan for an adult or juvenile offender reentry demonstration project as described in subsection (h) that includes—

''(A) a budget and a budget justification;

''(B) a description of the outcome measures that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the program in promoting public safety and public health;

''(C) the activities proposed;

''(D) a schedule for completion of the activities described in subparagraph (C); and

''(E) a description of the personnel necessary to complete the activities described in subparagraph (C).

''(2) MAXIMUM TOTAL GRANTS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—

''(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Attorney General may not make initial planning grants and implementation grants to 1 eligible entity in a total amount that is more than a $1,000,000.

''(B) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Attorney General shall make every effort to ensure equitable geographic distribution of grants under this section and take into consideration the needs of underserved populations, including rural and tribal communities.

''(3) PERIOD OF GRANT.—A planning grant made under this subsection shall be for a period of not longer than 1 year, beginning on the first day of the month in which the planning grant is made.

''(f) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

''(1) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring an implementation grant under this subsection shall submit to the Attorney General an application that—

''(A) contains a reentry strategic plan as described in subsection (h), which describes the long-term strategy and incorporates a detailed implementation schedule, including the plans of the applicant to fund the program after Federal funding is discontinued;

''(B) identifies the local government role and the role of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that will be coordinated by, and that will collaborate on, the offender reentry strategy of the applicant, and certifies the involvement of such agencies and organizations;

''(C) describes the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program funded with a grant under this subsection, and specifically explains how such measurements will provide valid measures of the impact of that program; and

''(D) describes how the project could be broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Attorney General may make a grant to an applicant under this subsection only if the application—

''(A) reflects explicit support of the chief executive officer, or their designee, of the State, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe applying for a grant under this subsection;

''(B) provides discussion of the role of Federal corrections, State corrections departments, community corrections agencies, juvenile justice systems, and tribal or local jail systems in ensuring successful reentry of offenders into their communities;

''(C) provides evidence of collaboration with State, local, or tribal government agencies overseeing health, housing, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, and employment services, and with local law enforcement agencies;

''(D) provides a plan for analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of offenders into the community;

''(E) includes the use of a State, local, territorial, or tribal task force, described in subsection (i), to carry out the activities funded under the grant;

''(F) provides a plan for continued collaboration with a local evaluator as necessary to meeting the requirements under subsection (h); and

''(G) demonstrates that the applicant participated in the planning grant process or engaged in comparable planning for the reentry project.

''(3) PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—The Attorney General shall give priority to grant applications under this subsection that best—

''(A) focus initiative on geographic areas with a disproportionate population of offenders released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

''(B) include—

''(i) input from nonprofit organizations, in any case where relevant input is available and appropriate to the grant application;

''(ii) consultation with crime victims and offenders who are released from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

''(iii) coordination with families of offenders;

''(iv) input, where appropriate, from the juvenile justice coordinating council of the region;

''(v) input, where appropriate, from the reentry coordinating council of the region; or

''(vi) input, where appropriate, from other interested persons;

''(C) demonstrate effective case assessment and management abilities in order to provide comprehensive and continuous reentry, including—

''(i) planning for prerelease transitional housing and community release that begins upon admission for juveniles and jail inmates, and, as appropriate, for prison inmates, depending on the length of the sentence;

''(ii) establishing prerelease planning procedures to ensure that the eligibility of an offender for Federal, tribal, or State benefits upon release is established prior to release, subject to any limitations in law, and to ensure that offenders obtain all necessary referrals for reentry services, including assistance identifying and securing suitable housing; or

''(iii) delivery of continuous and appropriate mental health services, drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, vocational services, and any other service or support needed for reentry;

''(D) review the process by which the applicant adjudicates violations of parole, probation, or supervision following release from prison, jail, or a juvenile facility, taking into account public safety and the use of graduated, community-based sanctions for minor and technical violations of parole,

probation, or supervision (specifically those violations that are not otherwise, and independently, a violation of law);

''(E) provide for an independent evaluation of reentry programs that include, to the maximum extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs;

''(F) target moderate and high-risk offenders for reentry programs through validated assessment tools; or

''(G) target offenders with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness, including a prerelease assessment of the housing status of the offender and behavioral health needs of the offender with clear coordination with mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness services systems to achieve stable and permanent housing outcomes with appropriate support service.

''(4) PERIOD OF GRANT.—A grant made under this subsection shall be effective for a 2-year period—

''(A) beginning on the date on which the planning grant awarded under subsection (e) concludes; or

''(B) in the case of an implementation grant awarded to an eligible entity that did not receive a planning grant, beginning on the date on which the implementation grant is awarded.'';

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving financial assistance under subsection (f), each application shall develop a comprehensive reentry strategic plan that—

''(A) contains a plan to assess inmate reentry needs and measurable annual and 3-year performance outcomes;

''(B) uses, to the maximum extent possible, randomly assigned and controlled studies, or rigorous quasi-experimental studies with matched comparison groups, to determine the effectiveness of the program funded with a grant under subsection (f); and

''(C) includes as a goal of the plan to reduce the rate of recidivism for offenders released from prison, jail or a juvenile facility with funds made available under subsection (f).

''(2) LOCAL EVALUATOR.—A partnership with a local evaluator described in subsection (d)(2) shall require the local evaluator to use the baseline data and target population characteristics developed under a subsection (e) planning grant to derive a target goal for recidivism reduction during the 3-year period beginning on the date of implementation of the program.'';

(5) in subsection (i)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''under this section'' and inserting ''under subsection (f)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (e)(4)'' and inserting ''subsection (f)(2)(D)'';

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''for an implementation grant under subsection (f)'' after ''applicant'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting '', where appropriate'' after ''support''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), and inserting the following:

''(F) increased number of staff trained to administer reentry services;

''(G) increased proportion of individuals served by the program among those eligible to receive services;

''(H) increased number of individuals receiving risk screening needs assessment, and case planning services;

''(I) increased enrollment in, and completion of treatment services, including substance abuse and mental health services among those assessed as needing such services;

''(J) increased enrollment in and degrees earned from educational programs, including high school, GED, vocational training, and college education;

''(K) increased number of individuals obtaining and retaining employment;

''(L) increased number of individuals obtaining and maintaining housing;

''(M) increased self-reports of successful community living, including stability of living situation and positive family relationships;

''(N) reduction in drug and alcohol use; and

''(O) reduction in recidivism rates for individuals receiving reentry services after release, as compared to either baseline recidivism rates in the jurisdiction of the grantee or recidivism rates of the control or comparison group.'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''facilities.'' and inserting ''facilities, including a cost-benefit analysis to determine the cost effectiveness of the reentry program.'';

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subsection (f)''; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(7) in subsection (k)(1), by striking ''this section'' each place the term appears and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(8) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''beginning on the date on which the most recent implementation grant is made to the grantee under subsection (f)'' after ''2-year period''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''over a 2-year period'' and inserting ''during the 2-year period described in paragraph (2)'';

(9) in subsection (o)(1), by striking ''appropriated'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''appropriated $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.''; and

(10) by adding at the end the following:

''(p) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'reentry court' means a program that—

''(1) monitors juvenile and adult eligible offenders reentering the community;

''(2) provides continual judicial supervision;

''(3) provides juvenile and adult eligible offenders reentering the community with coordinated and comprehensive reentry services and programs, such as—

''(A) drug and alcohol testing and assessment for treatment;

''(B) assessment for substance abuse from a substance abuse professional who is approved by the State or Indian tribe and licensed by the appropriate entity to provide alcohol and drug addiction treatment, as appropriate;

''(C) substance abuse treatment, including medication-assisted treatment, from a provider that is approved by the State or Indian tribe, and licensed, if necessary, to provide medical and other health services;

''(D) health (including mental health) services and assessment;

''(E) aftercare and case management services that—

''(i) facilitate access to clinical care and related health services; and

''(ii) coordinate with such clinical care and related health services; and

''(F) any other services needed for reentry;

''(4) convenes community impact panels, victim impact panels, or victim impact educational classes;

''(5) provides and coordinates the delivery of community services to juvenile and adult eligible offenders, including—

''(A) housing assistance;

''(B) education;

''(C) job training;

''(D) conflict resolution skills training;

''(E) batterer intervention programs; and

''(F) other appropriate social services; and

''(6) establishes and implements graduated sanctions and incentives.''.

(b) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Part DD of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10591 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2921 (34 U.S.C. 10591), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''nonprofit organizations,'' before ''and Indian'';

(2) in section 2923 (34 U.S.C. 10593), by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—The Attorney General shall give priority consideration to grant applications for grants under section 2921 that are submitted by a nonprofit organization that demonstrates a relationship with State and local criminal justice agencies, including—

''(1) within the judiciary and prosecutorial agencies; or

''(2) with the local corrections agencies, which shall be documented by a written agreement that details the terms of access to facilities and participants and provides information on the history of the organization of working with correctional populations.''; and

(3) by striking section 2926(a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the second part designated as part JJ, as added by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 677), relating to grants to evaluate and improve educational methods at prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''PART NN—GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES

''SEC. 3041. GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.

''(a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may carry out a grant program under which the Attorney General may make grants to States, units of local government, territories, Indian Tribes, and other public and private entities to—

''(1) evaluate methods to improve academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities;

''(2) identify, and make recommendations to the Attorney General regarding, best practices relating to academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, based on the evaluation under paragraph (1);

''(3) improve the academic and vocational education programs (including technology career training) available to offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities; and

''(4) implement methods to improve academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities consistent with the best practices identified in subsection (c).

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under this part, a State or other entity described in subsection (a) shall submit to the Attorney General an application in such

form and manner, at such time, and accompanied by such information as the Attorney General specifies.

''(c) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018, the Attorney General shall identify and publish best practices relating to academic and vocational education for offenders in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. The best practices shall consider the evaluations performed and recommendations made under grants made under subsection (a) before the date of enactment of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018.

''(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of the final fiscal year of a grant under this part, each entity described in subsection (a) receiving such a grant shall submit to the Attorney General a detailed report of the progress made by the entity using such grant, to permit the Attorney General to evaluate and improve academic and vocational education methods carried out with grants under this part.''; and

(3) in section 1001(a) of part J of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)), by adding at the end the following:

''(28) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 3031(a)(4) of part NN $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.''.

