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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015

The Senate met at 11:30 and 5 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID PERDUE, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 6, 2015.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

WILDFIRE FUNDING

• Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Congress needs to find a fiscally-responsible solution to wildfire funding and fire borrowing. While the Forest Service still has half a billion dollars remaining for fire suppression, there are years when firefighting costs exceed predicted funding levels. We need a focused discussion on this issue and I plan to begin the conversation with key offices

and States—Wyoming, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Alaska, Washington, California, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, and others that would like to join and will be constructive to its resolution. I know there are differences of opinion out there as to how to solve this problem, but the key to solving it is getting everyone in a room to discuss it. As cap adjustments are under the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues on a durable and long-lasting solution that fits our fiscal priorities and is responsible budgeting.

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I agree with the Senator from Wyoming that we need to find a solution to this problem and I have introduced legislation with Senator CRAPO that currently sits in the Budget Committee. Oregon is on fire and the Forest Service tells me that with current fire seasons getting longer and current budgetary constraints, the days of spending over 50 percent of their budget on suppressing fires is here to stay. The time for talking is coming to an end and the time to negotiate a fix to this very serious problem is at hand. I would like to work under the leadership of my friend, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, over the summer, on an answer to this chronic problem.

• Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I agree with the Senator from Wyoming. Senator MURKOWSKI and I have been working together to propose a solution to this problem as well, and I am proud to be able to say that we have been working with Senator ENZI, Senator WYDEN, and our other colleagues. We have to enable the Forest Service to

have both the resources it needs to deal with wildfires, but also the resources it needs to manage the National forests. The current system of paying for wildfires by, perpetually, taking funding away from the programs that enable the Agency to maintain recreation facilities and complete important restoration projects is simply unacceptable. We can't sit idle and expect this budget issue to fix itself. We all agree a budget cap adjustment of some sort is the solution needed to end the practice of fire borrowing. I appreciate Senator WYDEN's efforts to fix this problem, and I appreciate Senator MURKOWSKI's recent work to fix this problem. Most of these solutions have the common theme of requiring a budget cap adjustment, and we are looking to your leadership, Senator ENZI, to assist us with that. People's homes are burning because of these wildfires. We need to get the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior the money they need to respond to wildfires, but we also need to ensure the money is being well spent. We have a number of ideas to round out the solution. I will be working over the summer with my colleagues to develop comprehensive legislation that solves this budget problem, but also ensures we see fewer large wildfires and fewer houses being lost to them. Our solution—and I want to emphasize our—will be a solution that is easy to explain to the public and that is able to get to the President's desk to be enacted.

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to thank the chairman of the Budget Committee for his leadership on the important issue of wildfire

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



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budgeting. I think we all agree that the way wildfire management has been funded is broken and that it is past time that we fix it. Earlier this year, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that I chair reported the Interior Appropriations bill. My bill provided full funding for the average annual cost of fire fighting over the past 10 years, and included a limited cap adjustment to access disaster relief funding only if the agencies exhaust 100 percent of that 10-year average of wildfire suppression funds. This proposal would end the disruptive and unsustainable practice of borrowing from, and later repaying money to, other government programs to deal with fire emergencies, while also providing up front the resources the agencies need to fight fires in all but the most extreme years. But there is more to the issue of wildfire budgeting as my colleague, Senator CANTWELL, points out. We need to ensure the dollars Congress appropriates are well spent. Senator CANTWELL has some good ideas on how to do that. I stand ready to work with my colleagues to advance a solution that will finally fix this longstanding problem in a fiscally responsible manner.

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to support the efforts of the Senator from Wyoming to address budgetary issues impacting how our Nation fights wildfires. Like the State of Wyoming, Idaho's forested lands are consistently under threat of catastrophic wildfires. According to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, in the last year alone there were 1,456 wildland fires in Idaho that burned 714,057 acres. As more resources go toward fire suppression, resources that could be used to implement projects that improve forest health, benefit forest communities, and enhance public safety are squeezed. We know that wildfires are going to continue to be a threat, and we can better prepare for the increasing costs of wildland fire management by making needed changes that will support the preparation of firefighters and land managers. That is why I partnered with Senator RON WYDEN in introducing legislation, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, to provide for more efficient and effective fire management. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the West, and in the Senate Budget Committee in particular, on legislation that would better budget for our Nation's fire suppression activities.

