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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Infinite Father, thank You for Your providential care. You lead us as a great shepherd beside still waters. You restore our souls.

Fill our lawmakers with optimism and hope as they remember that all things are possible to those who believe. With confidence in Your strength, may they face the future unafraid. Lord, help them to overcome every obstacle that would discourage them. May they cast their cares on You, remembering that You will keep them from stumbling or slipping.

Lord, lead us all to undergo all necessary discipline, diligence, and sacrifice, to do Your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your powerful 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2017.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we will work toward passing one of the most important bills we consider each year, the National Defense Authorization Act. This is the legislation that authorizes the resources, the capabilities, and the pay and benefits that our men and women in uniform need to perform their missions. This bill is always important, but it is especially important in light of the many security threats we face around the globe.

Consider Iran. We have seen the regime work aggressively to dominate its neighbors and to expand its sphere of influence across the Persian Gulf and the broader Middle East.

Consider North Korea. We have watched Pyongyang become ever more determined to develop its nuclear weapons capabilities, as well as a means to deliver them.

Consider Russia. We have witnessed the Kremlin continue its efforts to undermine NATO and the Western nations it views as threats to its own power.

Consider China. We have looked on as the nation has grown in regional and economic strength, making clear its intent to displace U.S. influence so that it can dominate the Asia Pacific on its own.

These are state actors, and the challenges they pose include the employment of asymmetric means like propaganda, coercion, cyber attacks, and espionage, but these are not the only threats to our Nation. Consider how groups like ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other affiliated terror organizations have continued to threaten the United States and other nations. Consider how they continue to plot to strike our homeland and those of our allies.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration too often failed to mitigate these kinds of threats, instead pushing a foreign policy marked by a drawdown of our conventional military posture, a heavy reliance on international organizations, and overreliance on special operations forces to train and equip partner units in other nations. This drawdown and the harmful consequences of sequestration have inflicted upon our forces a genuine readiness crisis. Our force structure simply is not sufficient to address the challenges I mentioned in either a comprehensive or responsible way.

We need to correct this. That means equipping our servicemembers with the resources and training necessary to sufficiently address these myriad threats. I was pleased that this spring's government funding bill made an important downpayment toward rebuilding our forces, but more work remains.

Fortunately, we can add to that progress with this year's Defense authorization legislation. The bill before us will allow our Nation to start rebuilding our military and restoring combat readiness. It will aid in rooting out waste and bringing reform to the Pentagon. It will help improve our missile defense and help us better prepare for cyber threats, and it will go a long way toward reviving troop morale, authorizing a well-deserved pay raise to

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

our men and women in uniform, along with continuing the benefits that they and their families rely on.

As Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the committee put it, not only does this legislation ''[build] upon the sweeping reforms that Congress has passed in recent years'' but ''[b]y continuing important efforts to reorganize the Department of Defense, spur innovation in defense technology, and improve defense acquisitions and business operations, the NDAA seeks to strengthen accountability and streamline the process of getting our warfighters the equipment, training, and resources they need to succeed.''

Senator REED, the top Democrat on that committee, said that the NDAA ''invests in much needed readiness to allow our fighting men and women to be properly trained and equipped for a wide range of threats.''

''I salute Chairman MCCAIN's leadership,'' Senator REED added, ''in maintaining the Committee's tradition of bipartisan cooperation and support of our Armed Forces.''

Let me echo that sentiment. This good bill has already earned the bipartisan support of every single member of the Armed Services Committee—every single member, Democrat and Republican. They reported it out unanimously. I appreciate the committee's work on this year's Defense authorization bill, as well as the ceaseless efforts of Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED. With their continued leadership and a little hard work from both sides, we can pass the Defense authorization bill this week.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was 1 week ago when President Trump and Attorney General Sessions announced that they were going to rescind the DACA Program. This is a program created by President Obama by Executive order that allowed those who had come to the United States as children to have an opportunity to be given 2 years on a renewable basis where they would not be subject to deportation and could work.

These young people are known as the Dreamers, a term that came about when I introduced the bill 16 years ago called the DREAM Act. These are young people who, frankly, are just asking for a chance, an opportunity to be part of the only country they have ever known.

The laws of the United States are very tough and very strict, and they say that, if you are undocumented, in their situation, you have to leave America for 10 years and then petition to come back in. That is why I introduced the DREAM Act. So these young people who were brought to this country by their parents would have a chance.

President Obama used his authority in an Executive order to allow them to apply for DACA protection. They had to pay a substantial filing fee and submit themselves to a criminal background check before they would be allowed to stay. So 780,000 young people did just that, and they are protected currently, but only for a few more months, under this DACA provision.

What is going to happen to them, we don't know. The only thing that makes any sense at this point is for Congress to act, for us to do something to replace the DACA Program, which the President is going to rescind, with a law—a law that establishes clearly the requirements, as well as the rights, that will be given to these individuals under the law.

That is why I have introduced the Dream Act with my cosponsor LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican of South Carolina. There are three other Republican cosponsors at this point, and we hope to move this forward.

President Trump has said he is interested in working with us, and we are going to take him at his word. Despite rescinding DACA, I hope the President will be on our side to come up with a replacement that is fair.

Also, I want to address many of the myths that have come up about DACA, as well as the Dream Act. I am going to quote an unusual source for this Senator. The source is a man named David Bier. David is an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute. Those of us who live in this Washington environment of politics know that the Cato Institute is not a liberal think tank. It is the opposite. It is a conservative, largely Republican think tank, and Mr. Bier has published an article that has been seen in the Washington Post, in the Chicago Tribune, and in other papers entitled the ''Five myths about DACA.''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Washington Post article entitled ''Five myths about DACA.''

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

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 7, 2017]

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT DACA

(By David Bier)

The Trump administration's move to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, has created an uncertain future for the 800,000 young unauthorized immigrants who had been granted protection from deportation and permission to work legally. A six-month delay provides a chance for Congress to save the 2012 program. But if we're going to debate the merits of DACA, we should know what we're talking about. Here are some common myths.

MYTH NO. 1

DACA incentivized an increase in illegal immigration. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R–Va.) is among those who support ending DACA because it has ''encouraged more illegal immigration and contributed to the surge of unaccompanied minors and families seeking to enter the U.S. illegally.'' Statements like this betray a misunderstanding of who is eligible for deportation relief under the program. DACA applies only to immigrants who entered before their 16th birthdays and who have lived in the country continuously since at least June 15, 2007—more than a decade ago. No one entering now can apply.

Perhaps the chairman thinks that children coming to the border are confused on this point. But the facts don't support that view either. To begin with, the timing is wrong. According to data from the Border Patrol, the increase in migrant children in 2012—the year President Barack Obama announced DACA—occurred entirely in the months before the president announced the policy. The rate of increase also remained the same in 2013 as it was in 2012. Even then, the total number of juveniles attempting to cross the border—unaccompanied and otherwise—never returned to the pre-recession levels of the mid-2000s.

Another problem with the theory is that although the majority of DACA beneficiaries are of Mexican origin, the increase in children crossing the border stems from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. These countries share one common trait: much higher than average levels of violence than anywhere else in North America. A careful study of this phenomenon by economist Michael Clemens found that more than anything else, a rise in homicides between 2007 and 2009 set off a chain of events that led to the rise of child migration.

Regardless, overall illegal immigration is far below where it was before the United States' last legalization program, in 1986, when each border agent caught more than 40 border crossers per month. Last year, it was fewer than two per month. DACA had no effect on this trend.

MYTH NO. 2

DACA has taken jobs from Americans. In announcing the Trump administration's decision this past week, Attorney General Jeff

Sessions said that DACA ''denied jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans by allowing those same jobs to go to illegal aliens.'' This myth even has a name in economics: the lump of labor fallacy. It supposes that the number of jobs in the economy is fixed, and that any increase in workers results in unemployment. Yet this notion is easily disproved. From 1970 to 2017, the U.S. labor force doubled. Rather than ending up with a 50 percent unemployment rate, U.S. employment doubled.

If adding workers made the economy poorer, we might expect that people would try to ''free'' themselves from competition by moving to a desolate mountain and making everything for themselves. That no one does so is an admission that competition is actually good. We depend on other workers, DACA recipients included, to buy the products and services we produce. That's one reason earlier efforts to restrict immigration did not produce any wage gains.

MYTH NO. 3

Repealing DACA would benefit taxpayers. Sessions also argued that ending DACA ''protects taxpayers.'' But the opposite is true. According to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), first-generation immigrants who enter the United States as children (including all DACA recipients) pay, on average, more in taxes over their lifetimes than they receive in benefits, regardless of their education level. DACA recipients end up contributing more than the average, because they are not eligible for any federal means-tested welfare: cash assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, health-care tax credits or anything else.

They also are better educated than the average immigrant. Applicants must have at least a high school degree to enter the program. An additional 36 percent of DACA recipients who are older than 25 have a bachelor's degree, and an additional 32 percent are pursuing a bachelor's degree. The NAS finds that among recent immigrants who entered as children, those with a high school degree are positive to the government, to the tune of $60,000 to $153,000 in net present value, meaning it's like each immigrant cutting a check for that amount at the door. For those with a bachelor's degree, it's a net positive of $160,000 to $316,000. Each DACA permit canceled is like burning tens of thousands of dollars in Washington.

MYTH NO. 4

DACA repeal protects communities from criminals. DACA repeal, the attorney general further claimed, ''saves lives'' and ''protects communities.'' He implied that DACA ''put our nation at risk of crime.'' But DACA participants are not criminals. Unauthorized immigrants—the applicant pool for DACA—are much less likely to end up in prison, indicating lower levels of criminality. More important, to participate in DACA, applicants must pass a background check. They have to live here without committing a serious offense. If they are arrested, DACA can be taken away even without a conviction.

Only 2,139 out of almost 800,000 DACA recipients have lost their permits because of criminal or public safety concerns—that's just a quarter of 1 percent. Four times as many U.S.-born Americans are in prison. About 35 times as many Americans have ended up behind bars at some point before age 34.

MYTH NO. 5

DACA repeal is just about politics. Obama criticized the DACA move this past week as ''a political decision'' that was ''not required legally.'' But legal issues certainly factored into the Trump administration's calculation. The timing coincided with a deadline that several states imposed on the administration, stating that if the president did not wind down DACA by Sept. 5, they would sue. If President Trump wanted to end DACA for political reasons, he could have done so on his first day in office.

Obama should know that defending DACA legally could be difficult. After all, when he attempted to implement a similar but much broader program in 2015 for undocumented parents of U.S. citizens, courts shut him down. Obama implemented DACA without going through Congress, and although some legal scholars dispute whether it faces the same legal issues as the 2015 program, the Trump administration would have confronted a real possibility of defeat had it chosen to defend DACA in court.