(d) CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**TECHNOLOGY CAREERS**'' and inserting ''**CAREERS**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''and Indian'' and inserting ''nonprofit organizations, and Indian''; and

(B) by striking ''technology career training to prisoners'' and inserting ''career training, including subsidized employment, when part of a training program, to prisoners and reentering youth and adults'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''technology careers training'';

(B) by striking ''technology-based''; and

(C) by inserting '', as well as upon transition and reentry into the community'' after ''facility'';

(4) by striking subsection (e);

(5) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(6) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.—Priority consideration shall be given to any application under this section that—

''(1) provides assessment of local demand for employees in the geographic areas to which offenders are likely to return;

''(2) conducts individualized reentry career planning upon the start of incarceration or post-release employment planning for each offender served under the grant;

''(3) demonstrates connections to employers within the local community; or

''(4) tracks and monitors employment outcomes.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.''.

(e) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60521(f)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.''.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 211 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531) is amended—

(A) in the header, by striking ''**MENTORING GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**'' and inserting ''**COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**'';

(B) in subsection (a), by striking ''mentoring and other'';

(C) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) transitional services to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community, including—

''(A) educational, literacy, and vocational, services and the Transitional Jobs strategy;

''(B) substance abuse treatment and services;

''(C) coordinated supervision and services for offenders, including physical health care and comprehensive housing and mental health care;

''(D) family services; and

''(E) validated assessment tools to assess the risk factors of returning inmates; and''; and

(D) in subsection (f), by striking ''this section'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 657) is amended by striking the item relating to section 211 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 211. Community-based mentoring and transitional service grants.''.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60502) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act—

''(1) the term 'exoneree' means an individual who—

''(A) has been convicted of a Federal, tribal, or State offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

''(B) has served a term of imprisonment for not less than 6 months in a Federal, tribal, or State prison or correctional facility as a result of the conviction described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) has been determined to be factually innocent of the offense described in subparagraph (A);

''(2) the term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251);

''(3) the term 'offender' includes an exoneree; and

''(4) the term 'Transitional Jobs strategy' means an employment strategy for youth and adults who are chronically unemployed or those that have barriers to employment that—

''(A) is conducted by State, tribal, and local governments, State, tribal, and local workforce boards, and nonprofit organizations;

''(B) provides time-limited employment using individual placements, team placements, and social enterprise placements, without displacing existing employees;

''(C) pays wages in accordance with applicable law, but in no event less than the higher of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the applicable State or local minimum wage law, which are subsidized, in whole or in part, by public funds;

''(D) combines time-limited employment with activities that promote skill development, remove barriers to employment, and lead to unsubsidized employment such as a thorough orientation and individual assessment, job readiness and life skills training, case management and supportive services, adult education and training, child support-related services, job retention support and incentives, and other similar activities;

''(E) places participants into unsubsidized employment; and

''(F) provides job retention, re-employment services, and continuing and vocational education to ensure continuing participation in unsubsidized employment and identification of opportunities for advancement.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199; 122 Stat. 657) is amended by striking the item relating to section 4 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 4. Definitions.''.

(h) EXTENSION OF THE LENGTH OF SECTION 2976 GRANTS.—Section 6(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60504(1)) is amended by inserting ''or under section 2976 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631)'' after ''and 212''.

SEC. 503. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GRANTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''covered grant program'' means grants awarded under section 115, 201, or 211 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511, 60521, and 60531), as amended by this title;

(2) the term ''covered grantee'' means a recipient of a grant from a covered grant program;

(3) the term ''nonprofit'', when used with respect to an organization, means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; and

(4) the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means an audit report finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that a covered grantee has used grant funds awarded to that grantee under a covered grant program for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during a 12-month period prior to the date on which the final audit report is issued.

(b) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2019, and annually thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of covered grantees to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds awarded under covered grant programs. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of covered grantees to be audited each year.

(c) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A grantee that is found to have an unresolved audit finding under an audit conducted under subsection (b) may not receive grant funds under a covered grant program in the fiscal year following the fiscal year to which the finding relates.

(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—If a covered grantee is awarded funds under the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during the 1-fiscal-year period during which the covered grantee is ineligible for an allocation of grant funds under subsection (c), the Attorney General shall—

(1) deposit into the General Fund of the Treasury an amount that is equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the covered grantee; and

(2) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the Fund from the covered grantee that was improperly awarded the grant funds.

(e) PRIORITY OF GRANT AWARDS.—The Attorney General, in awarding grants under a covered grant program shall give priority to eligible entities that during the 2-year period preceding the application for a grant have not been found to have an unresolved audit finding.

(f) NONPROFIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—A nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, shall not be eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, any funds from a covered grant program.

(2) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is a covered grantee shall disclose in its application for such a grant, as a condition of receipt of such a grant, the compensation of its officers, directors, and trustees. Such disclosure shall include a description of the criteria relied on to determine such compensation.

(g) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available under a covered grant program may not be used by any covered grantee to—

(A) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(B) lobby any representative of the Federal Government or a State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(2) PENALTY.—If the Attorney General determines that a covered grantee has violated paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) require the covered grantee to repay the grant in full; and

(B) prohibit the covered grantee from receiving a grant under the covered grant program from which it received a grant award during at least the 5-year period beginning on the date of such violation.

SEC. 504. FEDERAL REENTRY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) RESPONSIBLE REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS.—Section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60532) is repealed.

(b) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE.—Section 231 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (434 U.S.C. 60541) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''carried out during fiscal years 2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''carried out during fiscal years 2019 through 2023''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(A)(ii), by striking ''the greater of 10 years or'';

(2) by striking subsection (h);

(3) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h); and

(4) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by striking ''2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''2019 through 2023''.

(c) ENHANCING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.—Section 3624(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), in the second sentence, by inserting '', and number of prisoners not being placed in community corrections facilities for each reason set forth'' before '', and any other information''; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking ''the Second Chance Act of 2007'' and inserting ''the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018''.

(d) TERMINATION OF STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF DEPOT NALTREXONE FOR HEROIN ADDICTION.—Section 244 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60554) is repealed.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH.—Section 245 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60555) is amended—

(1) by striking ''243, and 244'' and inserting ''and 243''; and

(2) by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023''.

(f) FEDERAL PRISONER RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMMING ENHANCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3621 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 102(a) of this Act, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO REENTRY PROGRAMS PROVEN TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—The term 'demonstrated to reduce recidivism' means that the Director of Bureau of Prisons has determined that appropriate research has been conducted and has validated the effectiveness of the type of program on recidivism.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP.—A faith-based or community-based nonprofit organization that provides mentoring or other programs that have been demonstrated to reduce recidivism is eligible to enter into a recidivism reduction partnership with a prison or community-based facility operated by the Bureau of Prisons.

''(3) RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall develop policies to require wardens of prisons and community-based facilities to enter into recidivism reduction partnerships with faith-based and community-based nonprofit organizations that are willing to provide, on a volunteer basis, programs described in paragraph (2).

''(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to Congress an annual report on the last day of each fiscal year that—

''(A) details, for each prison and community-based facility for the fiscal year just ended—

''(i) the number of recidivism reduction partnerships under this section that were in effect;

''(ii) the number of volunteers that provided recidivism reduction programming; and

''(iii) the number of recidivism reduction programming hours provided; and

''(B) explains any disparities between facilities in the numbers reported under subparagraph (A).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) REPEALS.—

(1) Section 2978 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10633) is repealed.

(2) Part CC of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10581 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 505. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY REENTRY COORDINATION.

(a) REENTRY COORDINATION.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the heads of such other agencies of the Federal Government as the Attorney General considers appropriate, and in collaboration with interested persons, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and State, tribal, and local governments, shall coordinate on Federal programs, policies, and activities relating to the reentry of individuals returning from incarceration to the community, with an emphasis on evidence-based practices and protection against duplication of services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretaries listed in subsection (a), shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the achievements under subsection (a), and including recommendations for Congress that would further reduce barriers to successful reentry.

SEC. 506. CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.

(a) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this title, or any amendments made by this title, may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds under this title, or any amendments made by this title, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference. A conference that uses more than $20,000 in such funds, but less than an average of $500 in such funds for each attendee of the conference, shall not be subject to the limitations of this section.

(b) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subsection (a) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(c) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this section.

SEC. 507. EVALUATION OF THE SECOND CHANCE ACT PROGRAM.

(a) EVALUATION OF THE SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT PROGRAM.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Justice shall evaluate the effectiveness of grants used by the Department of Justice to support offender reentry and recidivism reduction programs at the State, local, Tribal, and Federal levels. The National Institute of Justice shall evaluate the following:

(1) The effectiveness of such programs in relation to their cost, including the extent to which the programs improve reentry outcomes, including employment, education, housing, reductions in recidivism, of participants in comparison to comparably situated individuals who did not participate in such programs and activities.

(2) The effectiveness of program structures and mechanisms for delivery of services.

(3) The impact of such programs on the communities and participants involved.

(4) The impact of such programs on related programs and activities.

(5) The extent to which such programs meet the needs of various demographic groups.

(6) The quality and effectiveness of technical assistance provided by the Department of Justice to grantees for implementing such programs.

(7) Such other factors as may be appropriate.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR EVALUATION.—Not more than 1 percent of any amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Second Chance Act grant program shall be made available to the National Institute of Justice each year to evaluate the processes, implementation, outcomes, costs, and effectiveness of the Second Chance Act grant program in improving reentry and reducing recidivism. Such funding may be used to provide support to grantees for supplemental data collection, analysis, and coordination associated with evaluation activities.

(c) TECHNIQUES.—Evaluations conducted under this section shall use appropriate methodology and research designs. Impact evaluations conducted under this section shall include the use of intervention and control groups chosen by random assignment methods, to the extent possible.

(d) METRICS AND OUTCOMES FOR EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Justice shall consult with relevant stakeholders and identify outcome measures, including employment, housing, education, and public safety, that are to be achieved by programs authorized under the Second Chance Act grant program and the metrics by which the achievement of such outcomes shall be determined.