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to commend the Budget Committee chairman for his ongoing efforts to tackle the fire-borrowing issue. We all agree that the Forest Service should receive the funding it needs to fight fires. I am also glad that there is growing agreement that the Forest Service should budget for 100 percent of its wildfire suppression costs as proposed in legislation introduced by me and my colleagues, Senator FLAKE and Senator BARRASSO. We also know that science

has shown how forest restoration is highly effective in reducing wildfire severity. I look forward to working with Senator WYDEN and the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee on an agreeable solution that protects wildfire prevention and wildfire suppression as the two top priorities of the Forest Service.

• Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, there is wide agreement that the current wildfire funding system is broken. There is no doubt that wildfires are disastrous and the cost to suppress them continues to grow. But we cannot let the costly and disastrous nature of wildfire make us lose sight that many of the costs of fighting fire can be anticipated. Like Senator MCCAIN, I am pleased that there is growing consensus that the fiscally responsible way to deal with these wildfires is to allow access to additional funds through a limited process only after agencies have been appropriated for 100 percent of the anticipated costs of suppression. I look forward to working with my colleagues on enacting this funding fix as well as incorporating provisions that ease the removal of the hazardous fuels that create fire-prone landscapes.

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to thank the senior Senator from Wyoming and chairman of the Senate Budget Committee for his steadfast approach to addressing budget priorities in a responsible and fiscally sound manner. There is bipartisan agreement to end the practice of fire borrowing. If Congress is going to consider budgetary cap adjustments under the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, the Forest Service should first budget for 100 percent of its wildfire suppression costs before cap adjustments are made. In order to bring down the long-term cost of wildfire suppression, Congress should also actively engage in supporting activities which reduce the cost and severity of wildfire such as hazardous fuels treatments, thinning, and other active forest management projects. I have joined with Senators McCain and Flake on legislation to address these issues. I have also put forward legislation to treat more acres to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire. I want to work with my colleagues in the Senate, and specifically Chairman ENZI, to prevent future fire borrowing and reduce the long-term economic and ecological costs associated with wildfires.

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, the Forest Service announced that for the first time in its 110-year history, it is spending more than 50 percent of its budget just to fight wildfires. The Forest Service expects this problem to keep getting worse. Within a decade, they are projecting that firefighting costs will rise to two thirds of the Forest Service budget. The Forest Service can no longer sustain these costs of fighting wildfires while continuing other critical functions of managing our Federal forests. It is long overdue that Congress elimi-

nate the vicious cycle of fire borrowing, where the Forest Service is forced to dig further and further into its budget to fight fires at the expense of critical work to reduce hazardous fuels from the forest and other forest management. I am very grateful that we have such a strong bipartisan group of colleagues working together on this critical matter. I thank my colleagues who are joining me today, and I note that it is this kind of bipartisan cooperation that gets the issues done, along with the strong leadership of Senator WYDEN who has championed this issue with a bipartisan bill for the last two Congresses, in addition to the strong leadership of Senator MURKOWSKI which allowed us to take a big step in the right direction in the Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016. It is crucial to our communities facing threats of wildfire that we keep this cooperation going. I will keep working with my colleagues to solve this urgent budgetary crisis.

• Mr. DAINES. I want to thank Chairman ENZI for his commitment to solving the wildfire funding challenge that is increasingly forcing the Forest Service to spend more of its budget suppressing fires rather than preventing them through enhanced management. Like many other Western States, Montana has already experienced several high-intensity fires this year. The fire season thus far has been one of the worst in the past decade and has only made more evident the urgent need for a wildfire funding solution. As a cosponsor of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, I believe it is critical that Congress end fire borrowing and ensure that the Forest Service can spend more of its budget on making our National forests more resilient to fire, while also equipping the Agency with the tools and authorities it needs to restore active management. I look forward to working with Chairman ENZI, other Budget Committee members, and fellow colleagues to find consensus on these high-priority reforms.