The correct response, however—for economic reasons and security reasons, but above all for moral reasons—would have been to actively push for Congress to enact the program, not to announce its demise and leave the chips to fall where they may.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in this article, he spells out in some detail why some of the myths that were perpetrated by Attorney General Sessions and others last week need to be explained. One of them is that DACA somehow incentivized an increase in illegal immigration. Mr. Bier makes it clear that, when it comes down to it, you cannot arrive in the United States today and expect to be protected by DACA tomorrow. In fact, you have to have arrived in the United States at least by June 15 of 2007, more than a decade ago. So to argue that DACA was an incentive for more immigration in this country is just plain wrong.

What about those kids who showed up on the borders years ago, thousands of them? Well, it turns out that they weren't eligible for DACA or the Dream Act, and it also turns out that most of them were not from Mexico but from parts of Central America, which has been devastated by crime waves and gang activity.

The second myth that Mr. Bier addresses is that these DACA recipients—780,000—are taking jobs away from Americans. What he points out is that, if you start with the premise that we have a static amount of jobs in this country—what he calls a ''lump of labor fallacy''—then, it is dog-eat-dog to fight for those jobs.

It turns out that we have an expanding economy, and he proves it by giving us a statistic. Between 1970 and 2017, the U.S. labor force doubled. So rather than ending up with a 50-percent unemployment rate, our U.S. employment doubled. It is an expanding and dynamic economy.

The case can be made effectively that the DACA recipients are people who can add to the economy. All of them have to have the equivalent or a high school education. Many of them—large percentages of them—have college degrees and even more. So they can bring a lot to the economy.

The other point or the other myth that Mr. Bier addresses is whether repealing DACA would benefit taxpayers. The point he makes is that these DACA recipients are paying taxes in the jobs they are working and, by and large, are ineligible for any Federal programs or any Federal assistance.

So they are a net gain in terms of our Treasury and in terms of what they can do. For example, if you are protected by DACA today on a 2-year renewable basis, you do not qualify for a Pell grant to go to college. You don't qualify for a Federal Government loan. You have to find out how you are going to do it some other way. So these young people who are working and paying taxes are not drawing from any of the government programs that other people their age draw from.

There is also this argument that DACA somehow is going to make America less safe and that there will be more criminals. Don't forget what I said earlier. To qualify for DACA, you have to submit yourself to a criminal background check. The likelihood of the next crime being committed by a DACA recipient is very narrow. The likelihood that it is committed by someone who is already an American citizen is much more likely.

Finally, there is the argument that DACA is just about politics. Well, it can be about politics, unless we do our job in Congress. We are supposed to pass the laws. The President has challenged us to pass a law that will help deal with DACA. We have, I think, an awesome responsibility to do just that.

I was at Loyola University's medical school on Friday and met several of the DACA students who are in medical school at Loyola. They are extraordinarily bright individuals who competed and were accepted at Loyola's medical school. Now they have a program. As they complete the 4 years of medical school at Loyola, they want to apply for residencies so they can specialize. If you are going to be a resident, you had better be prepared to work. If you don't have DACA protection, you can't legally work in the United States. Thirty-two aspiring, really bright, young medical students soon to be doctors will be stopped in their tracks if we don't replace DACA because they cannot apply for residency because they cannot legally work in America without DACA protection or something like it.

Would we be better off in America if those 32 individuals did not become doctors? Of course not. We want them to become doctors. In Illinois, the State is helping to pay for their education with the promise that they will practice medicine in an underserved area of our State. I am from downstate Illinois, small-town Illinois, and I will tell you that we desperately need more doctors, not just in individual towns but at the hospitals that serve those towns. If these 32 can help us reach those goals, we are going to have better medical care across our State, but that depends on Congress and Congress meeting its responsibility.

I have come to the floor of the Senate over 100 times now to tell the stories of individuals who are affected by

DACA and the Dream Act, and I want to do that again today. I found that speeches are great and statistics are fine, but when you hear the stories about these individuals—who they are, what they have done, and what they aspire to do—you can understand the context of this important national debate.

The person I want to introduce today in the Senate is this young lady, Cristina Velasquez. She was brought to the United States at the age of 6 from Caracas, Venezuela. She went to elementary school in Madison, WI. She wrote me a letter. Cristina wrote the following:

I spent my formative childhood years in the Midwest where I learned to assimilate and learned the values this country was founded on. The salt-of-the-Earth quality of people around me and extraordinary kindness between strangers shaped my own values and attitude toward others. Growing up in Madison taught me a great deal about compassion, patience, and hard work.

Cristina was an outstanding student. In high school she was a member of the National Honor Society. She was elected vice president of her class, and she managed the track team. She found time to volunteer at a local summer camp for pre-K students. She graduated from the Honors College at Miami Dade College. She is currently a student at Georgetown University, majoring in international law, institutions, and ethics. She has received the President's Volunteer Service Award 2 years in a row and is a Walsh Scholar. As a graduate of Georgetown, I can tell you nobody ever named me a Walsh Scholar. This young lady obviously is very talented.

During her time at Georgetown, Cristina has interned in the House of Representatives and has piloted a college mentorship program at a local high school. In addition, she also has found time to have two part-time jobs. She has to. You see, as a person who is protected by DACA and undocumented, she doesn't qualify for government assistance to go to college—certainly not at the Federal level. So these students have to work extra hard to stay in school.

She has dedicated two of her undergraduate summers and a full school year volunteering to teach in Miami and in San Francisco. In both of these cities, she worked with high-achieving, low-income students trying to get them into college. You see, Cristina's dream ultimately is to be a teacher.

Last week in my office, Cristina joined 15 other students from Georgetown who came in as we were debating DACA and the Dream Act on the floor. I am sure they wanted to hear my speech on the floor but, just to make sure, we bought a dozen pizzas and the crew seemed to be pretty happy with that decision. It was an impressive group of students. Every one of them was a DACA recipient.

These young people have so much potential, but they are worried. They don't know what their future will be with the decision made last week by the Trump administration to repeal DACA. Congress hasn't acted to pass the Dream Act, and we should.

As for Cristina Velasquez, she will graduate from Georgetown in December. She has been accepted into Teach for America. Most of us know that organization well, but for the record, it is a national nonprofit organization that places the most talented recent college graduates in challenging school districts in urban and rural areas where they have a shortage of teachers. Teach for America has 190 teachers working in these challenging districts who are currently DACA Dreamers. They are teaching kids all across America.

What does it say about us? What does it say to their students if these Teach for America Dreamers are invited to leave the country? That is exactly what Mr. Steve Bannon said on 60 Minutes on Sunday when he came out against our efforts to pass the Dream Act. He wants Cristina Velasquez gone. He thinks America is a better place if she is gone. I think he is wrong, and I think most reasonable people would agree.

Cristina is going to start the program, Teach for America, next summer and teach next fall, but without DACA or the Dream Act, Cristina and 190 other Teach for America teachers will be forced to drop out and leave their students behind.

Instead, many would have them deported back to countries they have never known, saying they are not part of the United States and they don't have anything to offer us. Will America be a stronger country if we deport Cristina or if she stays here to teach children in challenging districts? I think the answer is clear to any reasonable person.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I—a Republican of South Carolina and a Democrat of Illinois—cosponsored the measure. We gave a press conference. Senator GRAHAM said: The moment of reckoning is coming. Well, that moment has arrived.

Republican leaders in Congress need to help us to pass the Dream Act once and for all and make it the law of the land. We need to bear responsibility for these hundreds of thousands who can make America a better country. They show with their lives that the promise of America is still very much alive.

As for this Senator, I have been at this for a long time. I am going to see it to the finish line. I still have that dream of the day when President Trump signs the Dream Act into law in the Oval Office. It will be a great day, particularly for this country to recognize that these young people offer special talents and a special commitment to the future of America, which we desperately need.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, once again I want to thank my colleague from Illinois for both his passion and his intelligence in terms of his approach to the Dream Act. We are getting closer to getting this done. It is hardly done yet, but without the Senator from Illinois, we would not be as close to ''as close,'' so to speak, as we are today.

HURRICANE IRMA

Now, Mr. President, I want to first start off by saying that I hope that everyone in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina is staying safe as Hurricane Irma continues up the coast. Reports indicate that as many as 9 million Floridians have gone without power during the storm. Large parts of Miami and Jacksonville are under water. The Florida Keys have taken a particular beating. I saw the pictures on TV this morning.

As with Hurricane Harvey, the road to recovery will be long. As I said yesterday, I am ready to work with the administration and my Republican colleagues, when the time comes, to pass an aid package for the States dealing with Hurricane Irma.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, as discussions continue on NDAA, I would highlight a few amendments that are important to the Democratic side. We will be offering two amendments as part of our Better Deal agenda, including a ''Buy American'' provision and an amendment that would drastically cut down on outsourcing.

For too long, loopholes in our ''Buy American'' rules have allowed Federal agencies to waive ''Buy American'' requirements and skirt the spirit of the law. A single loophole—the overseas exemption, which allows a Federal agency to waive ''Buy American'' rules if the product is intended for use overseas—accounts for 65 percent of the exemptions that the Department of Defense issues in a given year.

Senator BALDWIN has an amendment that would eliminate these loopholes and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent by Federal agencies to purchase products that are made here in the United States.

My friend Senator STABENOW has been a leading voice on this issue as well. She has an amendment that would also roll back the overseas exemption by requiring the DOD to identify and give consideration to domestically sourced items before soliciting any offers for anything that is not ''Buy American'' compliant.

Right now, there are also several American companies with records of outsourcing American jobs that are receiving defense contracts, and companies receive a tax credit for outsourcing expenses rather than incentives to

bring jobs back to the United States. We should put a stop to both, and Senator DONNELLY's amendment will do that. His amendment will give a tax credit of up to 20 percent for expenses that companies incur to bring jobs back to our shores.

Another critical amendment is a bipartisan amendment offered by Senators GRAHAM and KLOBUCHAR on the issue of election security. The consensus of 17 U.S. intelligence agencies was that Russia, a foreign adversary, interfered in our elections. Make no mistake—their success in 2016 will encourage them to try again. We have State elections in a couple of months, and the 2018 election is a little more than a year away. We must improve our defenses now to ensure that we are prepared. The Graham-Klobuchar amendment would greatly strengthen our defenses, helping to prepare States for the inevitable cyber attacks that threaten the integrity of our elections. We should pass it as part of the NDAA.

As Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED continue discussions on this bill—and I know their relationship is a good and strong one—I hope they strongly consider the inclusion of these three critical amendments.

ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Mr. President, speaking of elections, a word on President Trump's Election Integrity Commission, which is meeting with the public for the first time today in New Hampshire. I have three points.

First, I would like to dispel the idea that this Commission has anything to do with election integrity. It was borne out of the President's baseless claim that 3 to 5 million people voted illegally in the 2016 elections. That is just not true. The Commission will never find evidence to support that claim.