(2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the National Institute of Justice identifies metrics and outcomes under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall publish such metrics and outcomes identified.

(e) DATA COLLECTION.—As a condition of award under the Second Chance Act grant program (including a subaward under section 3021(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10701(b))), grantees shall be required to collect and report to the Department of Justice data based upon the metrics identified under subsection (d). In accordance with applicable law, collection of individual-level data under a pledge of confidentiality shall be protected by the National Institute of Justice in accordance with such pledge.

(f) DATA ACCESSIBILITY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Justice shall—

(1) make data collected during the course of evaluation under this section available in de-identified form in such a manner that reasonably protects a pledge of confidentiality to participants under subsection (e); and

(2) make identifiable data collected during the course of evaluation under this section available to qualified researchers for future research and evaluation, in accordance with applicable law.

(g) PUBLICATION AND REPORTING OF EVALUATION FINDINGS.—The National Institute of Justice shall—

(1) not later than 365 days after the date on which the enrollment of participants in an impact evaluation is completed, publish an interim report on such evaluation;

(2) not later than 90 days after the date on which any evaluation is completed, publish and make publicly available such evaluation; and

(3) not later than 60 days after the completion date described in paragraph (2), submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate on such evaluation.

(h) SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Second Chance Act grant program'' means any grant program reauthorized under this title and the amendments made by this title.

SEC. 508. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the First Step Act of 2018 the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of all of the grant awards made under this title and amendments made by this title that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the reentry programs funded by grant awards under this title and amendments made by this title at reducing recidivism, including a determination of which reentry programs were most effective;

(2) recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of reentry programs, including those for which prisoners may earn time credits under the First Step Act of 2018; and

(3) an evaluation of the effectiveness of mental health services, drug treatment, medical care, job training and placement, educational services, and vocational services programs funded under this title and amendments made by this title.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEC. 601. PLACEMENT OF PRISONERS CLOSE TO FAMILIES.

Section 3621(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''shall designate the place of the prisoner's imprisonment.'' and inserting ''shall designate the place of the prisoner's imprisonment, and shall, subject to bed availability, the prisoner's security designation, the prisoner's programmatic needs, the prisoner's mental and medical health needs, any request made by the prisoner related to faith-based needs, recommendations of the sentencing court, and other security concerns of the Bureau of Prisons, place the prisoner in a facility as close as practicable to the prisoner's primary residence, and to the extent practicable, in a facility within 500 driving miles of that residence. The Bureau shall, subject to consideration of the factors described in the preceding sentence and the prisoner's preference for staying at his or her current facility or being transferred, transfer prisoners to facilities that are closer to the prisoner's primary residence even if the prisoner is already in a facility within 500 driving miles of that residence.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a designation of a place of imprisonment under this subsection is not reviewable by any court.''.

SEC. 602. HOME CONFINEMENT FOR LOW-RISK PRISONERS.

Section 3624(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The Bureau of Prisons shall, to the extent practicable, place prisoners with lower risk levels and lower needs on home confinement for the maximum amount of time permitted under this paragraph.''.

SEC. 603. FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION; MODIFICATION OF IMPOSED TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.

(a) FEDERAL PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 231(g) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ''and eligible terminally ill offenders'' after ''elderly offenders'' each place the term appears;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''a Bureau of Prisons facility'' and inserting ''Bureau of Prisons facilities'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''the Bureau of Prisons facility'' and inserting ''Bureau of Prisons facilities''; and

(ii) by inserting '', upon written request from either the Bureau of Prisons or an eligible elderly offender or eligible terminally ill offender'' after ''to home detention''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''the Bureau of Prisons facility'' and inserting ''Bureau of Prisons facilities'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or eligible terminally ill offender'' after ''elderly offender'';

(3) in paragraph (3), as amended by section 504(b)(1)(A) of this Act, by striking ''at least one Bureau of Prisons facility'' and inserting ''Bureau of Prisons facilities''; and

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''or eligible terminally ill offender'' after ''each eligible elderly offender''; and

(B) by inserting ''and eligible terminally ill offenders'' after ''eligible elderly offenders''; and

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), striking ''65 years of age'' and inserting ''60 years of age''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), as amended by section 504(b)(1)(B) of this Act, by striking ''75 percent'' and inserting ''⅔''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) ELIGIBLE TERMINALLY ILL OFFENDER.—The term 'eligible terminally ill offender' means an offender in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons who—

''(i) is serving a term of imprisonment based on conviction for an offense or offenses that do not include any crime of violence (as defined in section 16(a) of title 18, United States Code), sex offense (as defined in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))), offense described in section 2332b(g)(5)(B) of title 18, United States Code, or offense under chapter 37 of title 18, United States Code;

''(ii) satisfies the criteria specified in clauses (iii) through (vii) of subparagraph (A); and

''(iii) has been determined by a medical doctor approved by the Bureau of Prisons to be—

''(I) in need of care at a nursing home, intermediate care facility, or assisted living facility, as those terms are defined in section 232 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715w); or

''(II) diagnosed with a terminal illness.''.

(b) INCREASING THE USE AND TRANSPARENCY OF COMPASSIONATE RELEASE.—Section 3582 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting after ''Bureau of Prisons,'' the following: ''or upon motion of the defendant after the defendant has fully exhausted all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant's behalf or the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the defendant's facility, whichever is earlier,'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) TERMINAL ILLNESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'terminal illness' means a disease or condition with an end-of-life trajectory.

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—The Bureau of Prisons shall, subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements—

''(A) in the case of a defendant diagnosed with a terminal illness—

''(i) not later than 72 hours after the diagnosis notify the defendant's attorney, partner, and family members of the defendant's condition and inform the defendant's attorney, partner, and family members that they may prepare and submit on the defendant's behalf a request for a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A);

''(ii) not later than 7 days after the date of the diagnosis, provide the defendant's partner and family members (including extended family) with an opportunity to visit the defendant in person;

''(iii) upon request from the defendant or his attorney, partner, or a family member, ensure that Bureau of Prisons employees assist the defendant in the preparation, drafting, and submission of a request for a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A); and

''(iv) not later than 14 days of receipt of a request for a sentence reduction submitted on the defendant's behalf by the defendant or the defendant's attorney, partner, or family member, process the request;

''(B) in the case of a defendant who is physically or mentally unable to submit a request for a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A)—

''(i) inform the defendant's attorney, partner, and family members that they may prepare and submit on the defendant's behalf a request for a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A);

''(ii) accept and process a request for sentence reduction that has been prepared and submitted on the defendant's behalf by the defendant's attorney, partner, or family member under clause (i); and

''(iii) upon request from the defendant or his attorney, partner, or family member, ensure that Bureau of Prisons employees assist the defendant in the preparation, drafting, and submission of a request for a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A); and

''(C) ensure that all Bureau of Prisons facilities regularly and visibly post, including in prisoner handbooks, staff training materials, and facility law libraries and medical and hospice facilities, and make available to prisoners upon demand, notice of—

''(i) a defendant's ability to request a sentence reduction pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A);

''(ii) the procedures and timelines for initiating and resolving requests described in clause (i); and

''(iii) the right to appeal a denial of a request described in clause (i) after all administrative rights to appeal within the Bureau of Prisons have been exhausted.

''(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and once every year thereafter, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on requests for sentence reductions pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A), which shall include a description of, for the previous year—

''(A) the number of prisoners granted and denied sentence reductions, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(B) the number of requests initiated by or on behalf of prisoners, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(C) the number of requests that Bureau of Prisons employees assisted prisoners in drafting, preparing, or submitting, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence, and the final decision made in each request;

''(D) the number of requests that attorneys, partners, or family members submitted on a defendant's behalf, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence, and the final decision made in each request;

''(E) the number of requests approved by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(F) the number of requests denied by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and the reasons given for each denial, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(G) for each request, the time elapsed between the date the request was received by the warden and the final decision, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(H) for each request, the number of prisoners who died while their request was pending and, for each, the amount of time that had elapsed between the date the request was received by the Bureau of Prisons, categorized by the criteria relied on as the grounds for a reduction in sentence;

''(I) the number of Bureau of Prisons notifications to attorneys, partners, and family members of their right to visit a terminally ill defendant as required under paragraph (2)(A)(ii) and, for each, whether a visit occurred and how much time elapsed between the notification and the visit;

''(J) the number of visits to terminally ill prisoners that were denied by the Bureau of Prisons due to security or other concerns, and the reasons given for each denial; and

''(K) the number of motions filed by defendants with the court after all administrative rights to appeal a denial of a sentence reduction had been exhausted, the outcome of each motion, and the time that had elapsed between the date the request was first received by the Bureau of Prisons and the date the defendant filed the motion with the court.''.

SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION FOR RETURNING CITIZENS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION AND RELEASE ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS.—Section 231(b) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(including'' and inserting ''prior to release from a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison or if the individual was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison, prior to release from a sentence to a term in community confinement, including''; and

(B) by striking ''or birth certificate) prior to release'' and inserting ''and a birth certificate''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'community confinement' means residence in a community treatment center, halfway house, restitution center, mental health facility, alcohol or drug rehabilitation center, or other community facility.''.

(b) DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—Section 4042(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (D) and (E) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''Social Security Cards,''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) obtain identification, including a social security card, driver's license or other official photo identification, and a birth certificate; and'';

(D) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by inserting after ''prior to release'' the following: ''from a sentence to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison or if the individual was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a Federal prison, prior to release from a sentence to a term of community confinement''; and

(E) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) (as so amended) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

(3) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by redesignating clauses (i) through (vii) as subparagraphs (A) through (G), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly.

SEC. 605. EXPANDING INMATE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES.

(a) NEW MARKET AUTHORIZATIONS.—Chapter 307 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 4129 the following:

''§ 4130. Additional markets

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), notwithstanding any other provision of law, Federal Prison Industries may sell products to—

''(1) public entities for use in penal or correctional institutions;

''(2) public entities for use in disaster relief or emergency response;

''(3) the government of the District of Columbia; and

''(4) any organization described in subsection (c)(3), (c)(4), or (d) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

''(b) OFFICE FURNITURE.—Federal Prison Industries may not sell office furniture to the organizations described in subsection (a)(4).