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in wanting to fix the way we fund fire. We have to start using common sense and budget for catastrophic wildfires like we do for other natural disasters. Unfortunately, due to congressional inaction and growing costs associated with fighting wildfires, the Forest Service is increasingly turning into a firefighting agency. This means fewer resources for smart public land management. Montana's National forests benefit our outdoor recreation economy, support timber jobs in rural communities, and preserve the drinking water that Montanans rely on. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address both the issues of fire borrowing and the increasing costs of fighting fires. The Forest Service cannot continue to absorb these increasing costs without undermining other critical priorities, from timber harvest and research to conservation

and recreation management. There is real bipartisan support for getting something done on this issue and I am confident a growing number of our colleagues will join us as we push forward this fall.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which we will celebrate today, August 6. I want to spend a few minutes talking about Freedom Summer, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the civil rights challenges we still face today, and how Senators can work together to make this a more perfect union and guarantee equal justice under the law to all Americans, as promised by our Constitution.

On January 23, 1964, the States ratified the 24th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides that “the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other [Federal] election . . . shall not be denied or abridged . . . by any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.”

Freedom Summer was a campaign in Mississippi to register Black voters during the summer of 1964. In 1964, most Black voters were disenfranchised by law or practice in Mississippi, notwithstanding the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in 1870. The 15th Amendment provides that “the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by . . . any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

The national uproar in response to the deaths of three civil rights workers—James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael “Mickey” Schwerner—helped lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Southern States, however, continued to impose barriers on African-American citizens’ right to vote even after the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The following summer, Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders led a series of voter registration marches from Selma to Montgomery, AL. Ultimately, the marchers were met with force on March 7, 1965, known as Bloody Sunday, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Montgomery, AL. Television news reports shocked the conscience of Americans, who could not believe that their fellow citizens were ruthlessly beaten by the police while exercising their First Amendment right to peaceably assemble and petition their government for redress of grievances.

A few days later, President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress and called for the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, ended his speech with the old refrain from the civil rights movement: we shall overcome. Congress did act and pass the

Voting Rights Act, as this week we celebrate the 50th anniversary.

So as we celebrate the anniversaries of these landmark pieces of civil rights legislation, we are reminded that there is more work to be done. Today I must urge my colleagues to address the recent pernicious efforts to restrict the franchise and limit access to the fundamental right to vote. This past weekend, *The New York Times Magazine* ran an article entitled “Overcome,” about a systematic effort by a small group of activists to dismantle the protections in the Voting Rights Act. I commend this article for review by my colleagues.

Two summers ago, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, invalidating the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subject to the preclearance provisions of the act.

Congress must act to reverse the decision by the Supreme Court which overturned several important precedents. As much as we wish it wasn’t so, racism has not disappeared from America and there continue to be individuals and groups who would use our voting system to deliberately minimize the rights of minority voters. Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 after building an extensive record that made a compelling case for the continued need to protect minority voters from discrimination.

I strongly agree with Justice Ginsburg’s dissent that “in truth, the evolution of voting discrimination into more subtle second-generation barriers is powerful evidence that a remedy as effective as preclearance remains vital to protect minority voting rights and prevent backsliding.” I am deeply disappointed that the Court put voting rights in jeopardy by ignoring reality and disregarding the power of Congress to enforce the 15th Amendment of the Constitution by appropriate legislation.

I am a proud co-sponsor of Senator LEAHY’s legislation, S. 1659, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 responds to current conditions in voting today by restoring the full protections of the original, bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was last reauthorized on a bipartisan vote by Congress in 2006, but significantly weakened by the Supreme Court in 2013.

Following the *Shelby County* decision 2 years ago, several States passed sweeping voter suppression laws that disproportionately prevent minorities, the elderly, and the youth from voting. The Leahy bill provides the tools to address these discriminatory practices and seeks to protect all Americans’ right to vote.

The Leahy bill establishes a targeted process for reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, focused on measures that have historically been

used to discriminate against voters. The process for reviewing changes in voting is limited to a set of measures, such as voter IDs, that have historically been found to have the greatest discriminatory impact.

Congress should also take up and pass the Democracy Restoration Act, DRA, S. 772, which I have introduced. The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in Federal elections to approximately 5.8 million citizens who have been released from prison and are back living in their communities.

Notwithstanding the 15th Amendment, many States passed laws during the Jim Crow period after the Civil War to make it more difficult for newly-freed slaves to vote in elections. Such laws included poll taxes, literacy tests, and disenfranchisement measures.

Some disenfranchisement measures applied to misdemeanor convictions and in practice could result in lifetime disenfranchisement, even for individuals that successfully reintegrated into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 did sweep away numerous State laws and procedures that had denied African Americans and other minorities their constitutional right to vote. For example, the act outlawed the use of literacy or history tests that voters had to pass before registering to vote or casting their ballot.