Second, the public officials on this Commission must stop making similarly outrageous claims about voter fraud in elections. Recently, the Commission's Vice Chair, Kris Kobach, claimed that the New Hampshire Senate election could have been swung by illegal votes because they found a number of voters who had out-of-State licenses. Of course, there are several reasonable, legal, legitimate reasons as to why someone would vote in a State while having a license from a different State. Most likely, if you live at a college in New Hampshire but come from out of State, your car has an out-of-State license plate. By State law, if you are registered at a New Hampshire college, it is perfectly legal to vote there.

We all know that the States set these laws. In fact, when the Washington Post tried to identify some of these voters, the first four they randomly called were all college students who lived in New Hampshire but who went to school elsewhere.

Yet this Commission and, I would say, particularly its Vice Chair, Mr. Kobach, are so eager to prove their point—which is virtually unprovable—that there is a huge amount of voter fraud that they come up with these baseless claims and then have to back off. Throwing these kinds of deeply misleading, bogus claims around about stolen elections and massive voter fraud without there being any actual evidence is extremely irresponsible and damaging to our democracy. They are so eager to prove their point about voter fraud, which is demonstrably false, that they are resorting to these crazy claims, discrediting their Commission and discrediting themselves.

Lastly, a broader point. The Election Integrity Commission is a punishment in search of a transgression that never happened, which shows that it likely has an ulterior motive.

Voter fraud is extremely rare. A comprehensive study by the Washington Post in 2014 concluded that out of over 1 billion ballots cast between 2000 and 2014, there were only 31 credible instances of voter fraud, and even some of those were debatable, according to the study. The Brennan Center for Justice concluded that an American has a better chance of being struck by lightening than impersonating another voter at the polls.

So why the need for a Presidential advisory commission? Because the real target of the Election Integrity Commission is not voter fraud but voter suppression, especially the suppression of African-American voters, poor voters, elderly voters, and Latino voters. Just like the campaigns for outrageous voter ID laws in State after State—many have been thrown out by the courts for being blatantly discriminatory—the Election Integrity Commission seems focused on throwing up barriers to voting through intimidation, misleading claims, and controversial tactics, like the widespread collection of sensitive, personal voter information.

I think what this Commission is trying to do flies in the face of what the country is all about. We want everyone to vote. We do not want to scare people, intimidate people, or make it harder for people to vote. If there were overwhelming evidence of fraud, obviously we would need to do something, but there is not. As I said, it is a solution—a nasty solution—in search of a problem. The Election Integrity Commission ought to be disbanded, and we will be looking for ways to do that legislatively.

The real threat to election integrity comes not from voter fraud but from foreign meddling and cyber attacks. We should pass the Graham-Klobuchar amendment rather than continue with the nonsense of this Commission.

Moreover, with voter participation rates being so low, we should be spending our time and energy encouraging more Americans to exercise their fundamental right to vote rather than wasting taxpayer dollars for a commission to solve a problem that does not exist.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION

Mr. President, before I yield the floor, today is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, which does great work in my State in combating a very debilitating type of disease. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the foundation and encouraging more research, better access to care, and improved treatments for patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

The New York-based Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, along with its partnering chapters across the country, is the largest national voluntary health group seeking the cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It also works to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

One in every 200 Americans struggles with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel diseases, IBD. Although no cause has been identified for Crohn's disease, recent research suggests hereditary, genetics, and/or environmental factors contribute to the development of the disease. Further complicating matters, ulcerative colitis is the result of an abnormal response by the body's immune system.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation sponsors basic and clinical research of the highest quality and offers a wide range of educational programs and supportive services for patients and healthcare professionals. In 2015, IBD Plexus was launched. IBD Plexus is a groundbreaking initiative that provides the infrastructure and capacities to facilitate and accelerate research into the causes and treatments of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense each support meaningful research and public health activities on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Furthermore, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services both play a significant role in approving new treatments and facilitating health care financing policies that impact patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

I deeply appreciate the work of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and its longstanding dedication to the patients it represents. They have endeavored to improve the quality of life of so many Americans, and the U.S. Senate recognizes the foundation's 50th anniversary.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. 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.

HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, let me say that my heart goes out to the people of America who are, right now, dealing with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and their aftermaths.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE GLEASON AND DONNA BRITT

Mr. President, ALS, which I think most of us refer to as Lou Gehrig's disease, has hit us hard in Louisiana. It has hit our world hard, but it has hit especially hard in my State.

A number of my colleagues and a number of Americans, I hope, were watching the night the New Orleans Saints returned to the field after our State was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. That night in the Superdome, a young man named Steve Gleason became a legend. I know it was just a football game, but he blocked a punt deep in the territory of the Saints' opponent, the Atlanta Falcons, for a touchdown. It was more than just a touchdown; it was a declaration that Louisiana was going to come back, that our spirit was not broken.

Today, Steve Gleason is battling ALS. The medical term for ALS is ''amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.'' We call it, as I said, Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that destroys nerve cells in the brain and in the spinal cord. Regrettably, there is no cure. Steve, however, is determined to thrive and help others who have ALS.

Within the past few weeks, we have also learned that another Louisianan has ALS—well-known Baton Rouge television news anchor Donna Britt. I will tell you, like Steve, Donna is showing true grit in the face of this horrible disease. Most of us would probably curl into a fetal position and cry if we were told we had a progressive neurodegenerative disease that is almost always fatal—but not Steve and certainly not Ms. Donna Britt. Their valor and their courage is inspirational to me and, I think, to all Louisianans. As Donna herself put it, she is going to continue living as a living person and not as a dying person.

There is a famous line in a famous movie in which the main character says: I have a choice here—it is time to get busy living or get busy dying. Donna has chosen to get busy living. She is going to keep going to work, and she is going to keep caring for her family. Donna is educating herself about ALS. She has ordered a state-of-the-art wheelchair with Bluetooth technology, and she is adding words to a voice bank for when she can no longer speak because of this horrible disease. Donna Britt—I am not surprised—is determined to meet every challenge.

Let me say it again. This is pure valor. It is the type of courage in the face of adversity that inspires us all. It is also Donna. I do not know how to put that any other way. That is Donna Britt. Donna is a person who plays the oboe and who has survived breast cancer. She donates books to school libraries, and for charity she sings outside the Walmart during the holidays. She travels the world, and she delivers the news. She is a voice of comfort to all of those in her television media market, and she loves her family. She and her husband Mark Ballard have a son and a daughter. Her daughter Annie is a scientist working in DNA research, and their son Louie is a bright, young student in high school.

Donna has delivered the news in the Baton Rouge metropolitan area for 36 years. She spent her entire career, which is very unusual, at one television station—WAFB in Baton Rouge, which Donna has helped to make a powerhouse in Louisiana media. Donna has done her job so extraordinarily well that she has become a role model for young journalists—all journalists but particularly female journalists. I can tell my colleagues that folks in Baton Rouge feel Donna Britt is a part of their family. They trust her. That is because she is impartial, she is objective, and she is insightful. Since 1981, she has been on the air with the people of the Baton Rouge metropolitan area through storms, through inaugurations, through just about every major news event, good times and bad, that one can imagine. Donna also takes our people into the community and introduces them to interesting people.

A few months ago, Donna realized her health wasn't what it should be. There is no definitive test for ALS, as perhaps my colleagues know. Basically, the doctors have to rule everything else out before determining that one has ALS. As she struggled to figure out why she was losing the use of her fingers and her legs, Donna didn't keep her viewers in the dark. She brought them along for the journey in frank, candid Facebook videos. Along the way, she educated them—ever the journalist—on what it is like to have a degenerative disease.

At a family reunion this summer, Donna all of a sudden could not stand any longer. Now, that is a problem when you stand behind a desk to deliver the news—not for Donna. It was just another challenge to conquer. She promptly ordered a wheelchair that would adapt to her new reality.

Now Donna Britt is working with Louisiana State University to prepare for the day when her respiratory and diaphragm muscles are too weak for her to vocalize what she is thinking. With LSU's help, she is putting words into a voice bank for the future. Once again, it is just another challenge for Donna Britt to conquer.

I am very proud of Steve Gleason, and I am also very proud of Donna Britt. As angry as I am that anyone has to live with this dreadful disease ALS, I am proud they are inspiring an army of ALS sufferers by meeting every challenge and battling to thrive. I am proud that Steve and Donna are inspiring all of us with their valor and their courage.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Allen Hassett, of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, on the campaign trail, Donald Trump promised working families that he would subject every proposal he saw in the White House to a simple test: ''Does it create more jobs and better wages for Americans?'' He claimed he wasn't ''going to let Wall Street get away with murder,'' and he said he was going to ''drain the swamp.''

Such great talk—and then he got to Washington. His first order of business was to put together a team of people who had spent decades as executives at big banks and large corporations—people who are determined to tilt the playing field in favor of Wall Street and against working families. You don't need to look very far to see them. His most senior economic advisers—Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, and the senior counselor for economic initiatives, Dina Powell—together, those three have spent nearly a half a century combined working for Goldman Sachs. When it comes to our economy, this isn't the Trump administration; this is the Goldman Sachs administration.

Now President Trump has lined up another top economic adviser, Kevin Hassett, who has been nominated to serve as the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Mr. Hassett hasn't worked at Goldman Sachs. No, his ''fresh perspective'' is that he has spent his career advocating for policies that favor the wealthiest Americans.

The Council of Economic Advisers plays a critical role in developing this country's economic policies. It was created by Congress to, as Dr. Hassett has put it himself, give the President ''unbiased, scientific, and objective advice'' about the economic impact of the President's policies on the American economy. They have their fingers in all sorts of policies from trade to healthcare, to taxes, to financial regulation.

So what kind of an economy does Dr. Hassett want? He hasn't been shy in telling us. Dr. Hassett wants an economy that keeps working great for those on top, and if it leaves working families further behind, that is just too bad.

Start with taxes: Dr. Hassett gets really excited about cutting taxes on giant corporations. In fact, when he was working for Mitt Romney's Presidential campaign, he wrote that the new President's top priority—the No. 1 act, the first thing he should do when he stepped into the Oval Office—was cut the corporate tax rate. His argument was that if we cut taxes for big businesses, they will give those savings to their workers and be more productive, improving the economy for everyone. That is just plain old trickle-down economics: Give more money to corporations and the wealthy, and they will surely pass it along to everyone else. It hasn't worked so far, and it isn't going to work in the future. Well, it isn't going to work for anyone who isn't already wealthy. For them, that works great.

On trade, Dr. Hassett also sings the corporate tune. Dr. Hassett wants to double down on the same kind of trade agreements that enrich giant corporations and leave the workers eating dirt. Dr. Hassett embraces trade deals that make it harder for small businesses to compete, trade deals that weaken public safety, and trade deals that undercut environmental rules. Dr. Hassett's approach really makes one wonder: Does Donald Trump not know who this guy is, or does he just not care? Either way, it is American workers who will take another punch to the gut delivered by Team Trump.