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'office furniture' means any product or service offering intended to meet the furnishing needs of the workplace, including office, healthcare, educational, and hospitality environments.

''(2) The term 'public entity' means a State, a subdivision of a State, an Indian tribe, and an agency or governmental corporation or business of any of the foregoing.

''(3) The term 'State' means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 307 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4129 the following:

''4130. Additional markets.''.

(c) DEFERRED COMPENSATION.—Section 4126(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''operations,'' the following: ''not less than 15 percent of such compensation for any inmate shall be reserved in the fund or a separate account and made available to assist the inmate with costs associated with release from prison,''.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of Federal Prison Industries that includes the following:

(1) An evaluation of Federal Prison Industries's effectiveness in reducing recidivism compared to other rehabilitative programs in the prison system.

(2) An evaluation of the scope and size of the additional markets made available to Federal Prison Industries under this section and the total market value that would be opened up to Federal Prison Industries for competition with private sector providers of products and services.

(3) An evaluation of whether the following factors create an unfair competitive environment between Federal Prison Industries and private sector providers of products and services which would be exacerbated by further expansion:

(A) Federal Prison Industries's status as a mandatory source of supply for Federal agencies and the requirement that the buying agency must obtain a waiver in order to make a competitive purchase from the private sector if the item to be acquired is listed on the schedule of products and services published by Federal Prison Industries.

(B) Federal Prison Industries's ability to determine that the price to be paid by Federal Agencies is fair and reasonable, rather than such a determination being made by the buying agency.

(C) An examination of the extent to which Federal Prison Industries is bound by the requirements of the generally applicable Federal Acquisition Regulation pertaining to the conformity of the delivered product with the specified design and performance specifications and adherence to the delivery schedule required by the Federal agency, based on the transactions being categorized as interagency transfers.

(D) An examination of the extent to which Federal Prison Industries avoids transactions that are little more than pass through transactions where the work provided by inmates does not create meaningful value or meaningful work opportunities for inmates.

(E) The extent to which Federal Prison Industries must comply with the same worker protection, workplace safety and similar regulations applicable to, and enforceable against, Federal contractors.

(F) The wages Federal Prison Industries pays to inmates, taking into account inmate productivity and other factors such as security concerns associated with having a facility in a prison.

(G) The effect of any additional cost advantages Federal Prison Industries has over private sector providers of goods and services, including—

(i) the costs absorbed by the Bureau of Prisons such as inmate medical care and infrastructure expenses including real estate and utilities; and

(ii) its exemption from Federal and State income taxes and property taxes.

(4) An evaluation of the extent to which the customers of Federal Prison Industries are satisfied with quality, price, and timely delivery of the products and services provided it provides, including summaries of other independent assessments such as reports of agency inspectors general, if applicable.

SEC. 606. DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.

Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall incorporate into training programs provided to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons (including officers and employees of an organization with which the Bureau of Prisons has a contract to provide services relating to imprisonment) specialized and comprehensive training in procedures to—

(1) de-escalate encounters between a law enforcement officer or an officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons, and a civilian or a prisoner (as such term is defined in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act); and

(2) identify and appropriately respond to incidents that involve the unique needs of individuals who have a mental illness or cognitive deficit.

SEC. 607. EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT FOR OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE.

(a) REPORT ON EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT FOR OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives a report assessing the availability of and the capacity of the Bureau of Prisons to treat heroin and opioid abuse through evidence-based programs, including medication-assisted treatment where appropriate. In preparing the report, the Director shall consider medication-assisted treatment as a strategy to assist in treatment where appropriate and not as a replacement for holistic and other drug-free approaches. The report shall include a description of plans to expand access to evidence-based treatment for heroin and opioid abuse for prisoners, including access to medication-assisted treatment in appropriate cases. Following submission, the Director shall take steps to implement these plans.

(b) REPORT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE, AND IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives a report assessing the availability of and capacity for the provision of medication-assisted treatment for opioid and heroin abuse by treatment service providers serving prisoners who are serving a term of supervised release, and including a description of plans to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for heroin and opioid abuse whenever appropriate among prisoners under supervised release. Following submission, the Director will take steps to implement these plans.

SEC. 608. PILOT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of Prisons shall establish each of the following pilot programs for 5 years, in at least 20 facilities:

(1) MENTORSHIP FOR YOUTH.—A program to pair youth with volunteers from faith-based or community organizations, which may include formerly incarcerated offenders, that have relevant experience or expertise in mentoring, and a willingness to serve as a mentor in such a capacity.

(2) SERVICE TO ABANDONED, RESCUED, OR OTHERWISE VULNERABLE ANIMALS.—A program to equip prisoners with the skills to provide training and therapy to animals seized by Federal law enforcement under asset forfeiture authority and to organizations that provide shelter and similar services to abandoned, rescued, or otherwise vulnerable animals.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot programs, the Attorney General shall report to Congress on the results of the pilot programs under this section. Such report shall include cost savings, numbers of participants, and information about recidivism rates among participants.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this title, the term ''youth'' means a prisoner (as such term is defined in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act) who was 21 years of age or younger at the time of the commission or alleged commission of the criminal offense for which the individual is being prosecuted or serving a term of imprisonment, as the case may be.

SEC. 609. ENSURING SUPERVISION OF RELEASED SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PERSONS.

(a) PROBATION OFFICERS.—Section 3603 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (8)(A) by striking ''or 4246'' and inserting '', 4246, or 4248''.

(b) PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.—Section 3154 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (12)(A) by striking ''or 4246'' and inserting '', 4246, or 4248''.

SEC. 610. DATA COLLECTION.

(a) NATIONAL PRISONER STATISTICS PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, pursuant to the authority under section 302 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3732), the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, with information that shall be provided by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, shall include in the National Prisoner Statistics Program the following:

(1) The number of prisoners (as such term is defined in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act) who are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) The number of prisoners who have been placed in solitary confinement at any time during the previous year.

(3) The number of female prisoners known by the Bureau of Prisons to be pregnant, as well as the outcomes of such pregnancies, including information on pregnancies that result in live birth, stillbirth, miscarriage, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, maternal death, neonatal death, and preterm birth.

(4) The number of prisoners who volunteered to participate in a substance abuse treatment program, and the number of prisoners who have participated in such a program.

(5) The number of prisoners provided medication-assisted treatment with medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration while in custody in order to treat substance use disorder.

(6) The number of prisoners who were receiving medication-assisted treatment with medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration prior to the commencement of their term of imprisonment.

(7) The number of prisoners who are the parent or guardian of a minor child.

(8) The number of prisoners who are single, married, or otherwise in a committed relationship.

(9) The number of prisoners who have not achieved a GED, high school diploma, or equivalent prior to entering prison.

(10) The number of prisoners who, during the previous year, received their GED or other equivalent certificate while incarcerated.

(11) The numbers of prisoners for whom English is a second language.

(12) The number of incidents, during the previous year, in which restraints were used on a female prisoner during pregnancy, labor, or postpartum recovery, as well as information relating to the type of restraints used, and the circumstances under which each incident occurred.

(13) The vacancy rate for medical and healthcare staff positions, and average length of such a vacancy.

(14) The number of facilities that operated, at any time during the previous year, without at least 1 clinical nurse, certified paramedic, or licensed physician on site.

(15) The number of facilities that during the previous year were accredited by the American Correctional Association.

(16) The number and type of recidivism reduction partnerships described in section 3621(h)(5) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 102(a) of this Act, entered into by each facility.

(17) The number of facilities with remote learning capabilities.

(18) The number of facilities that offer prisoners video conferencing.

(19) Any changes in costs related to legal phone calls and visits following implementation of section 3632(d)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act.

(20) The number of aliens in prison during the previous year.

(21) For each Bureau of Prisons facility, the total number of violations that resulted in reductions in rewards, incentives, or time credits, the number of such violations for each category of violation, and the demographic breakdown of the prisoners who have received such reductions.

(22) The number of assaults on Bureau of Prisons staff by prisoners and the number of criminal prosecutions of prisoners for assaulting Bureau of Prisons staff.

(23) The capacity of each recidivism reduction program and productive activity to accommodate eligible inmates at each Bureau of Prisons facility.

(24) The number of volunteers who were certified to volunteer in a Bureau of Prisons facility, broken down by level (level I and level II), and by each Bureau of Prisons facility.

(25) The number of prisoners enrolled in recidivism reduction programs and productive activities at each Bureau of Prisons facility, broken down by risk level and by program, and the number of those enrolled prisoners who successfully completed each program.

(26) The breakdown of prisoners classified at each risk level by demographic characteristics, including age, sex, race, and the length of the sentence imposed.

(b) REPORT TO JUDICIARY COMMITTEES.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 7 years, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall submit a report containing the information described in paragraphs (1) through (26) of subsection (a) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 611. HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall make the healthcare products described in subsection (c) available to prisoners for free, in a quantity that is appropriate to the healthcare needs of each prisoner.

(b) QUALITY PRODUCTS.—The Director shall ensure that the healthcare products provided under this section conform with applicable industry standards.

(c) PRODUCTS.—The healthcare products described in this subsection are tampons and sanitary napkins.

SEC. 612. ADULT AND JUVENILE COLLABORATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2991 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''may use up to 3 percent'' and inserting ''shall use not less than 6 percent''; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) COLLABORATION SET-ASIDE.—The Attorney General shall use not less than 8 percent of funds appropriated to provide technical assistance to State and local governments receiving grants under this part to foster collaboration between such governments in furtherance of the purposes set forth in section 3 of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 10651 note).''.

SEC. 613. JUVENILE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 403 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5043. Juvenile solitary confinement

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'covered juvenile' means—

''(A) a juvenile who—

''(i) is being proceeded against under this chapter for an alleged act of juvenile delinquency; or

''(ii) has been adjudicated delinquent under this chapter; or

''(B) a juvenile who is being proceeded against as an adult in a district court of the United States for an alleged criminal offense;

''(2) the term 'juvenile facility' means any facility where covered juveniles are—

''(A) committed pursuant to an adjudication of delinquency under this chapter; or

''(B) detained prior to disposition or conviction; and

''(3) the term 'room confinement' means the involuntary placement of a covered juvenile alone in a cell, room, or other area for any reason.