The act specifically prohibits States from imposing any “voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure . . . to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.”

In 2015, I am concerned that there are still several areas where the legacy of Jim Crow laws and State disenfranchisement statutes lead to unfairness in Federal elections.

First, State laws governing the restoration of voting rights vary widely throughout the country, such that persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights, while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently.

Second, these State disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities.

Third, this patchwork of State laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections, and leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on residence.

Finally, studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to reoffend, and disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.

The legislation would restore voting rights to prisoners after their release from incarceration. It requires that prisons receiving Federal funds notify

people about their right to vote in Federal elections when they are leaving prison, sentenced to probation, or convicted of a misdemeanor.

The legislation is crafted to apply to Federal elections, and retains the States' authorities to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation is consistent with congressional authority under the Constitution and voting rights statutes.

I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by a large coalition of public interest organizations, including: civil rights and reform organizations; religious and faith-based organizations; and law enforcement and criminal justice organizations. In particular I want to thank the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP for their work here.

I also urge Congress to take up legislation that I have introduced in the past with Senator SCHUMER, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act. Voter suppression and intimidation are still very much alive in our Nation.

From misleading and fraudulent information about elections to voter intimidation and robocalls designed to suppress the vote, deceptive voting practices are often aimed at depriving minority communities of their voice in our democracy. The U.S. Constitution guarantees and protects the right of every American citizen to vote, and we have a duty to protect and ensure that right.

Unfortunately, we have seen a resurgence of deceptive voter practices in recent years. In 2006, during my own election to the Senate, thousands of minority voters in Maryland were targeted for misleading information designed to suppress their vote. Nationwide, there have been numerous reports of efforts to suppress the minority vote by putting out wrong information about election dates and location of polling places, along with suggestions that voters who had outstanding parking tickets would be arrested if they tried to vote.

This legislation is designed to protect voters across the Nation from election fraud and voter intimidation by creating criminal penalties for deceptive voting practices and by giving individual voters the right to take action. If deceptive practices are found to have occurred before election day, the U.S. Attorney General can take corrective action to halt distribution of such information and to set the record straight. After Federal elections, the Attorney General also would be required to report to Congress on the allegations of deceptive practices and the actions taken to correct such practices.

Let me also mention another issue relating to civil rights, which is the right to serve on a Federal jury. My view is that after release from prison, ex-offenders should be given both

rights and responsibilities. So in addition to restoring the right to vote as we seek to reduce recidivism and successfully integrate ex-offenders back into the community, I would also permit ex-offenders to perform the civic duty of serving on a jury of their peers.

This legislative change is a part of my BALTIMORE Act, S. 1610, the Building and Lifting Trust In Order to Multiply Opportunities and Racial Equality. I introduced this legislation after the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore while in police custody. It also includes my End Racial Profiling Act, ERPA.

Next month the NAACP, which is headquartered in Baltimore, and other civil rights groups will conclude its Journey for Justice march at the U.S. Capitol as part of their Justice Summer campaign. This historic 860-mile march from Selma, AL to Washington, DC, will mobilize activists and advance a focused national policy agenda.

This policy agenda seeks to protect the right of every American to a fair criminal justice system and uncorrupted and unfettered access to the ballot box.

In particular, the march will call for the enactment of the Voting Rights Advancement Act and the End Racial Profiling Act. Congress should take up and pass these two critically important pieces of legislation.

It would be the appropriate way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.●

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss one of the great moral challenges of our time—human trafficking. The term human trafficking involves crimes of forced labor, sexual exploitation, debt bondage, forced marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children. Trafficking in persons destroys people and corrodes communities. It distorts labor markets and undermines stability and the rule of law. It is fueled by greed, violence, and corruption.

There are at least 21 million victims of human trafficking in the world—and over 5 million of them are children, according to the International Labor Organization, ILO. Forced labor alone generates more than \$150 billion in profits annually, making it one of the largest income sources for international criminals, second only to drug trafficking. Trafficking victims range from women enslaved as domestic workers in countries as diverse as Saudi Arabia and Singapore to Nepali construction workers building stadiums for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. It also ensnares Rohingya and Cambodian men and boys on Thai fishing boats working to put fish in European and American grocery stores. It includes countless Venezuelan women and girls, some lured from poor towns in the interior to urban centers, who are then subjected to sex trafficking.