And how about on financial regulation? Nine years ago, Wall Street brought the economy to its knees and had to be bailed out to the tune of $700 billion. The crash cost millions of Americans their jobs and their homes. Congress then passed bipartisan financial reforms to stop another crisis. Dr. Hassett was not enthusiastic. In public, he called those new rules ''lamebrained'' and described the legislation as ''horrifying'' and ''the worst piece of legislation that I've seen in my entire life.'' He sounded the alarm that the financial reform ''needs to be repealed as soon as possible.''

He has since said that he regrets his tone. Tone isn't the problem here. The problem is what he said, not how he said it.

If Dr. Hassett has his way and Wall Street reform gets repealed, the same behavior that caused the 2008 financial crisis would be unleashed again. I cannot understand how, just 9 years after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, Dr. Hassett would want to turn the banks loose so they have a clear shot at cheating consumers and building up risks that could blow up the financial system again.

There is no end to Dr. Hassett's bad judgment. He is wrong on the minimum wage, calling the proposal to raise the minimum wage to $9 an hour ''wrongheaded'' and saying that raising the minimum wage was a ''dishonest approach'' to alleviating poverty.

He is wrong on the environment. In a column, he advised President Obama to ''frack away.''

And, most of all, he is wrong about the fundamental problems in our economy, calling income inequality a myth and saying it was ''ludicrous'' to believe that our society is ''rigged or fundamentally unjust.'' He sounds as if he thinks that it is just great that this economy works for those at the top and pretty much for no one else.

Dr. Hassett has consistently advocated for the interests of corporations over working people. If he is confirmed, I am confident that he will be one more voice in the White House speaking up for the rich and the powerful. No doubt he will fit right into the Goldman Sachs administration.

But Congress has a say in this. The last thing we need is another economic adviser who wants to tilt the playing field even further in favor of corporate America.

I oppose this nomination, and I hope other Senators will too.

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. BROWN. 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. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes on the Hassett nomination.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Dr. Hassett came through the Banking Committee with a mixed vote, not so much because of him and his qualifications but because of some of his past statements and because of the economic philosophy of the person who nominated Dr. Hassett.

After meeting with him and being impressed with his integrity and openness, I hope he will not forget where he came from. I hope he will approach the job in a thoughtful way. I hope that he will stay grounded in sound research and that he will be transparent about his methods. I would caution him about embracing ideas about economic growth that are not supported by empirical evidence. I hope his new colleagues will listen to him.

For too long, our trade policy and tax policy have encouraged a corporate business model that shuts down production in Hamilton or Middletown or Mansfield or Toledo or Youngstown, gets a tax break, cashes in a tax break, then moves production overseas and then to China or Mexico, and then ships production back into the United States. Fundamentally, that has become the business plan of far too many companies—that sort of outsourcing.

I had a long discussion with Dr. Hassett about that. As I said, I hope he remembers where he came from. He saw that happen as he was growing up, if I recall, in western Massachusetts, where production was shut down in his communities, moved overseas for production, and then the goods were made overseas, and then sent back to the United States.

I am concerned about the White House in which he will work. I am concerned that at that White House, it often looks like a retreat for Goldman Sachs executives. The President's tax proposal benefits the wealthiest Americans and the largest corporations. Its budget is based on GDP predictions that are unrealistic. In fact, when it came to the issue of Social Security solvency years ago, Dr. Hassett found a sustained 3-percent growth rate too optimistic for planning purposes. That is the same rate—that same rate is what the Trump budget uses to gloss over its true costs.

I plan to support Dr. Hassett. I think he is an honorable man. I disagree fundamentally on a lot of these issues. I again implore him, as I cast my vote in support of him—because the President is entitled to an adviser and to choose within a band, of course, of support from whom he wants—but I am hopeful, especially, that Dr. Hassett remembers what it was like when he grew up in Greenfield, MA. Greenfield is a town not much different from my hometown of Mansfield, OH, where bad tax policy and bad trade policy have dashed the dreams of far, far too many people in those communities.

I count on Dr. Hassett to do the right thing. I am hopeful that he will help President Trump see what these communities look like, not from standing in a rally in front of thousands of people but by meeting people and individually talking with them and understanding what happens with the trade policy and the tax policy.

More trickle-down economics, more tax cuts for the rich are not the ways to build an economy. We build an economy by building from the middle class out. That means a tax system and a trade system that works for Greenfield, MA, and works for Mansfield, OH.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr President, I support the nomination of Mr. Kevin Allen Hassett to serve as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. His nomination received wide bipartisan support, not only in the Banking Committee, but also from other esteemed members of his profession.

Mr. Hassett was voted out of our committee on a voice vote with widespread support. We received a letter in favor of his nomination signed by a bipartisan group of 44 economists, including 14 former Chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisers and two former Federal Reserve Chairmen. At Mr. Hassett's confirmation hearing, he expertly fielded questions on a wide range of economic issues and provided insights on progrowth policies that would support all members of the economy. In my office, we discussed at length his extensive experience in economic and tax policy modeling.

Mr. Hassett brings a wealth of relevant experience in academia, government, and policy. His counsel, insight, and expertise will be invaluable as the administration addresses initiatives like tax reform, which undoubtedly will have a large impact on the macro economy.

Thank you.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Kevin is exceptionally qualified to be Chairman of the CEA, where he will play an integral role in tax reform and shaping this administration's progrowth economic policies.

I have known Kevin for quite some—beginning when he served as the chief economic adviser to my Presidential campaign in 2000. The only time I have doubted his intellect was when he agreed to return to advise for my 2008 Presidential campaign.

He has an extensive economic career spanning multiple administrations, including those of Presidents Clinton and George H.W. Bush. Currently, Kevin works at the American Enterprise Institute, AEI, as the State Farm James Q. Wilson Chair in American Politics and Culture and director of Research for Domestic Policy. Before joining AEI, Kevin served as a senior economist at the Federal Reserve and did a stint at Columbia Business School teaching economics and finance.

To understand fully how smart he is, Kevin's former colleague told me the story of how he printed out a 400-plus page technical paper at the request of Kevin, only to realize he had printed out the original German version rather than an English translation. Without batting an eye, Kevin said ''no problem'' and went about reading the scholarly report in German.

Kevin's nomination has received support from an ideologically diverse group of notable economists, including past CEA Chairmen. Additionally, the Senate Banking Committee approved his nomination by voice vote.

I am pleased to support Kevin's nomination today. I wish him, his lovely wife, Kristie, and their sons, John and Jamie, all of the best in this new chapter of their lives.

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

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

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hassett nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Feinstein	Murkowski
Baldwin	Fischer	Murphy
Barrasso	Flake	Murray
Bennet	Franken	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Peters
Brown	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hassan	Reed
Cantwell	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cardin	Heller	Rounds
Carper	Hoeven	Sasse
Casey	Inhofe	Scott
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Cochran	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kaine	Stabenow
Coons	Kennedy	Strange
Corker	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Tester
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Manchin	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NAYS—16

Blumenthal	Duckworth	Heinrich
Booker	Gillibrand	Hirono
Cortez Masto	Harris	Markey
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Sanders	Udall	
Schatz	Warren	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Nelson	Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose unauthorized, undeclared, and unconstitutional war. What we have today is basically unlimited war, anywhere, anytime, anyplace upon the globe.

My amendment would sunset in 6 months the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of force. What does that mean? This was legislation passed many years ago to go after the people who attacked us on 9/11. I supported that battle, but I think the mission is long since over. I don't think anyone with an ounce of intellectual honesty believes these authorizations from 16 years ago and 14 years ago—I don't think anyone with intellectual honesty believes they authorized war in seven different countries.

Not only is it lives we are losing, the American soldiers, the brave young men and women who are sent to distant lands and asked to give their lives for their country without the Senate taking the time to authorize the war—I think that is terribly unjust and should end.

There are some who argue that we don't even need to vote at all. Some of the Presidents, Republican and Democratic, have said they have article II—this is the second article of the Constitution—they say that by the Constitution, they can do what they want, when they want, where they want, and that Congress never has to approve their authorization and never has to give authority to go to war. These advocates of perpetual war argue that these powers are implicit and that no one can stop a President who wants to go to war.

This is diametrically opposite of what our Founding Fathers thought. Madison in particular disagreed. Madison wrote that the executive branch is the branch most prone to go to war; therefore, the Constitution, with studied care, vested that power in the Congress. Our Founding Fathers saw the

history of Europe as the perpetual history of war—brothers fighting brothers, Kings of two different countries who were cousins, brothers, uncles, fathers, sons. The history of Europe was perpetual war.

When we broke away, we said: We are going to have some checks and balances in place. We are going to make it difficult to go to war. We are going to vest that power in the Congress.

But somewhere along the way, we lost our way, and we now commit ourselves to war or one man or one woman commits us to war without any vote by Congress. This is not what our Founding Fathers intended.

Former President Obama, when he was a candidate, wrote that no President should unilaterally go to war unless we were under imminent attack. That is the understanding of the Constitution that most originalists take. Yet, once Mr. Obama was in the White House, he bombed seven different countries. He expanded the use of Executive power. He expanded the war-making power of the Presidency, even while all along saying that he was for a narrower interpretation.

Candidate Trump said that the war in Afghanistan had lost its purpose, that it was a disaster, and that it should end. He said that on maybe 15 different occasions. Yet, now that he is in the White House, the generals have said: We must fight on. We must continue to fight. If we leave, the Taliban will take over.

My question is, When will the Afghans stand up and fight? We have spent $1 trillion helping them. We spent billions of dollars trying to convince them not to grow the poppy that becomes the opium that addicts the world. Yet last year Afghanistan had the biggest crop of poppy they have ever had in recent history. The people who run Afghanistan, whom we put in to govern, the Karzai family—full of drug dealers, crooks, and thieves. You wonder why they are not popular in their own country. But my question is, Where did the $1 trillion go? Why can't they defend themselves? Why do we have to fight their wars for them?

One thing is certain: The war was not authorized by you, the people, and the war was not authorized by us, the Congress, and therefore the war is unconstitutional. The war is unauthorized.

You say: Well, do we ever get it right? Have we ever voted to authorize war?

Yes, we have. When we went to war in Afghanistan the first time—and I would have voted yes—there was a vote, and overwhelmingly we voted to go in.

Some have argued: Well, is 6 months enough time for Congress to do anything? Can they get anything done in 6 months?

When we were attacked in Pearl Harbor, do you know how long it took us to declare war? Twenty-four hours. When we were attacked on 9/11, how long did it take us to authorize the military force to go in? Three days. People say Congress will never get it done. Maybe it is because we are divided.