''(b) PROHIBITION ON ROOM CONFINEMENT IN JUVENILE FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The use of room confinement at a juvenile facility for discipline, punishment, retaliation, or any reason other than as a temporary response to a covered juvenile's behavior that poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to any individual, including the covered juvenile, is prohibited.

''(2) JUVENILES POSING RISK OF HARM.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT TO USE LEAST RESTRICTIVE TECHNIQUES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Before a staff member of a juvenile facility places a covered juvenile in room confinement, the staff member shall attempt to use less restrictive techniques, including—

''(I) talking with the covered juvenile in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; and

''(II) permitting a qualified mental health professional to talk to the covered juvenile.

''(ii) EXPLANATION.—If, after attempting to use less restrictive techniques as required under clause (i), a staff member of a juvenile facility decides to place a covered juvenile in room confinement, the staff member shall first—

''(I) explain to the covered juvenile the reasons for the room confinement; and

''(II) inform the covered juvenile that release from room confinement will occur—

''(aa) immediately when the covered juvenile regains self-control, as described in subparagraph (B)(i); or

''(bb) not later than after the expiration of the time period described in subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii), as applicable.

''(B) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT.—If a covered juvenile is placed in room confinement because the covered juvenile poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to himself or herself, or to others, the covered juvenile shall be released—

''(i) immediately when the covered juvenile has sufficiently gained control so as to no longer engage in behavior that threatens serious and immediate risk of physical harm to himself or herself, or to others; or

''(ii) if a covered juvenile does not sufficiently gain control as described in clause (i), not later than—

''(I) 3 hours after being placed in room confinement, in the case of a covered juvenile who poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to others; or

''(II) 30 minutes after being placed in room confinement, in the case of a covered juvenile who poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm only to himself or herself.

''(C) RISK OF HARM AFTER MAXIMUM PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT.—If, after the applicable maximum period of confinement under subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii) has expired, a covered juvenile continues to pose a serious and immediate risk of physical harm described in that subclause—

''(i) the covered juvenile shall be transferred to another juvenile facility or internal location where services can be provided to the covered juvenile without relying on room confinement; or

''(ii) if a qualified mental health professional believes the level of crisis service needed is not currently available, a staff member of the juvenile facility shall initiate a referral to a location that can meet the needs of the covered juvenile.

''(D) SPIRIT AND PURPOSE.—The use of consecutive periods of room confinement to evade the spirit and purpose of this subsection shall be prohibited.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 403 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5043. Juvenile solitary confinement.''.

SA 4109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. COTTON)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4108 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 756, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Redesignate section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, as section 3636.

After section 3634 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, insert the following:

''SEC. 3635. NOTIFICATION.

''The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

''(1) notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released or if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, next of kin of a victim; and

''(2) make publicly available the rearrest data of each prisoner, the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned, and any prior offense for which the prisoner was imprisoned, broken down by State, of any prisoner in prerelease custody or supervised release under section 3624.''.

In section 3624(g)(1) of title 18, as added by section 102(b)(1)(B) of this Act, add at the beginning of subparagraph (B) the following:

''(B) has been certified by the warden that the prisoner has been determined by the warden to have the programmatic, security, and reentry needs of the prisoner best met by being placed in prerelease custody or supervised release, after the warden—

''(i) has notified each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned of such potential placement (or, if no victim can be notified due to death or injury, the next of kin of a victim); and

''(ii) has reviewed any statement regarding such placement made by the victim or next of kin of the victim, as applicable, after the notification described in clause (i); and

In section 3632(d)(4)(D) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, add at the end the following:

''(lxiii) Section 2422, relating to coercion and enticement.

''(lxiv) Section 249, relating to hate crimes.

''(lxv) Section 752, relating to instigating or aiding escape from Federal custody.

''(lxvi) Subsection (a) or (d) of section 2113, relating to bank robbery involving violence or risk of death.

''(lxvii) Section 2119(1), relating to taking a motor vehicle (commonly referred to as 'carjacking').

''(lxviii) Section 111(a), relating to assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees.

''(lxix) Any of paragraphs (2) through (6) of section 113(a), relating to assault with intent to commit any felony (except murder or a violation of section 2241 or 2242), assault with a dangerous weapon, assault by striking, beating, or wounding, assault against a child, or assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

''(lxx) Any offense described in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5)) that is

not otherwise listed in this subsection, relating to sex offenses, for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year.

''(lxxi) Any offense that is not otherwise listed in this subsection for which the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, and—

''(I) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, or

''(II) that, based on the facts of the offense, involved a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may have been used in the course of committing the offense.

SA 4110. Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2606, to amend the Act of August 4, 1947 (commonly known as the Stigler Act), with respect to restrictions applicable to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 9, strike '', as of said date,'' and insert '', as of the date of enactment of the Stigler Act Amendments of 2018,''.

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION PROVIDING FOR NO RETROACTIVITY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to revise or extend the restricted status of any lands under the Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 731, chapter 458) that lost restricted status under such Act before the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4111. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3461, to amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 9, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 10, line 16.

SA 4112. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. BARRASSO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2827, to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 1999, the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation (referred to in this Act as the ''Foundation'') has operated the Parks in Focus program to provide opportunities for the youth of the United States to learn about and experience the Nation's parks and wilderness, and other outdoor areas.

(2) Since 2001, the Foundation has conducted research and provided education and training to Native American and Alaska Native professionals and leaders on Native American and Alaska Native health care issues and tribal public policy through the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy.

(3) The Foundation is committed to continuing to make a substantial contribution toward public policy in the future by—

(A) playing a significant role in developing the next generation of environmental, public health, public lands, natural resource, and Native American leaders; and

(B) working with current leaders to improve collaboration and decision-making on challenging environmental, energy, public health, and related economic problems and tribal governance and economic development issues.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy established at the University of Arizona in 1987'' and inserting ''the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy established in 1987 at the University of Arizona, and includes the Native Nations Institute'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (4) through (8), (11), and (12), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) the term 'collaboration' means to work in partnership with other entities for the purpose of—

''(A) resolving disputes;

''(B) addressing issues that may cause or result in disputes; or

''(C) streamlining and enhancing Federal, State, or tribal environmental and natural resource decision-making processes or procedures that may result in a dispute or conflict;'';

(4) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution'' and inserting ''John S. McCain III United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution''; and

(B) by striking ''section 7(a)(1)(D)'' and inserting ''section 7(a)(1)(B)'';

(5) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking ''section 1201(a)'' and inserting ''section 101(a)''; and

(6) by inserting after paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

''(9) the term 'Nation's parks and wilderness' means units of the National Park System and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

''(10) the term 'Native Nations Institute' means the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy established at the University of Arizona in 2001;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(5)(B) of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5601(5)(B)) is amended by striking ''the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution'' and inserting ''the Institute''.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION.

Section 5(e) of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5603(e)) is amended by striking ''Arizona.'' and inserting ''Arizona and the District of Columbia.''.

SEC. 4. PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION.

Section 6 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5604) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''establish a Program for Environmental Policy Research and Environmental Conflict Resolution and Training at the Center'' and inserting ''establish a program for environmental policy research at the Center and a program for environmental conflict resolution and training at the John S. McCain III United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', natural resource, conflict resolution,'' after ''environmental'';

(3) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by inserting ''at the Native Nations Institute'' after ''develop resources''; and

(B) by inserting ''providing education to and'' after ''policy, by''; and

(4) in paragraph (8)—

(A) by inserting ''John S. McCain III'' before ''United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution''; and

(B) by striking ''resolve environmental'' and inserting ''resolve environmental issues, conflicts, and''.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY OF THE FOUNDATION.

Section 7 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5605) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

''(A) GENERAL PROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—The Foundation is authorized to identify and conduct, directly or by contract, such programs, activities, and services as the Foundation considers appropriate to carry out the purposes described in section 6, which may include—

''(i) awarding scholarships, fellowships, internships, and grants, by national competition or other method, to eligible individuals, as determined by the Foundation and in accordance with paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), for study in fields related to the environment or Native American and Alaska Native health care and tribal policy;

''(ii) funding the Center to carry out and manage other programs, activities, and services; and

''(iii) other education programs that the Board determines are consistent with the purposes for which the Foundation is established.'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION'' and inserting ''JOHN S. MCCAIN III UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION'';

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by inserting ''John S. McCain III'' before ''United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution''; and

(bb) in subclause (II)—

(AA) by inserting ''collaboration,'' after ''mediation,''; and

(BB) by striking ''to resolve environmental disputes.'' and inserting the following: ''to resolve—

''(aa) environmental disputes; and

''(bb) Federal, State, or tribal environmental or natural resource decision-making processes or procedures that may result in a dispute or conflict that may cause or result in disputes.''; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting ''collaboration,'' after ''mediation,'';

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) PARKS IN FOCUS.—The Foundation shall—

''(A) identify and invite the participation of youth throughout the United States to enjoy the Nation's parks and wilderness and other outdoor areas, in an education program intended to carry out the purpose of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 6; and

''(B) provide training and education programs and activities to teach Federal employees, natural resource professionals, elementary and secondary school educators, and others to work with youth to promote the use and enjoyment of the Nation's parks and wilderness and other outdoor areas.

''(6) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—The Foundation shall assist in the development and implementation of programs at the Center—

''(A) to provide for an annual meeting of experts to discuss contemporary environmental issues;

''(B) to conduct environmental policy research; and

''(C) to promote dialogue with visiting policymakers on environmental, natural resource, and public lands issues.'';

(E) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by subparagraph (C), by striking ''Morris K. Udall's papers'' and inserting ''the papers of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) NATIVE NATIONS INSTITUTE.—The Foundation shall provide direct or indirect assistance to the Native Nations Institute from the annual appropriations to the Trust Fund in such amounts as Congress may direct to conduct research and provide education and training to Native American and Alaska Native professionals and leaders on Native American and Alaska Native health care issues and tribal public policy issues as provided in section 6(7).'';

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall determine the priority of the programs to be carried out under this Act and the amount of funds to be allocated for such programs from the funds earned annually from the interest derived from the investment of the Trust Fund, subject to paragraph (2).