Even in our own country, cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 States.

Traffickers take advantage of conflict, the collapse of state institutions, and even natural disasters—like the recent earthquake in Nepal—to prey on vulnerable civilians. We are witnessing terrorist groups like ISIL and Boko Haram that proudly build their “states” on the trade in and enslavement of women and children.

There has been some progress. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The TVPA, and the annual Trafficking In Persons, TIP, Report it mandates, have played a major role in raising global awareness of human trafficking and galvanizing both civil society and governments to address both labor and sex trafficking crimes. The report analyzes the efforts of foreign governments, and our own, to comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, as set out by the TVPA.

The TIP Report has been widely regarded as the “gold standard” for trafficking information, and as an essential tool for ensuring continued progress against the scourge of human trafficking. The value of the TIP Report, and the United States' credibility on this critical issue, relies heavily on the integrity of that report.

On Monday, July 27, the Department of State released the 2015 TIP Report. I have great respect for the small, dedicated staff at the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, as well as our numerous embassies around the world that help collect credible information for the report. Nevertheless, I was struck by the strong response to the 2015 report by outside country experts and frontline advocates who have worked in the trenches on human trafficking for years. They raised significant questions about the integrity and neutrality of the 2015 TIP Report and the decision to upgrade Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, and Malaysia, among others. We need to listen carefully to their views.

Of particular concern is the upgrade of Malaysia, which I want to discuss briefly. Malaysia has a serious human trafficking problem, which is why the State Department downgraded Malaysia last year to a Tier 3 country in the TIP Report, a level that includes the worst human trafficking offenders in the world. In Malaysia, the use of forced labor is pervasive in agriculture, construction, electronics, and textile industries, and the sex trade industry.

This year, the State Department upgraded Malaysia to the Tier 2 Watch List on the grounds that the government had made significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards to combat human trafficking. Those efforts by the government included beginning to reform its flawed victim protection regime, along with its legal framework, and consultations with

civil society. The Malaysian authorities increased the number of investigations and prosecutions—although the low number of convictions remained disproportionate to the scale of the problem. The 2015 TIP Report states that the Malaysian Government had three convictions of traffickers in 2014, a substantial decrease from the nine convictions reported in the 2014 TIP Report.

While Malaysia has taken small steps that seem to indicate some recent progress, these steps do not appear to me to be sufficient to justify an upgrade. Evidence of the trafficking problems in Malaysia continued outside of the 2015 TIP reporting period, which ended on March 31, 2015. For example, in May 2015, mass graves believed to contain bodies of 139 Rohingya trafficking victims were found in abandoned jungle camps along Malaysia's northern border, along with pens likely used as cages for the victims.

Malaysia is a party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP, negotiations. The juxtaposition of the administration's pursuit of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in the case of Malaysia and the upgrade of Malaysia's TIP tier ranking at the same time has raised concerns among some observers regarding the integrity and veracity of the 2015 ranking process.

I look forward to hearing more from the administration in the days ahead about the considerations taken into account for the TIP ranking process and, in particular, the decision to upgrade Malaysia. That is why Chairman CORKER and I scheduled a hearing on this issue in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Archibald MacLeish, the writer and former Librarian of Congress, said:

There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American Dream.

We owe it to the millions of men, women, and children around the world who suffer from the horrifying depredations of modern slavery to maintain America's leadership, reputation, and resolve in the fight against human trafficking.●

RECOGNIZING YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on September 5, 1995, York County Technical College opened its doors in a hotel in Wells, ME, with five associate's degree and certificate programs and 156 students. Now known as York County Community College, the college in 2015 has three campuses, more than 30 programs, and some 1,700 full and part-time students. I congratulate this remarkable institution for 20 years of contributions to the people of Maine's southernmost county and to our entire State.

This truly is a community effort. In the years before the school was established, business, civic, and education

leaders in York County formed Partners for Progress, a coalition to address the challenge of developing a better-trained workforce for a fast-changing global economy. The demand for technical education was immediately apparent: by 1997, in just its third year, the numbers for enrollment and programs both tripled. In recent years, York County Community College has twice been named one of the fastest-growing community colleges in the Nation.