We haven't been attacked, we have no clear purpose in Afghanistan, and there is no clear route to victory. Realize that in 2011 President Obama put 100,000 troops into Afghanistan. Sure, he pushed the Taliban back. Where did they go? To our ally Pakistan, which has gotten billions and billions of dollars of American welfare and as we sit here is destined to get another half a million of your money in American welfare over the next month. Billions and billions of dollars we send to Pakistan, but where does the Taliban live? In Pakistan. They run back and forth across the border.

So we have to ask the question, What is our purpose? Are we nation building? We spend hundreds of billions of dollars building their roads, building their bridges, building their schools. They bomb them, we bomb them—somebody bombs them, and then we rebuild them again.

We have $150 billion worth of damage in Texas. Do you know how we should pay for it? Let's quit sending welfare to foreign countries. Let's look at our country first, the problems we have here, rebuild our roads, our bridges, our schools, and not borrow it, not add to a $20 trillion debt. Take the money we are sending in welfare to foreign countries and let's rebuild our own.

We are at war in seven countries—none of them voted on by Congress. Is it expensive? Yes, to the tune of trillions of dollars.

Today we will debate the issue of war and whether Congress is constitutionally bound to declare war. We will debate whether one generation can bind another generation to perpetual war.

We are at the point where we have been in Afghanistan so long that within the next year, there will be people fighting who were not yet born on 9/11. This war no longer has anything to do with 9/11, no longer has anything to do with any vital interest in our country. It has to do with us believing we could reshape the world and make the world safe for democracy—everyone is going to love America, and everyone is going to become a western style democracy. Guess what? It is never going to happen.

Afghanistan is not even a real country; it is a collection of five or six tribal lands that were stuck together by Europeans who had no knowledge of the local people. They don't even like each other, much less us. Do you know what they call the President, who resides in Kabul? They call him the mayor of Kabul derisively because he has no sway over them. They are interested in who their chieftain is in their local area. They speak five different languages. They are never going to be a country.

If you want to be at war there, you want to send your sons and daughters to Afghanistan, you think somehow it will make our country safer, let's vote on it. So what I am advocating is a vote. For the first time in 16 years, I am advocating that we should vote on whether we should be at war. It should be a simple vote, but it is like pulling teeth. I have been trying very hard to get this vote for 5 years now. I am this close. I am hoping to get the vote today or tomorrow, but it isn't easy because we have been obstructing and obstructing, and no one wants to be on the line. Yet that is why we are elected—to put our names, our John Hancock, on the line. Are you for the war or against the war?

I am done. I am done. I am ready to come home. I remember my father saying, in 2008, in one of the Presidential debates, when they asked ''How will you get the people home?'' he said ''We just marched in, and we can just march out.''

There is no more meaning or purpose in Afghanistan. We had 100,000 troops there in 2011. All of the Taliban scurried into Pakistan, and as soon as the troops diminished, they went back. Some people take from that lesson—they say: We need 200,000 or we need half a million troops or we need to stay there forever and police every corner for them. I take it to mean that the governments themselves over there do not have the popular support of the people.

Stand up and fight for your country. Half of the people in Afghanistan who were helping us over there came to our country. They fled. It is the same with Iraq. All of the good people in Iraq—our translators, pro-Western people—came to our country. I understand wanting to come to a good place, but it would be like having the people who signed the Declaration of Independence, after they had fought the war and America had won, going back to England and saying: Oh, it is dangerous in the new country. Yet that is what we have been saying year after year, so the people who have pro-Western values from Afghanistan now live in the United States and the same in Iraq.

The thing is that we need to have some tough love. They need to practice some responsibility, and they need to take ownership of their country. But as long as you coddle people, as long as you give people stuff, and as long as you fight their wars for them, they are not going to step up and fight.

We are going to debate whether Afghanistan is a winnable war.

We will also debate whether war in Yemen is in our national interest. Most of America does not know that we are at war in Yemen. Most of America does not know where Yemen is. We need to know why we are there and whether it is of any value to the United States.

We will debate whether our support for Saudi Arabia is exacerbating starvation and the plague of cholera in Yemen.

We will debate whether it is in our national interest to topple the Government of Syria. There are 2 million

Christians who live in Syria. Guess what. We may not understand it, but most of those Christians support Assad. On the side of the war that we have been funding and arming with the radical Islamists from Saudi Arabia and with the radical Islamists from Qatar are the people who hate the Christians. We are fighting on the side of the people who hate the Christians in Syria. Does that make Assad a good guy? No, but the thing is that maybe sometimes there is no good person in a war, no good side to a war.

For 5 years, I have been fighting to have a vote on whether we should be at war and where. I think there is no greater responsibility for a legislator than to vote on when we go to war. I tell the young soldiers whom I meet that it is my responsibility to discuss, debate, and think seriously about whether we send them to war.

One of the things that is most mistaken by politicians—even by some who are well intended—is that they think every soldier in America is jumping up and down to go to his eighth tour in Afghanistan. Go out and meet the soldiers. They are not allowed to be politically active, and they are not a political force on Washington, but I guarantee that if you were to ask our soldiers ''Are you ready to go back for your eighth tour of Afghanistan? Do you see purpose in Afghanistan?'' that they have lost sight of what that purpose is.

I met a Navy SEAL about a year ago. He had been in for 19 years—a tough guy, as they all are—and he said to me: Do you know what? We can defeat any enemy. We can kill any enemy. We can succeed at almost any mission that you give us. But the mistake is when you—Congress or a President—tell us to go somewhere and plant the flag and create a country. We are just not very good at nation building.

We have the world's most elite military. We can defend our country. We can defend, without question, against all invaders. Yet we are not very good at making countries out of places that are not.

What we should think about is that we have a $20 trillion debt. We borrow $1 million a minute. Even if you thought it was a good idea to try to create a country in Iraq or create a country in Afghanistan or create some sort of paradise in Yemen or Somalia or Nigeria or Libya or any of the places we are—even if you thought some paradise was a great thing—we have no money with which to do it. We are destroying our country from within. We are eating out the substance of the very greatness of America by borrowing $1 million a minute. We are flat broke. We cannot afford to be everybody's Uncle Sam. We cannot afford to be everybody's Uncle Patsy. We cannot afford to keep exporting our money and our jobs to the rest of the world. We need to look at our country and say it is time that we did things for our country, for our people, and it is time that we quit borrowing $1 million a minute.

The question is, Will the Senators—will those who gather to vote—stand for the rule of law? Will the Senators stand for congressional authority for war? Will they stand for what the Constitution clearly says in article I, section 8, which is that Congress, not the President, shall declare war? Will the Senators sit idly by and let the wars continue unabated and unauthorized?

Some will argue that sunsetting the old authorizations is too soon, too dramatic. Really? So 6 months and 16 years later, we have not decided whether we should be at war or where we should be, and we cannot decide in 6 months? It took us 24 hours to decide with Pearl Harbor. It took us 3 days to decide with 9/11. I think 6 months is more than enough time.

Will Congress do its job unless it is forced to? All history says no. Why does Congress have an 11-percent approval rating from the people? Because it is not doing its job. How do we force Congress to do its job? Give it deadlines. How can we get a deadline? Let's pass this. Let's let the authorizations expire. Let's have a full-throated, deep, and heartfelt debate over whether we should be at war and where. Should we be at war in Afghanistan? Is there a winnable and foreseeable winnable future there? Should we be at war in Iraq? Syria? Yemen? Libya?

Today's vote can be seen as a proxy vote for the Constitution. Today's vote is not really a vote for or against any particular war. Today's vote is simply a vote on whether we will obey the Constitution. Today's vote is a vote on whether Congress will step up and do its job. Sixteen-and-a-half years is more than enough time to determine whether the war in Afghanistan or Yemen or Libya or Somalia has purpose or real meaning for our national security.

Often, it is said—very glibly—that, yes, it is in our national security interest. Realize when people tell you that they are giving you a conclusion. That is the beginning of the debate. We could debate for hours and hours. Hopefully, we will have some of that debate, but we have to debate what is in our vital national interest. Just to say it is so does not make it so.

Does anybody in America think the war in Yemen is in our vital interest? Most people do not know where Yemen is, much less think it is in our vital interest. Guess what. The war in Yemen may actually be opposed to our vital national interest. It may be making it worse. The war in Libya certainly did.

President Obama, when he chose to act illegally and intervene in Libya, made the world less safe. It was not his intention. I will grant him that his motives were to make it more safe, but he made the world less safe. Why? Because when Qadhafi was toppled, you got chaos. You have two competing governments in Libya, and you have chaos. If you want to set up a terrorist camp, if you are ready to go find a good place in the world, Libya is one of the prime places to go now because the government is gone and there is chaos. So I would argue that the intervention—one of the wars that we fought illegally, without the approval of the Senate, under the unilateral action of the President—made us less safe. That is why we are supposed to debate before we go to war. We are less safe because of the Libyan war.

How about the Syrian war? It is the Christians on one side and us on the other side. That is the first problem I have. The people on the side of the war that we supported are the radical Islamists. ISIS was on the side that we were supporting. In fact, one of the most famous, if not the most famous and important leaked email about Hillary Clinton from WikiLeaks was when Hillary Clinton sent an email to John Podesta, writing to him: Hmm, we need to exert some influence on Saudi Arabia and Qatar because they are giving financial and strategic assistance to ISIS.

Realize that. Of the people we are selling weapons to in Saudi Arabia and Qatar—they get all of their weapons from us—guess who they are giving them to. ISIS. They were on the same side as ISIS.

Let's say you do not believe that. You say: Oh, I don't believe that. Certainly we would not have done that because we would not have supported the bad people.

Let's say we just supported the so-called moderates. They are still fighting against the guys who are protecting the Christians.

What was the net effect of the Syrian civil war? Before we got involved, Assad was winning the war. Once again, like Qadhafi, he is not a great guy, but he does defend the Christians, and the Christians do support him. We turned the tide of the war by flowing in hundreds and hundreds of tons of weapons in 2013—us, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia—but these weapons went in indiscriminantly. What happened when we turned the tide of the war? Chaos in a vacuum. In that vacuum, guess who arose. ISIS.

When you created chaos in Libya by fighting an unconstitutional, unauthorized war, you got more terrorism, more chaos, and the world was a less safe place.

When we got involved in Syria without the authorization of Congress—unconstitutional, unauthorized—what did you get? Chaos and the rise of ISIS.

What do we have in Yemen right now? In Yemen, you have a Sunni-backed government in exile that is supported by the Saudis, and you have these Houthi rebels who are supported by Iran. But that is not all you have in Yemen. You also have al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula—three different groups. It is said that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula is actually the strongest remaining presence of al-Qaida. Is it possible, in our supporting the Saudi

Arabian-backed government against the Houthis, that they fight and kill each other to such a degree of chaos that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula fills the vacuum? If you look at Libya, that is what happened. If you look at Syria, that is what happened. What if it happens in Yemen?

You have to ask, what is our vital interest in Yemen? Why are we in Yemen? Why are we supplying bombs to the Saudis? Is it somehow making us safer from terrorism? Are we killing them over there so they do not kill us over here? Guess what. We may be creating more terrorists than we can possibly kill.