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—In determining the amount of funds to be allocated for programs carried out under this Act for a year—

''(A) not less than 50 percent of such annual interest earnings shall be utilized for the programs set forth in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a);

''(B) not more than 17.5 percent of such annual interest earnings shall be allocated for salaries and other administrative purposes; and

''(C) not less than 20 percent of such annual interest earnings shall be appropriated to the Center for activities under paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection (a).''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) DONATIONS.—Any funds received by the Foundation in the form of donations or grants, as well as any unexpended earnings on interest from the Trust Fund that is carried forward from prior years—

''(1) shall not be included in the calculation of the funds available for allocations pursuant to subsection (c); and

''(2) shall be available to carry out the provisions of this Act as the Board determines to be necessary and appropriate.''.

SEC. 6. USE OF INSTITUTE BY FEDERAL AGENCY OR OTHER ENTITY.

Section 11 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5607b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''collaboration,'' after ''mediation,''; and

(B) by striking ''resources.'' and inserting ''resources, or with a Federal, State, or tribal process or procedure that may result in a dispute or conflict.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(C), by inserting ''mediation, collaboration, and'' after ''agree to''.

SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

Section 12 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5608) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts'' and inserting ''accept, hold, solicit, administer, and utilize donations, grants, and gifts''; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking ''in the District of Columbia or its environs'' and inserting ''in the District of Columbia and Tucson, Arizona, or their environs''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking '', with the exception of paragraph (4),''.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13(b) of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5609(b)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2004 through 2008'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2019 through 2022''.

SEC. 9. AUDIT OF THE FOUNDATION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall conduct an audit of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.

SA 4113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2322, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Codifying Useful Regulatory Definitions Act'' or the ''CURD Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) There is a need to define the term ''natural cheese'' in order to maintain transparency and consistency for consumers so that they may differentiate ''natural cheese'' from ''process cheese''.

(2) The term ''natural cheese'' has been used within the cheese making industry for more than 50 years and is well-established.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF NATURAL CHEESE.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(ss)(1) The term 'natural cheese' means cheese that is a ripened or unripened soft, semi-soft, or hard product, which may be coated, that is produced—

''(A) by—

''(i) coagulating wholly or partly the protein of milk, skimmed milk, partly skimmed milk, cream, whey cream, or buttermilk, or any combination of such ingredients, through the action of rennet or other suitable coagulating agents, and by partially draining the whey resulting from the coagulation, while respecting the principle that cheese-making results in a concentration of milk protein (in particular, the casein portion), and that consequently, the protein content of the cheese will be distinctly higher than the protein level of the blend of the above milk materials from which the cheese was made; or

''(ii) processing techniques involving coagulation of the protein of milk or products obtained from milk to produce an end-product with similar physical, chemical, and organoleptic characteristics as the product described in subclause (i); and

''(iii) including the addition of safe and suitable non-milk derived ingredients of the type permitted in the standards of identity described in clause (B) as natural cheese; or

''(B) in accordance with standards of identity under part 133 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), other than the standards described in subparagraph (2) or any future standards adopted by the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (2)(I).

''(2) Such term does not include—

''(A) pasteurized process cheeses as defined in section 133.169, 133.170, or 133.171 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(B) pasteurized process cheese foods as defined in section 133.173 or 133.174 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(C) pasteurized cheese spreads as defined in section 133.175, 133.176, or 133.178 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(D) pasteurized process cheese spreads as defined in section 133.179 or 133.180 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(E) pasteurized blended cheeses as defined in section 133.167 or 133.168 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(F) any products comparable to any product described in any of clauses (A) through (E); or

''(G) cold pack cheeses as defined in section 133.123, 133.124, or 133.125 title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)

''(H) grated American cheese food as defined in section 133.147 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations); or

''(I) any other product the Secretary may designate as a process cheese.

''(3) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'milk' has the meaning given such term in section 133.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) and includes the lacteal secretions from animals other than cows.''.

(b) LABELING.—Section 403 of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(z) If its label or labeling includes the term 'natural cheese' as a factual descriptor of a category of cheese unless the food meets the definition of natural cheese under section 201(ss), except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the use of the term 'natural' or 'all-natural', or a similar claim or statement with respect to a food in a manner that is consistent with regulations, guidance, or policy statements issued by the Secretary.''.

(c) NATIONAL UNIFORMITY.—Section 403A(a)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343–1(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''or 403(w)'' and inserting ''403(w), or 403(z)''.

SA 4114. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6227, to provide for a coordinated Federal program to accelerate quantum research and development for the economic and national security of the United States; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''National Quantum Initiative Act''.

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

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ''Advisory Committee'' means the National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee established under section 104(a).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

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

(C) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(3) COORDINATION OFFICE.—The term ''Coordination Office'' means the National Quantum Coordination Office established under section 102(a).

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the National Quantum Initiative Program implemented under section 101(a).

(6) QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE.—The term ''quantum information science'' means the use of the laws of quantum physics for the storage, transmission, manipulation, computing, or measurement of information.

(7) SUBCOMMITTEE.—The term ''Subcommittee'' means the Subcommittee on Quantum Information Science of the National Science and Technology Council established under section 103(a).

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure the continued leadership of the United States in quantum information science and its technology applications by—

(1) supporting research, development, demonstration, and application of quantum information science and technology—

(A) to expand the number of researchers, educators, and students with training in quantum information science and technology to develop a workforce pipeline;

(B) to promote the development and inclusion of multidisciplinary curriculum and research opportunities for quantum information science at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral level;

(C) to address basic research knowledge gaps, including computational research gaps;

(D) to promote the further development of facilities and centers available for quantum information science and technology research, testing and education; and

(E) to stimulate research on and promote more rapid development of quantum-based technologies;

(2) improving the interagency planning and coordination of Federal research and development of quantum information science and technology;

(3) maximizing the effectiveness of the Federal Government's quantum information science and technology research , development, and demonstration programs;

(4) promoting collaboration among the Federal Government, Federal laboratories, industry, and universities; and

(5) promoting the development of international standards for quantum information science and technology security—

(A) to facilitate technology innovation and private sector commercialization; and

(B) to meet economic and national security goals.

TITLE I—NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE

SEC. 101. NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall implement a National Quantum Initiative Program.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Program, the President, acting through Federal agencies, councils, working groups, subcommittees, and the Coordination Office, as the President considers appropriate, shall—

(1) establish the goals, priorities, and metrics for a 10-year plan to accelerate development of quantum information science and technology applications in the United States;

(2) invest in fundamental Federal quantum information science and technology research, development, demonstration, and other activities to achieve the goals established under paragraph (1);

(3) invest in activities to develop a quantum information science and technology workforce pipeline;

(4) provide for interagency planning and coordination of Federal quantum information science and technology research, development, demonstration, standards engagement, and other activities under the Program;

(5) partner with industry and universities to leverage knowledge and resources; and

(6) leverage existing Federal investments efficiently to advance Program goals and priorities established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 102. NATIONAL QUANTUM COORDINATION OFFICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a National Quantum Coordination Office.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Coordination Office shall have—

(A) a Director appointed by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of Energy; and

(B) staff comprised of employees detailed from the Federal departments and agencies described in section 103(b).

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Coordination Office shall—

(1) provide technical and administrative support to—

(A) the Subcommittee; and

(B) the Advisory Committee;

(2) oversee interagency coordination of the Program, including by encouraging and supporting joint agency solicitation and selection of applications for funding of activities under the Program;

(3) serve as the point of contact on Federal civilian quantum information science and technology activities for Federal departments and agencies, industry, universities professional societies, State governments, and such other persons as the Coordination Office considers appropriate to exchange technical and programmatic information;

(4) ensure coordination among the collaborative ventures or consortia established under section 201(a), Multidisciplinary Centers for Quantum Research and Education established under section 302(a), and the National Quantum Information Science Research Centers established under section 402(a);

(5) conduct public outreach, including the dissemination of findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, as appropriate;

(6) promote access to and early application of the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Program activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government, and to industry, including startup companies; and

(7) promote access, through appropriate Federal Government agencies, and an open and competitive merit-reviewed process, to existing quantum computing and communication systems developed by industry, universities, and Federal laboratories to the general user community in pursuit of discovery of the new applications of such systems.

(c) FUNDING.—Funds necessary to carry out the activities of the Coordination Office shall be made available each fiscal year by the Federal departments and agencies described in section 103(b), as determined by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

SEC. 103. SUBCOMMITTEE ON QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish, through the National Science and Technology Council, the Subcommittee on Quantum Information Science.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Subcommittee shall include a representative of—

(1) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(2) the National Science Foundation;

(3) the Department of Energy;

(4) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(5) the Department of Defense;

(6) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(7) the Office of Management and Budget;

(8) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

(9) such other Federal department or agency as the President considers appropriate.

(c) CHAIRPERSONS.—The Subcommittee shall be jointly chaired by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of Energy.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Subcommittee shall—

(1) coordinate the quantum information science and technology research, information sharing about international standards development and use, and education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;

(2) establish goals and priorities of the Program, based on identified knowledge and workforce gaps and other national needs;

(3) assess and recommend Federal infrastructure needs to support the Program;

(4) assess the status, development, and diversity of the United States quantum information science workforce;

(5) assess the global outlook for quantum information science research and development efforts;

(6) evaluate opportunities for international cooperation with strategic allies on research and development in quantum information science and technology; and

(7) propose a coordinated interagency budget for the Program to the Office of Management and Budget to ensure the maintenance of a balanced quantum information science research portfolio and an appropriate level of research effort.

(e) STRATEGIC PLANS.—In order to guide the activities of the Program and meet the goals, priorities, and anticipated outcomes of the Federal departments and agencies described in subsection (b), the Subcommittee shall—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a 5-year strategic plan;

(2) not later than 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a subsequent 5-year strategic plan; and

(3) periodically update each plan, as necessary.

(f) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The chairpersons of the Subcommittee shall submit to the President, the Advisory Committee, and the appropriate committees of Congress each strategic plan developed under subsection (e) and any updates thereto.