In 2003, Maine's outstanding technical college system expanded its mission to become a community college system that enhances skills, strengthens our State's economy, and increases access to college. Nearly one-half of York County Community College students are first-generation college students, and some 40 percent of graduates go on to enroll at a 4-year college. Under the leadership of President Barbara Finkelstein, a dedicated faculty and staff, and a committed YCCC Foundation, York County Community College reaches out in many ways. With programs for seniors and students of high school age and younger, lifelong learning is a core part of the school's mission. The Center for Entrepreneurship encourages the innovation that is essential to our economy. Arts and culture offerings and the "Eggs and Issues" speakers program enrich the entire community.

The people of Maine are proud of our community college system. The reason is clear: students of all ages and backgrounds are finding affordable tuition and the skills they need to succeed. They are finding real value.

York County Community College is an important part of that success. Since its inception, the college has educated more than 20,000 people in many fields, including medical fields, technology, business management, skilled trades, and many other occupations. It has fueled the economy, created opportunity, and helped improve the quality of life for all. The accomplishments of York County Community College during the past 20 years are inspiring, and I know the best is yet to come.●

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize three outstanding Minnesota police officers. The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the largest association representing Minnesota's rank-and-file police officers, recently met for its annual conference and named Sergeant Mark Ficcadenti of the St. Paul Police Department Police Officer of the Year and gave Honorable Mention Awards to Officer Mark Ross of the St. Paul Police Department and State Trooper Brian Beuning.

Sergeant Ficcadenti is a 30-year veteran of the St. Paul Police Department

where he serves an indispensable role performing community outreach and forging relationships with the most vulnerable immigrant populations. Sergeant Ficcadenti organizes events such as the East African Junior Police Academy, Ramadan celebrations with the local Somali community, and the "Safe and Sound" program that allows people to meet and get to know local police officers. His tireless efforts to ensure that the police department serves all communities has promoted safety, encouraged community cooperation, and fostered trust in law enforcement.

Honorable Mention Award recipient Officer Mark Ross of the St. Paul Police Department is a former school resource officer, whose awareness prompted him to look into a female high school student's frequent absences and suspicious relationship with her father. After some investigation, Ross revealed that the student's father had been abusing and neglecting the young girl for years. The father was convicted and is now serving a 25-year sentence in prison. As a result of Officer Ross' actions, the young woman has graduated from high school and has been accepted into a Minnesota college.

The second Honorable Mention Award recipient, Minnesota State Trooper Beuning, exhibited heroism and outstanding professionalism when dispatched last year to help a woman trapped in her car during a flash flood in Beaver Creek, MN. After wading through knee-deep waters, State Trooper Beuning calmed the trapped woman by standing next to the car and speaking to her through a cracked window. Seconds after Trooper Beuning and firefighters removed the woman through the window of her car, the vehicle was swept away by floodwaters. Three months after his act of bravery, Beuning was given the Officer of the Month Award by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

I join all of my fellow Minnesotans in applauding these three distinguished public servants. I would also like to thank not only these three individuals but all of Minnesota's brave law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe.●

RECOGNIZING INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to one of the country's exemplary organizations, Intermountain Healthcare, which this year celebrates 40 years of service to people in Utah and the surrounding area. Based in Salt Lake City, Intermountain Healthcare has been a longtime provider of top-of-the-line care, as well as a leading example among the country's integrated health systems.

Prior to the organization's inception in 1975, the 15 hospitals that would become Intermountain Healthcare were administered and operated by the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After deciding it would divest its hospitals, the church yielded its responsibilities to a new, secular, not-for-profit organization known as Intermountain Healthcare.

Since that time, Intermountain Healthcare has grown to include 21 hospitals across the State of Utah, as well as one in Idaho. In addition to its hospitals, Intermountain also includes more than 185 clinics and 1,400 multi-specialty doctors and advanced-practice clinicians. Its not-for-profit health plan, SelectHealth, serves more than 750,000 members. Its integrated structure allows Intermountain to work with people at all stages of their lives, before and after they may require medical care, to optimize health. Intermountain Healthcare has been completely dedicated to its mission of “helping people live the healthiest lives possible,” and for the last 40 years it has successfully accomplished that mission.