The Saudis bombed a funeral procession of civilians. They killed 150 people, and they wounded 500. Do you think they are ever going to forget about it? That is going to be passed down through oral tradition for a thousand years, and they will talk about the day that the Saudis came and bombed civilians. They will also say in the next breath: Guess who gave them the bombs. The Americans. Guess who helped to guide the planes. Guess who refueled the planes in the air. The Americans refueled the Saudis the day that they came to bomb a funeral procession.

So, in the end, we killed 150 people. You might say: Well, they were all bad people. They were at the funeral of a bad person. Do you think that we killed 150 and that will be the end of it, or do you think that those who were wounded, who survived and went back to their villages, told every one of their neighbors and everyone in the village about the day the Saudis came with the American bombs?

We have to ask ourselves, are we making things better? Is Yemen in our vital national interest? Are we making things better or are we making things worse? Is there a possibility that it will lead to such chaos that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula will rise up and become a real threat to us?

What else is happening in Yemen? It is one of the poorest countries on the planet, as 17 million people, as we speak, live on the edge of starvation—17 million people. They are having the largest outbreak of cholera. Where is most of this happening? Where is most of the starvation, most of the killing, and most of the cholera? It is in the areas that are being bombed by the Saudis. They have bombed the infrastructure into ruins, and there is no clean water, so cholera is spreading.

War is probably the most common and most important precipitating factor in humanitarian disasters. If you look at humanitarian disasters around the world, you will find that the No. 1 cause is war, and Yemen was already a poor place to begin with.

You are fighting the war, and nobody asked your permission. You are fighting a war in Yemen through the proxy of Saudi Arabia, and no one has asked my permission. This is a grave insult to us. It is dangerous to the Treasury, but it is also your sons and daughters who are being asked to go to Yemen now.

We had a manned raid in Yemen and lost one of our Navy SEALs. I have asked what we got, and they just sort of push me off and say, oh, they might tell me on another occasion. No one will tell me what we got. They claim that it was great, that it was the best stuff you could ever find, that it is going to prevent loss of life. But the thing is, we have no business in Yemen. We have not voted to go to war in Yemen. We have been at war 16 years—the longest war now—in Afghanistan. There is no purpose left. There is no future for the war in Afghanistan.

Today's vote will be remembered as the first vote—if we have it—in 16 years on whether to continue fighting everywhere, all the time, without ever having to renew the authorization of Congress. I hope Senators will think long and hard about the seven ongoing wars and, at the very least, show regard for our young soldiers and go on the record to uphold their oath of office. Each Senator should uphold their oath of office and defend the Constitution and its requirements with regard to war.

I, for one, will stand with soldiers, young and brave, sent to fight in distant lands in a forgotten, forever war. I will stand for the Constitution. I will stand with our Founding Fathers, who did everything possible to make the initiation of war difficult.

I hope my colleagues will stand for something. I hope my colleagues will finally vote to do their constitutional duty and oversee and/or discontinue the many wars we are in. But even if my colleagues say: War, war—that is the answer—everywhere, all the time, by golly, come down and put your name on it. If you think we should be at war in Afghanistan, vote for it. If you think we should be at war in Yemen, come down to the floor and vote for it.

What does everybody do? Pass the buck. Let the President do it. Let the President take the blame if things don't go well. We should vote. So on my amendment, you will probably see that the majority will say: We don't want any responsibility; let the President take care of that.

My vote isn't actually directly on any of the wars, although I do oppose most of the wars we are involved in. My vote is on whether or not we should vote on whether we should be at war.

So for those who oppose my vote, they oppose the Constitution. They oppose obeying the Constitution, which says that we are supposed to vote. They are going to say: No, I refuse to vote on any of these wars.

All my amendment does is to sunset an authorization that really doesn't apply to anything we are doing at the moment, and it says that in 6 months' time, you have to come up with an authority to go to war. I hope my colleagues will stand for something. I hope they will finally vote to do their constitutional duty. It is the least we can do to honor the service of our brave young soldiers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I want to discuss an amendment, and I am not sure when it will be offered—I understand it will be offered—and I think it is very significant.

First of all, let's keep in mind what this is all about. The NDAA is the National Defense Authorization Act. It is one that we know is going to pass. It has passed for 55 consecutive years. If something happened and it didn't pass, the troops wouldn't get hazard pay or flight pay, and it would really be a traumatic thing that would happen. But it is not going to happen. It is going to pass. It is the most important bill that I believe we pass every year. As I said, we have passed it for 55 consecutive years, and it is important that we pass it right away. Sometimes it gets stalled until later in the year, but if it isn't done by the end of December, that is when everything falls apart. So we just don't need to do that, and I believe we have the momentum to go ahead and get it done.

Now, we are facing a threat. I have stood at this podium so many times now to talk about how I look back wistfully at the days of the Cold War when we had two superpowers. We knew what they had. They knew what we had. Mutually shared destruction meant something, but now it is totally different.

We hear that the two biggest threats facing us right now would be North Korea and Iran. I stand on the side that it is North Korea because North Korea is run by someone with a questionable mentality, and they are developing—I have watched them over the years—the capabilities that they now have. I certainly agree that Iran also is a serious threat. But the fact is that our Armed Forces are now in a condition that they have not been in for a long time.

I chair the Subcommittee on Readiness in the Senate, and we had the vice chairs testify before us not too long ago. They testified that we are in worse shape now than we were during the hollow force of the 1970s, right after the Carter administration. Many of us remember that, and I certainly do. Our Armed Forces are smaller than in the days of the hollow force in the 1970s, and readiness in the form of personnel, training, and equipment have been degraded, I think, to a breaking point. All the while, we have witnessed an uptake in the training and operational accidents across the Armed Forces. While the risks posed by the readiness crisis are significant, Congress is already taking steps to correct the shortfalls.

Every amendment considered for the NDAA should focus on increasing readiness across our services. We owe it to

our troops and our Nation to help ensure that levels are acceptable. That is why it is disappointing and dangerous that we are considering an amendment that would authorize a base realignment and closure round, better known to all of us as a BRAC round. We have had five BRAC rounds since 1989, and I am familiar with all of them. I, along with many of my colleagues in the Senate Armed Services Committee, successfully have a provision that would include a prohibition against a BRAC right now. I think it is pretty obvious. Everyone knows what the threat is out there. At least those on the Armed Services Committee do. But they also know that any BRAC round that you do is going to have the effect of costing a lot of money that should be spent on readiness. No matter what a base realignment and closure, or BRAC, is, the amount of money that is spent when you first start is going to be very expensive.

Unfortunately, an amendment is pending that would enable a new BRAC round in 2019, and, at the same time, remove—this is critical—the nonpartisan commission that allows the input of both local defense communities and Congress into the BRAC process.

I will tell my colleagues why that is important. I remember because it was shortly after I was first elected. Prior to 1989, the Defense Department was the agency that made the decisions as to what was going to happen to our various installations around America. It was very, very political. There were rumors or some stories that they would agree for certain considerations to allow someone to continue to operate when they really shouldn't be operating.

Well, the Pentagon claims that a BRAC round would save money and would allow the military to invest that money into critical readiness shortfalls. It is just not true. Before the most recent BRAC round in 2005, we heard these same arguments from the Pentagon, that the BRAC would somehow save money and would allow the military to increase efficiency. With 22 major base closings and 33 realignments—that is what happened in 2005—the round was depicted to save, over a 20-year period, $35 billion, with costs of $21 billion. The reality is far different. The 2005 BRAC round cost taxpayers roughly $35 billion, and it is only expected to save $9.9 billion over the next 20 years.

Now, the other day I went back and looked up just to see what the GAO said about that. Keep in mind that it was a 2005 BRAC round, but the GAO study was actually in 2011, saying: We know what we said at that time; let's see how they performed.

So let me read right out of their report: The ''one-time implementation costs''—that is the cost of putting together a BRAC round—''grew from $21 billion originally estimated by the BRAC Commission in 2005 to about $35 billion.'' In other words, they said it was going to cost $21 billion, and it ended up costing $35 billion. That is an increase of 67 percent. It has been that way with the other rounds too.

Looking at their analysis of the value, it is very important that we understand what they are saying here. The GAO said that ''the 20-year net present value DOD can expect by implementing the 2005 BRAC recommendations has decreased by 72 percent.''

In other words, they were 72 percent off as to what great savings we were going to have in the future by making these closures.

They went on to say that ''the 20-year net present value—that is, the present value of future savings minus the present value of up-front investment costs—of $35.6 billion estimated by the Commission in 2005 for this BRAC round has decreased by 72 percent.'' It cannot be more specific than that, and this is the consistent pattern that we have.

So, clearly, those base closure rounds cost the American taxpayers an exorbitant amount of money up front and take years to recoup their initial investment, if they ever do. In this case, they haven't, and they don't expect to. With the history of previous inconsistencies between expected and actual costs, there is no certainty that any proposed base closures or realignments would be economically viable now or at any time in the future.

Now, we are at a point of uncertainty that makes it irresponsible to expend billions of dollars in downsizing our Armed Forces when we are currently facing some of the most volatile, unpredictable, and dangerous military threats that America has ever seen. Readiness can't wait, and our enemies around the world will not.

We must also consider the possibility that we will soon require the capacity that is presently considered excess if the current military threats materialize in a manner that would encourage expansion of our armed services.

I think that just stands to reason. We know the threats are out there, and we know the problems are more severe than they have ever been in the history of this country. So maybe the current size of our forces would not be adequate. Well, it is a lot cheaper to go ahead and keep something that is already there than it is to tear down something and start all over again.

So, anyway, as to the early years, everybody knows that the certainty is there that it will cost money in the early years. The high cost of a BRAC round would divert resources away from addressing immediate, tangible threats.

Just last week, North Korea tested what is believed to be a hydrogen bomb, its most powerful nuclear weapon tested to date, estimated at nearly seven times as powerful as the bomb detonated over Hiroshima. This came on the heels of North Korea's first successfully tested and more powerful and far-ranging intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM. We are familiar with that test, which began over the summer. Now, if fired on a trajectory, experts believe the ICBMs that North Korea tested could have reached the United States of America.

I can remember talking about this with our intelligence department years ago. At that time, we were saying that they could finally develop a bomb and a delivery system that could reach the United States of America. Well, that may be here today. If not, it is imminent.

A BRAC round now would also shortchange a response to the immediate readiness needs. Over the last 90 days, we have witnessed a spike in accidents across the military services, especially in the Navy and in some of the aviation mishaps. While these accidents are still under investigation—under investigation to determine the cause—it is not hard to correlate them with the readiness decline.