(g) ANNUAL PROGRAM BUDGET REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, concurrent with the annual budget request submitted by the President to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the chairpersons of the Subcommittee shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and such other committees of Congress as the chairpersons deem appropriate a report on the budget for the Program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The budget of the Program for the current fiscal year, for each Federal department and agency described in subsection (b).

(B) The budget proposed for the Program for the next fiscal year, for each Federal department and agency described in subsection (b).

(C) An analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and priorities established under subsection (d)(2).

SEC. 104. NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Advisory Committee shall consist of members, appointed by the President, who are representative of industry, universities, and Federal laboratories and are qualified to provide advice and information on quantum information science and technology research, development, demonstrations, standards, education, technology transfer, commercial application, or national security and economic concerns.

(c) MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATION.—In selecting the members of the Advisory Committee, the President may seek and give consideration to recommendations from the Congress, industry, the scientific community (including the National Academy of Sciences, scientific professional societies, and universities), the defense community, and other appropriate organizations.

(d) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall advise the President and the Subcommittee and make recommendations for the President to consider when reviewing and revising the Program.

(2) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS.—The Advisory Committee shall conduct periodic, independent assessments of—

(A) any trends or developments in quantum information science and technology;

(B) the progress made in implementing the Program;

(C) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Program;

(D) whether the Program activities and the goals and priorities established under section 103(d)(2) are helping to maintain United States leadership in quantum information science and technology;

(E) whether a need exists to revise the Program;

(F) whether opportunities exist for international cooperation with strategic allies on research and development in, and the development of open standards for, quantum information science and technology; and

(G) whether national security, societal, economic, legal, and workforce concerns are adequately addressed by the Program.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least biennially thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall submit to the President, the appropriate committees of Congress, and such other committees of Congress as the Advisory Committee deems appropriate a report on the findings of the independent assessment under subsection (d), including any recommendations for improvements to the Program.

(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Non-Federal members of the Advisory Committee, while attending meetings of the Advisory Committee or while otherwise serving at the request of the head of the Advisory Committee away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit members of the Advisory Committee who are officers or employees of the United States from being allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with existing law.

(g) FACA EXEMPTION.—The Advisory Committee shall be exempt from section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

SEC. 105. SUNSET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the authority to carry out sections 101, 102, 103, and 104 shall terminate on the date that is 11 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXTENSION.—The President may continue the activities under such sections if the President determines that such activities are necessary to meet national economic or national security needs.

TITLE II—NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY QUANTUM ACTIVITIES

SEC. 201. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES AND QUANTUM CONSORTIUM.

(a) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES.—As part of the Program, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) shall continue to support and expand basic and applied quantum information science and technology research and development of measurement and standards infrastructure necessary to advance commercial development of quantum applications;

(2) shall use the existing programs of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to train scientists in quantum information science and technology to increase participation in the quantum fields;

(3) shall establish or expand collaborative ventures or consortia with other public or private sector entities, including industry, universities, and Federal laboratories for the purpose of advancing the field of quantum information science and engineering; and

(4) may enter into and perform such contracts, including cooperative research and development arrangements and grants and cooperative agreements or other transactions, as may be necessary in the conduct of the work of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and on such terms as the Director considers appropriate, in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

(b) QUANTUM CONSORTIUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall convene a consortium of stakeholders to identify the future measurement, standards, cybersecurity, and other appropriate needs for supporting the development of a robust quantum information science and technology industry in the United States.

(2) GOALS.—The goals of the consortium shall be—

(A) to assess the current research on the needs identified in paragraph (1);

(B) to identify any gaps in the research necessary to meet the needs identified in paragraph (1); and

(C) to provide recommendations on how the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Program can address the gaps in the necessary research identified in subparagraph (B).

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the findings of the consortium.

(c) FUNDING.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall allocate up to $80,000,000 to carry out the activities under this section for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations. Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

TITLE III—NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION QUANTUM ACTIVITIES

SEC. 301. QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall carry out a basic research and education program on quantum information science and engineering, including the competitive award of grants to institutions of higher education or eligible nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof).

(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Director of the National Science Foundation shall carry out activities that—

(A) support basic interdisciplinary quantum information science and engineering research; and

(B) support human resources development in all aspects of quantum information science and engineering.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The activities described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) using the existing programs of the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate—

(i) to improve the teaching and learning of quantum information science and engineering at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels; and

(ii) to increase participation in the quantum fields, including by individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b);

(B) formulating goals for quantum information science and engineering research and education activities to be supported by the National Science Foundation;

(C) leveraging the collective body of knowledge from existing quantum information science and engineering research and education activities;

(D) coordinating research efforts funded through existing programs across the directorates of the National Science Foundation; and

(E) engaging with other Federal departments and agencies, research communities, and potential users of information produced under this section.

(c) GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation may establish a program to provide traineeships to graduate students at institutions of higher education within the United States who are citizens of the United States and who choose to pursue masters or doctoral degrees in quantum information science.

SEC. 302. MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTERS FOR QUANTUM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall award grants to institutions of higher education or eligible nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to establish at least 2, but not more than 5, Multidisciplinary Centers for Quantum Research and Education (referred to in this section as ''Centers'').

(b) COLLABORATIONS.—A collaboration receiving an award under this subsection may include institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Centers shall be to conduct basic research and education activities in support of the goals and priorities established under section 103(d)(2), including by—

(1) continuing to advance quantum information science and engineering;

(2) supporting curriculum and workforce development in quantum information science and engineering; and

(3) fostering innovation by bringing industry perspectives to quantum research and workforce development, including by leveraging industry knowledge and resources.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this section shall submit an application to the Director of the National Science Foundation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—Each application under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) how the Center will work with other research institutions and industry partners to leverage expertise in quantum science, education and curriculum development, and technology transfer;

(B) how the Center will promote active collaboration among researchers in multiple disciplines involved in quantum research, including physics, engineering, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, and material science;

(C) how the Center will support long-term and short-term workforce development in the quantum field;

(D) how the Center can support an innovation ecosystem to work with industry to translate Center research into applications; and

(E) a long-term plan to become self-sustaining after the expiration of funding under this section.

(e) SELECTION AND DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Center established under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years.

(2) REAPPLICATION.—An awardee may reapply for additional, subsequent periods of 5 years on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

(3) TERMINATION.—Consistent with the authorities of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Science Foundation may terminate an underperforming Center for cause during the performance period.

(f) FUNDING.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate up to $10,000,000 for each Center established under this section for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations. Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Science Foundation.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY QUANTUM ACTIVITIES

SEC. 401. QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall carry out a basic research program on quantum information science.

(b) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) formulate goals for quantum information science research to be supported by the Department of Energy;

(2) leverage the collective body of knowledge from existing quantum information science research;

(3) provide research experiences and training for additional undergraduate and graduate students in quantum information science, including in the fields of—

(A) quantum information theory;

(B) quantum physics;

(C) quantum computational science;

(D) applied mathematics and algorithm development;

(E) quantum networking;

(F) quantum sensing and detection; and

(G) materials science and engineering;

(4) coordinate research efforts funded through existing programs across the Department of Energy, including—

(A) the Nanoscale Science Research Centers;

(B) the Energy Frontier Research Centers;

(C) the Energy Innovation Hubs;

(D) the National Laboratories;

(E) the Advanced Research Projects Agency; and

(F) the National Quantum Information Science Research Centers; and

(5) coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies, research communities, and potential users of information produced under this section.

SEC. 402. NATIONAL QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTERS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Director of the Office of Science (referred to in this section as the ''Director''), shall ensure that the Office of Science carries out a program, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to establish and operate at least 2, but not more than 5, National Quantum Information Science Research Centers (referred to in this section as ''Centers'') to conduct basic research to accelerate scientific breakthroughs in quantum information science and technology and to support research conducted under section 401.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) COMPETITIVE, MERIT-REVIEWED PROCESS.—The Centers shall be established through a competitive, merit-reviewed process.

(B) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible applicant under this subsection shall submit to the Director an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director determines to be appropriate.

(C) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The Director shall consider applications from National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, research centers, multi-institutional collaborations, and any other entity that the Secretary of Energy determines to be appropriate.

(b) COLLABORATIONS.—A collaboration that receives an award under this section may include multiple types of research institutions and private sector entities.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Centers developed, constructed, operated, or maintained under this section shall serve the needs of the Department of Energy, industry, the academic community, and other relevant entities to create and develop processes for the purpose of advancing basic research in quantum information science and improving the competitiveness of the United States.

(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall ensure the coordination, and avoid unnecessary duplication, of the activities of each Center with the activities of—

(1) other research entities of the Department of Energy, including—

(A) the Nanoscale Science Research Centers;

(B) the Energy Frontier Research Centers;

(C) the Energy Innovation Hubs; and

(D) the National Laboratories;

(2) institutions of higher education; and

(3) industry.

(e) DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Center established under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years.

(2) REAPPLICATION.—An awardee may reapply for additional, subsequent periods of 5 years. The Director shall approve or disapprove of each reapplication on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis.

(3) TERMINATION.—Consistent with the authorities of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of Energy may terminate an underperforming Center for cause during the performance period.

(f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Energy shall allocate up to $25,000,000 for each Center established under this section for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations. Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Energy.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at a time to be determined, to conduct a pending nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

AMENDING THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 578, S. 2827.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2827) to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn and the Barrasso substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4112) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 2827), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BROADBAND ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 613, S. 645.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 645) to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REGARDING THE EFFECT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) BROADBAND.—The term ''broadband'' means an Internet Protocol-based transmission service that enables users to send and receive voice, video, data, or graphics, or a combination of those items.

(4) DIGITAL ECONOMY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ''digital economy'' has the meaning given the term by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a definition for the term ''digital economy'' under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider—

(i) the digital-enabling infrastructure that a computer network needs to exist and operate; and

(ii) the roles of e-commerce and digital media.

(5) DIGITAL MEDIA.—The term ''digital media'' means the content that participants in e-commerce create and access.