Intermountain strives to provide the highest quality care and services to all at an affordable cost, at times, even providing care for those unable to finance their own medical needs. In 2014, in more than 268,000 cases, Intermountain Healthcare donated more than \$384 million in services to those who were unable to pay. In addition, Intermountain operates safety net community clinics for people who are uninsured or who have low incomes, and it provides financial support to 30 independent community clinics in the region. These clinics cared for people in more than 366,000 visits last year. Among its many other community benefits, Intermountain also provided \$33 million to support medical training programs, residencies, and other health-related education. Intermountain Healthcare is a vital leader within the Utah community and truly embodies its values of integrity, trust, excellence, accountability, and mutual respect that are critical in the provision of health care. Led by a volunteer board of trustees who donate their time without pay themselves, Intermountain is making a huge impact in the world of health care, as well as in the lives of the individuals it serves.

Intermountain Healthcare has for years been recognized as one of the leading organizations of its kind. This year Intermountain Healthcare had five hospitals included on the Truven Health Analytics annual 100 Top Hospitals study. There was only one other health system in the U.S. that had five hospitals on the list. In 2014, Intermountain was named to the InformationWeek Elite 100 rankings, which compiles a list of top business technology innovators in the U.S. These are just a few examples from the resumé of accomplishments and recognition Intermountain Healthcare has rightfully earned.

In addition to the administration of its health services and medical group, Intermountain Healthcare provides key

emergency transport services in its region. In 1978, Intermountain Life Flight made its first helicopter patient transport, making it only the seventh air medical helicopter service in the United States. Life Flight now owns and operates 7 helicopters and 3 fixed-wing aircraft. This operation has been crucial to locating, rescuing, and saving patients who are in time-sensitive, critical condition.

The growth, quality, and innovation of Intermountain Healthcare is impressive, but what stands out even more is this organization's character. It has always sought to follow the highest ethical standard, even in cases when legal standards were lower or when transparency may have led to embarrassment. One example was its decision to proactively notify certain patients of possible exposure to a rare disease, even though the risk was very low and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that notification was not required. Another example was its decision to voluntarily self-disclose potential compliance issues with a Federal law to the U.S. attorney, even though it exposed itself to significant penalties. Intermountain is an organization that always takes the high road, seeks to do the right thing, and raises the bar for ethical behavior.

When I look at Intermountain Healthcare, I see an example to the country of what it means to serve. I see health care providers who make people a priority rather than profit. I see an organization that values honesty and ethical conduct with its patients, its peers, and the government. We in Utah are blessed by such a high standard of conduct. May we all follow this example as we fulfill our duty to honorably serve our fellow citizens and contribute to our community.

Please join me in commending Intermountain Healthcare on the leadership it has demonstrated and the positive influence it has had on American health care in its first 40 years of service.●

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 5, 2015, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 6, 2015:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 833. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KING:

S. 2003. A bill to facilitate the free market for distributed energy resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2004. A bill to amend section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, to modify the authority of the President of the United States to declare national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2005. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prevent concurrent receipt of unemployment benefits and Social Security disability insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 2006. A bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2007. A bill to create a consistent framework to expedite the recruitment of highly qualified personnel who perform information technology, cybersecurity, and cyber-related functions to enhance cybersecurity across the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2008. A bill to enhance transportation programs in order to achieve an interconnected transportation system which connects people to jobs, schools, and other essential services through a multimodal network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2009. A bill to prohibit the sale of arms to Bahrain; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend the definition of “homeless person” under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. PETERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 952

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access of Medicare beneficiaries to community pharmacies in underserved areas as network pharmacies under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1309

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1309, a bill to provide for the removal of default information from a borrower's credit report with respect to certain rehabilitated education loans.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1819

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1819, a bill to improve security at Armed Forces recruitment centers.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1893

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1945, a bill to make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to increase awareness of the Federal student loan income-based repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1967

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1967, a bill to provide for the conveyance of land of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois.

S. 1972

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1972, a bill to require air carriers to modify certain policies with respect to the use of epinephrine for in-flight emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1994

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1994, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase certain fuel taxes and to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 245

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 245, a resolution designating the week beginning September 13, 2015, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week".

AMENDMENT NO. 2590

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2590 intended to be proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENTS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair announces that pursuant to the consent obtained on August 5, 2015, granting the leaders authority to make appointments during the recess of the Senate, the following appointments were made on August 6, 2015.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable TOM COTTON of Arkansas, the Honorable STEVE DAINES of Montana, and the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 113-146, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Care: Lt. General Martin Steele (Ret) of Florida.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, AT 2 P.M.

Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, pursuant
to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 72.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:30 and 39
seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
September 8, 2015, at 2 p.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
pore. Under the previous order, the