Our forces are smaller than the days of the hollow force in the 1970s. Our equipment is aging. Our base infrastructure requires critical maintenance and upgrades. Our Air Force is short 1,500 pilots, and 1,300 of those are fighter pilots. Only 50 percent of the Air Force squadrons are trained and ready to conduct their assigned missions. The Navy is the smallest and the least ready it has been in years. It currently can only meet about 40 percent of the demand for regional combat commanders. We are talking about the commanders in the field who make that assessment. We can only carry out less than 40 percent of them. More than half of Navy aircraft are grounded because they are awaiting maintenance or lack necessary parts. The Marine Corps' F/A–18s, known as the Hornets, 62 percent are broken. We don't have that capacity. The Army has said about one-third of their brigade combat teams, one-fourth of their combat aviation brigades, and one-half of their division headquarters are currently ready.

Speaking in January about the Army readiness, then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Army General Allyn said:

> What it comes down to . . . we will be too late to need. . . . Our soldiers will arrive too late, our units will require too much time to close the manning, training, and equipment gap . . . the end result is excessive casualties to civilians and to our forces who are already forward-stationed.

We are talking about lives. We are talking about American lives. That is a sobering assessment, especially when considering the gravity of the threats we face around the world, including, of course, the Korean Peninsula.

The NDAA's first priority has to be to rebuild our force and improve its readiness, which is what we are in the process of doing right now, and we need to get it done. A BRAC round would divert vast resources away from this end for savings we would not see for decades to come, if we ever did—and we

are growing, not shrinking. Now is not the time for a BRAC round.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in rejecting this amendment. However well-intentioned, now is not the time for a shortsighted BRAC round.

There are still Members—I have talked to Senators who are saying they really believe, and they have been told, that somehow we are going to have more money for readiness if we have a BRAC round. It is exactly the opposite. Again, straight from the GAO, they made the analysis of the 2005 BRAC, and said the 20-year net present value DOD can expect by implementing the 2005 BRAC recommendations has decreased by 72 percent. It always costs a lot more on the front end and saves much less in the long run.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to reject this amendment, if this amendment is indeed offered.

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

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

REMEMBERING FRANK BROYLES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the legendary University of Arkansas football coach, Frank Broyles, who passed away August 14 at the age of 92. He spent his life in service to the university, its student athletes, and our great State.

I was fortunate to have been recruited by and played for Coach Broyles as an offensive tackle in the early 1970s. For a kid from Arkansas, this was a dream come true. Outside of family, the people who have had the greatest influences on my life were my coaches, teachers, pastors, friends, and certainly Coach Broyles is right at the top. He was an icon in Arkansas and a legend in collegiate athletics.

As head coach of the Razorback football team from 1958 to 1976, he turned the school's program into a national powerhouse. During his tenure, Coach Broyles led the Razorbacks to seven Southwest Conference titles, and a Football Association of America national championship. Coach Broyles had tremendous charisma and had a remarkable ability to attract and develop talent—both players and coaches. He wasn't afraid to seek out talent to support him, and he had an innate ability to see the strengths in people. He would turn them loose to use those strengths to help the team and those individuals succeed. His recipe was to get great people around him to help the program win while helping those individuals get to where they wanted to be in their own professional careers.

The roster of assistants under Coach Broyles reads like a Who's Who in NFL and college football: great coaches such as Jimmy Johnson, Barry Switzer, Johnny Majors, Joe Gibbs, Raymond Berry, and Hayden Fry—and the list goes on and on. They were once Coach Broyles' assistants. His legacy of producing great assistant coaches is recognized in an award named in his honor to recognize college football assistant coaches for the work they do. Since 1996, the Broyles Award has been given annually to the top assistant coach in college football.

Frank Broyles' impact on the University of Arkansas went well beyond the football field. He implemented his vision for Arkansas athletics as the athletic director for more than three decades, helping the university's men's program win 43 national championships during his tenure. When he retired from the position in 2007, he continued his devotion to the University of Arkansas working as a fundraiser at the Razorback Foundation.

Coach Broyles used his notoriety for his most important mission, which he undertook in his later years. He became a passionate advocate for finding a cure for Alzheimer's and educating Americans on caring for loved ones suffering from this disease when his wife Barbara lost her battle with Alzheimer's in 2004. He shared the experience of his family as caregivers to his beloved Barbara across Arkansas and brought his story to Capitol Hill, where he encouraged lawmakers to be passionate about Alzheimer's so we can find a cure. He told Members they need to turn that compassion into passion to make a difference.

Coach Broyles spent his final years showing his passion for fighting Alzheimer's and helping other families touched by the disease. When his family was learning the best way to care for Barbara, they found there were limited resources available to caregivers looking for assistance. That is one of the reasons they created the Broyles Foundation and were inspired to share what they had learned in caring for Barbara to help other caregivers. The culmination of that effort was a book, ''Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers,'' which has been translated into 11 languages and distributed across the country.

After years of advocacy on behalf of those suffering from Alzheimer's and their families, the disease he fought so passionately to find a cure for ultimately took his life as well. One of the best ways we can honor Coach Broyles' legacy is by continuing to fund research in search of a cure for this devastating disease.

Coach Broyles brought the same energy to fighting Alzheimer's that he brought to college football and his work on behalf of the University of Arkansas on and off the field. He made a tremendous mark on the lives of so many student athletes during his years as a coach, athletic director, and all-around ambassador for the University of Arkansas and for our State.

I was one of the many who learned from the example Coach Broyles set. His leadership, faith, and ability to attract talent and utilize it to make our State a better place has been a tremendous influence on me through the years. I will be forever proud to be a Razorback and to have had the opportunity to play for Coach Broyles.

Coach Broyles was fond of saying there are two types of people in the world: givers and takers. Live your life as a giver, not a taker. We lost a giver, but we are so much better for what he gave us.

HONORING DEPUTY TIMOTHY BRADEN

Mr. President, I would also like to pay respect to a law enforcement officer in my home State of Arkansas who lost his life in the line of duty, Thursday, August 24, 2017.

Drew County Sheriff's Deputy Timothy Braden gave his life while serving and protecting the citizens of Arkansas. Deputy Braden was a selfless servant who made a career out of helping others. He joined the Drew County sheriff's office in February after serving 3 years at the McGehee Police Department.

He is remembered as a kind and hard-working officer who performed his job with a positive attitude. He had an appreciation for law enforcement and had aspirations of serving as an Arkansas State Police trooper. I am grateful for Deputy Braden's commitment to the community. He represents the selfless service of our men and women who turn toward danger to protect communities and bring criminals to justice.

He showed his dedication to the community in many ways, including being a former member of the Arkansas National Guard and a former Eagle Scout of the Year in his hometown, Star City. Deputy Braden's ultimate sacrifice reminds us all of the risks members of the law enforcement community face on a daily basis.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Deputy Braden's family, including his wife and four young children, his friends, and the law enforcement community. I pray they will find comfort during such a difficult time as this.

I join all Arkansans as we express our gratitude for Deputy Braden's service and sacrifice.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to question the plan for auditing the Department of Defense. The new Chief Financial Officer, Mr. David Norquist, presented a plan to the Armed Services Committee on May 9. It appears flawed, like a lot of other such plans. The Department

may be audit ready by the September 30 deadline, but the goal—and the goal ought to be a clean opinion—isn't in the mix. In its place, we get another lame excuse: ''I recognize it will take time to go from being audited to passing an audit.''

We have heard this story over and over for 26 years. When will it come to an end?

I don't think the Pentagon has a clue if the Department is truly audit ready. Then, why is the Chief Financial Officer predicting failure before the audit even starts?

Doubletalk is necessary to accomplish that goal. A monster is lurking in the weeds, and nobody wants to talk about it. It is the ''deal-breakers.'' That is a term that is often used in audit reports. They are red-flagged accounting issues listed in Department of Defense reports for years and years. They are prefaced by this warning: ''The deal-breakers prevent clean opinions.''

If Mr. Norquist wants to win this war, he had better get on top of the ''deal-breakers.'' But he ignored them in testimony, focusing instead on this apparent distraction: DOD has spent too much time ''preparing for full-scope audit without starting it.''

We need to pinpoint ''vulnerabilities''—those are his words, and he went on—''to drive change to a clean opinion.'' Suggesting that the Department of Defense lags behind on audit starts or needs more audits to spot weaknesses seems very wrongheaded. The Department has conducted nonstop audits since 1991—294 financial audits, to be exact—and 90 percent were failures, but a few were full-scope audits with clean opinions. Together, the Corps of Engineers and the Military Retirement Fund earned 28 clean opinions out of 43 starts. In the case of the Corps of Engineers, auditors relied on unorthodox procedures known as ''manual workarounds'' or ''audit trail reconstruction work.'' Highly paid auditors scramble around searching for missing records. These procedures work on small jobs, but the point is that they are an inefficient substitute for a modern accounting system.

Now, I have talked about small jobs. To the contrary, on big jobs this approach is a nonstarter. Yet, that is exactly where Mr. Norquist intends to go—the toughest, the unauditable: the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and the rest of the Defense Department. This is where auditing hits the wall—over 200 starts without a successful finish.

If these audits begin before the accounting house is in order, the Norquist plan may be swallowed up by the swamp. The destructive power of the deal-breakers was hammered home by the most important audit so far—the Marine Corps audit. Their impact was exposed in a first-rate report issued by the Government Accountability Office. I spoke at length about that report on the Marines on August 4, 2015. Today, I will touch on it just briefly. This background is very, very important.

Back in September 2008, the Marine Corps, the smallest of the big ones, stepped up to the plate. The Marine Corps boldly declared that it was audit ready. As a pilot project, the Marine Corps would lead the way. High hopes for a breakthrough were not to be. Ten years and five audits later, the Marine Corps is still stuck on square one. The inspector general and the Government Accountability Office determined that it was never ready for audit. It failed for the same reasons as all the other audits failed, going back to the term ''deal breakers.''

To make matters worse, there was an attempt to cover up these shortcomings. Initially, a clean opinion was issued. The then-Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, gave the Marine Corps an award for being the first service to earn a clean opinion. The opinion did not stand up to scrutiny. The evidence did not meet ''professional auditing standards.'' So the inspector general had to withdraw, leaving Mr. Hagel with egg all over his face.

The deputy inspector general for audit was removed and reassigned, and the accounting firm involved lost the contract to Kearney & Company, where the now Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Norquist, was a partner.

Without strong leadership, the Marine Corps could be the Norquist template. This is where we have been before: audit ready but light years away from a clean opinion. So that takes you to nowheresville. Why go there when you know what you are going to find? Although lessons were learned, the end result was mostly waste—$32 million for five premature audits. DOD is big, big business for these auditing firms, and what do we get? No clean opinion.

The deal-breakers, which doomed the Marine Corps audit and all the others, are alive and well. They are still driving the freight train with no fix in sight. Yet, in spite of these formidable barriers, the Marine Corps is once again shooting for the moon. It jumped out in front of all the other military services by starting a full financial audit, which the press calls a ''mammoth task.'' Why would the outcome be any different this time around, when we just exposed within the last 2 years that what they thought was a clean audit was not such a clean audit.