(6) E-COMMERCE.—The term ''e-commerce'' means the digital transactions that take place using the infrastructure described in paragraph (4)(B)(i).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce and the Assistant Secretary, shall conduct an assessment and analysis regarding the contribution of the digital economy to the economy of the United States.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—In conducting each assessment and analysis required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) consider the impact of—

(A) the deployment and adoption of—

(i) digital-enabling infrastructure; and

(ii) broadband;

(B) e-commerce and platform-enabled peer-to-peer commerce; and

(C) the production and consumption of digital media, including free media; and

(2) consult with—

(A) the heads of any agencies and offices of the Federal Government as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission;

(B) representatives of the business community, including rural and urban Internet service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers;

(C) representatives from State, local, and tribal government agencies; and

(D) representatives from consumer and community organizations.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding the findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment and analysis conducted under subsection (b).

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported substitute amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 645), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORRECTING MISCALCULATIONS IN VETERANS' PENSIONS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4431 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4431) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service or certain volunteer service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 4431) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE SOURCES OF THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REGLUATIONS REGARDING CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES UNDER WOUNDED WARRIORS FEDERAL LEAVE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6160 and Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6160) to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the sources of the authority to issue regulations regarding certifications and other criteria applicable to legislative branch employees under Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 6160) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1318) 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.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 1318) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CODIFYING USEFUL REGULATORY DEFINITIONS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2322.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2322) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 4113) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Codifying Useful Regulatory Definitions Act'' or the ''CURD Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) There is a need to define the term ''natural cheese'' in order to maintain transparency and consistency for consumers so that they may differentiate ''natural cheese'' from ''process cheese''.

(2) The term ''natural cheese'' has been used within the cheese making industry for more than 50 years and is well-established.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF NATURAL CHEESE.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(ss)(1) The term 'natural cheese' means cheese that is a ripened or unripened soft, semi-soft, or hard product, which may be coated, that is produced—

''(A) by—

''(i) coagulating wholly or partly the protein of milk, skimmed milk, partly skimmed milk, cream, whey cream, or buttermilk, or any combination of such ingredients, through the action of rennet or other suitable coagulating agents, and by partially draining the whey resulting from the coagulation, while respecting the principle that cheese-making results in a concentration of milk protein (in particular, the casein portion), and that consequently, the protein content of the cheese will be distinctly higher than the protein level of the blend of the above milk materials from which the cheese was made; or

''(ii) processing techniques involving coagulation of the protein of milk or products obtained from milk to produce an end-product with similar physical, chemical, and organoleptic characteristics as the product described in subclause (i); and

''(iii) including the addition of safe and suitable non-milk derived ingredients of the type permitted in the standards of identity described in clause (B) as natural cheese; or

''(B) in accordance with standards of identity under part 133 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), other than the standards described in subparagraph (2) or any future standards adopted by the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (2)(I).

''(2) Such term does not include—

''(A) pasteurized process cheeses as defined in section 133.169, 133.170, or 133.171 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(B) pasteurized process cheese foods as defined in section 133.173 or 133.174 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(C) pasteurized cheese spreads as defined in section 133.175, 133.176, or 133.178 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(D) pasteurized process cheese spreads as defined in section 133.179 or 133.180 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(E) pasteurized blended cheeses as defined in section 133.167 or 133.168 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

''(F) any products comparable to any product described in any of clauses (A) through (E); or

''(G) cold pack cheeses as defined in section 133.123, 133.124, or 133.125 title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)

''(H) grated American cheese food as defined in section 133.147 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations); or

''(I) any other product the Secretary may designate as a process cheese.

''(3) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'milk' has the meaning given such term in section 133.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) and includes the lacteal secretions from animals other than cows.''.

(b) LABELING.—Section 403 of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(z) If its label or labeling includes the term 'natural cheese' as a factual descriptor of a category of cheese unless the food meets the definition of natural cheese under section 201(ss), except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the use of the term 'natural' or 'all-natural', or a similar claim or statement with respect to a food in a manner that is consistent with regulations, guidance, or policy statements issued by the Secretary.''.

(c) NATIONAL UNIFORMITY.—Section 403A(a)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343–1(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''or 403(w)'' and inserting ''403(w), or 403(z)''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2322), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2863 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2863) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2863) was passed, as follows:

S. 2863

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2000, Congress passed and President William J. Clinton signed into law the National Law Enforcement Museum Act (Public Law 106–492), which authorized the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc. to build the National Law Enforcement Museum on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers in the United States.

(2) In April 2016, construction began on the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia across the street from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square.

(3) The National Law Enforcement Museum will formally open in September of 2018.

(4) The National Law Enforcement Museum's mission is—

(A) to honor and commemorate the extraordinary service and sacrifice of America's law enforcement officers;

(B) to serve as an important bridge between law enforcement's past and present, between the heroes of yesteryear and those who have followed in their footsteps, and between America's peace officers and the public they serve; and

(C) increase public understanding and support for law enforcement and to promote law enforcement safety.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as

the ''Secretary'') shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 $5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the National Law Enforcement Museum and the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers throughout the history of the United States.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year ''2021''; and

(C) inscriptions of the words ''Liberty'', ''In God We Trust'', ''United States of America'', and ''E Pluribus Unum''.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc.; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITIES.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2021.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) $35 per coin for the $5 coin;

(2) $10 per coin for the $1 coin; and

(3) $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc., for educational and outreach programs and exhibits.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc., shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

AMBER ALERT NATIONWIDE ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3461 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3461) to amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4111) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the funding provision)

On page 9, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 10, line 16.

The bill (S. 3461), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3461

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''AMBER Alert Nationwide Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. COOPERATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 301—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''gaps in areas of interstate travel'' the following: ''(including airports, maritime ports, border crossing areas and checkpoints, and ports of exit from the United States)''; and

(ii) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting '', territories of the United States, and tribal governments'' after ''States''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by inserting after ''Secretary of Transportation'' the following: '', the Secretary of Homeland Security,''; and

(2) in section 302—

(A) in subsection (b), in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) by inserting '', territorial, tribal,'' after ''State''; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''Secretary of Transportation'' the following: '', the Secretary of Homeland Security,''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', territorial, tribal,'' after ''State''.

SEC. 3. AMBER ALERTS ALONG MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20503) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting after ''**ALONG HIGHWAYS**'' the following: ''**AND MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting after ''Secretary of Transportation'' the following: ''(referred to in this section as the 'Secretary')''; and

(B) by inserting after ''along highways'' the following: ''and at airports, maritime ports, border crossing areas and checkpoints, and ports of exit from the United States'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''other motorist information systems to notify motorists'' and inserting ''other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers''; and

(ii) by inserting after ''necessary to notify motorists'' the following: '', aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''other motorist information systems to notify motorists'' and inserting ''other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting after ''support the notification of motorists'' the following: '', aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting after ''motorists'', each place it appears, the following: '', aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by inserting after ''motorists'' the following: '', aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers''; and

(v) in subparagraph (G), by inserting after ''motorists'' the following: '', aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(4) in subsection (c), by striking ''other motorist information systems to notify motorists'', each place it appears, and inserting ''other information systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship passengers, and travelers'';

(5) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 80 percent.

''(2) WAIVER.—If the Secretary determines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States is unable to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall waive such requirement.'';

(6) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''In this section'' and inserting ''In this subtitle''; and

(B) by striking ''or Puerto Rico'' and inserting ''American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory of the United States''; and

(7) in subsection (h), by striking ''fiscal year 2004'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the PROTECT Act (Public Law 108–21) is amended by striking the item relating to section 303 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 303. Grant program for notification and communications systems along highways and major transportation routes for recovery of abducted children.''.

SEC. 4. AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATION PLANS IN THE TERRITORIES.

Section 304 of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting after ''with'' the following: ''a territorial government or'';

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under this section may not exceed 50 percent.

''(2) WAIVER.—If the Attorney General determines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, or an Indian tribe is unable to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall waive such requirement.''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including territories of the United States''.

SEC. 5. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study assessing—

(1) the implementation of the amendments made by this Act;

(2) any challenges related to integrating the territories of the United States into the AMBER Alert system;

(3) the readiness, educational, technological, and training needs of territorial law enforcement agencies in responding to cases involving missing, abducted, or exploited children; and

(4) any other related matters the Attorney General or the Secretary of Transportation determines appropriate.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of the study required under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(4) each of the delegates or resident commissioner to the House of Representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Comptroller General shall make the report required under subsection (b) available on a public Government website.

(d) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General may secure information necessary to conduct the study under subsection (a) directly from any Federal agency and from any territorial government receiving grant funding under the PROTECT Act. Upon request of the Comptroller General, the head of a Federal agency or territorial government shall furnish the requested information to the Comptroller General.

(2) AGENCY RECORDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), nothing in this subsection shall require a Federal agency or any territorial government to produce records subject to a common law evidentiary privilege. Records and information shared with the Comptroller General shall continue to be subject to withholding under sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code. The Comptroller General is obligated to give the information the same level of confidentiality and protection required of the Federal agency or territorial government. The Comptroller General may be requested to sign a nondisclosure or other agreement as a condition of gaining access to sensitive or proprietary data to which the Comptroller General is entitled.

(3) PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The Comptroller General, and any Federal agency and any territorial government that provides information to the Comptroller General, shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the protection of the personal information of a minor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REBECCA TERESA WEICHHAND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 717 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 717) honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that 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. 717) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of December 6, 2018, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 731, 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. 731) designating December 10, 2018, as ''Human Rights Day'' and recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask 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. 731) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6227 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6227) to provide for a coordinated Federal program to accelerate quantum research and development for the economic and national security of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Thune substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4114) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 6227), as amended, was passed.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 115th Congress, and

that Members have until Friday, December 21, to submit such tributes.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to Public Law 115–232, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission: Suzanne Spaulding of Virginia.

The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115–254, on behalf of the Democratic Leader of the Senate, appoints the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group: Dana L. Stroul, of Maryland.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, December 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 756 and that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the House message to accompany S. 756 be at 3:15 p.m. on Monday; finally, that the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 17, 2018, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

JOHNATHAN BRAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2019, VICE WALTER A. BARROWS, TERM EXPIRED.

JOHNATHAN BRAGG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THOMAS JAYNE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2023, VICE STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY, TERM EXPIRED.