The government's expert on accounting—and I call him the expert on government accounting because he is Comptroller General Gene Dodaro—understands the dilemma. The $10 billion spent annually on fixing the accounting system, he says, ''has not yielded positive results.'' Money is being spent in the wrong places. Mr. Dodaro wonders if the Department of Defense has the talent to get it right, and that is his word—''talent.''

With his plan resting on shaky ground, Mr. Norquist may need to shift gears. For starters, the cost of the full financial audits, which are touted as the largest ever undertaken, could top $200 million. Spending so much money on audits doomed to failure would be a gross waste of tax dollars.

Now, I am not suggesting that Mr. Norquist back off. Mr. Norquist just needs to get a handle on the root cause of the problem, and the feeder systems are that root cause. As a main source of unreliable transaction data, the feeder systems are the driver behind the deal-breakers. Fix them, and then the rest should be just a piece of cake.

Department of Defense reports have repeatedly called for ''testing the feeder systems.'' However, according to the Government Accountability Office, those tests were never, never performed.

So the aggressive testing and aggressive verification of transactions are the right places to start. Senators JOHNSON, ERNST, PAUL, and this Senator are sponsoring an amendment to make that happen.

Once all of the tricky technical issues are ironed out and testing provides confidence that the system is reliable, the plan will gel. Audit readiness will be self-evident, not contrived. Full financial accounting could begin. Clean opinions should follow, and those clean opinions should be our goal.

There has been 26 years of hard-core foot-dragging that shows that internal resistance to auditing the books runs very, very deep. It will take strong, confident leadership and strong determination to root out that internal resistance to auditing the books. I am counting on Secretary Mattis and Chief Financial Officer Norquist to get the job done in the shortest time possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the pending NDAA. In particular, I rise to speak about an amendment that has been previously discussed on the floor that is being offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. PAUL, that deals with the current authorizations for use of military force that are justifying American military action in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and numerous other countries.

The authorizations that currently support military actions were passed in 2001 and 2002. About a quarter of us were here and voted on those. Three-quarters of us have joined either the Senate or the House since those authorizations have been voted on. What that means is that we have American troops who are deployed in harm's way, that thousands have been killed, that thousands have their lives at risk right now, and that three-quarters of Congress has never voted to support the military operations that are currently underway. Many of us support them or support them with recommendations or reservations or qualifications, but three-quarters of us have never cast a vote.

These authorizations are, respectively, 15 and 16 years old. The authorizations have, essentially, been interpreted in a very broad way—first, by the Bush administration; second, by the Obama administration; and now by the current Trump administration. I would argue that the current interpretation of the authorizations would essentially allow, without any approval from Congress, an American President to wage war anywhere against any terrorist group for however long he wants to.

That was not the intention of the authorizations when they were originally drafted. If you were to go back and talk to those who had been here and cast their votes in 2001 and 2002, they would say that it was completely beyond their contemplation that what they were voting for then, which was going after those who had attacked the Pentagon—9/11 was yesterday—and the World Trade Center, would 16 years later still be used to support military action in a total of 14 countries in 35 separate instances having been declared by the last three administrations.

Senator PAUL has an amendment on the table, and the amendment is this: to sunset the 2001 and 2002 authorizations in 6 months as a mechanism for forcing Congress to finally do the job of having a debate and defining the legal authority of the military mission that we are currently engaged in and putting a senatorial and congressional thumbprint on the mission so that those who are risking their lives know that they are doing so with a political consensus by the American political leadership here in Congress. I am supporting Senator PAUL's amendment.

I think it is way past time for Congress to take this up and for everybody to be on the record. I think that our allies need to know whether Congress supports the American military missions that are currently underway. I think that our adversary needs to know that there is a congressional resolve, not just an Executive resolve. Most importantly, I think that the American troops who are deployed in harm's way every day deserve an answer to the question of whether Congress is behind them.

I came to Congress being very focused on this and to the Senate in January of 2013. I gave my first speech about it on the floor in the summer of 2013, when President Obama expanded the military action against al-Qaida to also incorporate military action against ISIS, which did not form until 2 years after the 9/11 attack. I filed my first military authorization, seeking to get Congress on board and to send to the troops the message that we supported them. That was now almost 3 years ago. I was once able to get a vote on an authorization in the Foreign Relations Committee. It passed out of committee but died for lack of any action on the floor.

Since 2015, out of a thought that we should try to be at least as bipartisan as we could in putting support behind the troops and carrying out our article I responsibilities, Senator JEFF FLAKE of Arizona and I have worked together, first, in introducing in 2015—and then in reintroducing this year—an authorization for use of military force. We have a pending authorization that we filed in June, which has been pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, to set forth a military authorization with certain conditions to undertake and legally justify military action against al-Qaida, ISIS, and the Taliban. That has been pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, but there has been no particular motive or forcing mechanism that has made the committee take this up, bat it around, hear from experts, debate it, amend it, and send it to the floor.

I think, of all of the powers that Congress has, the one that we should most jealously guard is the power to declare war. James Madison was the drafter of the Constitution, and he gathered great ideas from others. The 230th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution is this Sunday, September 17—Constitution Day in Philadelphia. The Constitution was a great collection of wonderful ideas, many that had been tried out in other nations, but the genius of it was the way in which we got the best of the best and tried to put them together in the document.

It has been said by many historians that there were only about two items in the Constitution circa 1787 that were truly unique and that we were doing for the first time. One was the protection of the ability of the people to worship as they pleased without preference or punishment, which had been drawn from a statute that had been passed in Virginia in 1780, the Statute for Religious Freedom. The second idea that was very unique to our country and was, really, an effort by the Framers of our Constitution to change the course of human history was the idea that war should only be initiated by Congress and not by the Executive.

The Framers of the Constitution knew in 1787 about Executives and Executive overreach, especially in matters of war. They knew Kings, Emperors, Monarchs, Sultans, and Popes, and they knew that that was how war started. Madison decided that we were going to do it differently, and the Framers and those who voted in Philadelphia agreed with him. The Constitutional Convention's minutes that were taken by Madison and others demonstrated what they were trying to do.

Madison explained it in a letter to President Jefferson about 10 years later, when Jefferson was grappling with questions of war. Madison wrote in the letter that our Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrate—that it is the Executive that is most interested in war and, thus, is most prone to war. For this reason, we have, with studied care, placed the question of war in the legislature. Madison was trying to change it so that war could not be initiated without a vote of Congress.

In my view—and I was tough on a President of my own party about this—when President Obama decided to initiate offensive military action against ISIS in August of 2014, I said: You must come to Congress. When President Trump used military might—in this instance, weapons against Syria—to undertake the laudable step of punishing the use of chemical weapons against civilians, I said: I will support you with a vote, but you cannot do that without Congress. That is because there is nothing in the authorizations that are currently pending that allow the United States to take military action against the Government of Syria.

Yet we have gotten so sloppy about this. Frankly, we have been sloppy about it just about since 1787. If I can be blunt, throughout our history, regardless of party—Whig or Federalist, Democrat or Republican—Members of Congress have often concluded that a war vote is a very difficult vote and that, if we could allow the President to initiate it without a vote, we might be politically insulated from the consequences of the vote. That has been a uniform trend, and it has been a nonpartisan one. That is one of the reasons that we are where we are right now in Congress's being reluctant to take up war votes. These are difficult votes.

I have been on the Foreign Relations Committee since January 2013 and have cast two votes for military action—first, against Syria for using chemical weapons in the summer of 2013 and, second, in the matter that I mentioned earlier in voting for a war authorization against ISIS in December of 2014. I will say that there is no vote that you will ever cast that is harder.

I come from a State with a great military tradition. More people in Virginia are connected to the military—either as Active Duty, veteran, Guard, Reserve, DOD civilian or military contractor or military family—than in any other State. One of my children is a Marine infantry commander. Any war vote—if not immediately, then prospectively—affects him and the people whom he works with and cares deeply about.

These are very, very hard votes. They are supposed to be hard, but that is no reason to duck them. Congress is supposed to take this up, not hand any President of any party a carte blanche to go to war without a vote of Congress. Even against bad guys like ISIS or even against a Syrian dictator who is using chemical weapons against civilians, we are not supposed to be at war without a vote of Congress.

So I am here to support Senator PAUL's amendment, which would take these old and outdated authorizations and sunset them within 6 months. I view his amendment as being an attempt to force Congress to do what it should do, which is to have a debate anew after 16 years and come up with a crafted legal authority and appropriate

strategy for carrying out military actions against nonstate terrorist groups.

I applaud my colleague from Arizona, Senator FLAKE, because he and I have worked together very hard on this issue. We have a matter that is pending. If Senator PAUL's amendment passes, the result of his amendment will be that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and this body will have to grapple with what is an appropriate authorization circa 2017 to replace the authorizations from 2001 and 2002.

We shouldn't be afraid of that discussion. We should relish it and protect the power of Congress to decide when we will and will not be at war. I believe the version that Senator FLAKE and I have introduced, that was introduced in June, is a good-faith effort to listen to all and craft a compromise going forward.

I will close and say what I have said already. I think Congress should not only do this because we are constitutionally required to—and waging war without an authorization poses all kinds of legal challenges that I think are significant; that it is constitutionally required should be enough—but I actually really like the reason. I like the reason for the constitutional provision.

Madison and the Framers concluded that we should not order men and women into combat, where they are risking their lives and their health, if there is not a political consensus by the elected leadership of the country that the mission is so worth it that we can fairly ask them to risk their lives. If we are afraid to cast a vote because, oh, it is too unpopular or it could be too challenging, how can we stand up and say we are going to duck that responsibility when the consequence of war is that volunteers are being deployed and potentially injured and killed?

I will close and just say it seems to me that the sacrifice of the millions who serve Active, Guard, and Reserve—of the thousands who are deployed overseas in theaters of war right now—their sacrifice should call upon us to have a debate and do the job we are supposed to do.

If the Paul amendment passes, I look forward to working especially with my colleague from Arizona and my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and colleagues on this floor to have a debate, have a vote, and send a strong message to terrorist groups, to our allies—but especially to our troops—that the article I branch of the U.S. Government has a resolve and supports them.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Virginia for his leadership on this issue. He has been at it a long time. The two of us have been at it for quite a while. I think this is the year. This is the time. We are well past time for an AUMF.

I wish to thank the Senator from Kentucky for focusing the Senate's attention on the 16-year-old authorization for use of military force. As a freshman Member of the House of Representatives, I voted in favor of the 2001 authorization on September 14, 2001—almost 16 years ago to the day—September 14, 2001. I can attest that when I voted for that law, I had no idea it would still be in effect 16 years later.

Since its passage, more than 300 Members of the House who took that vote that day, on September 14, 2001—more than 300 Members of the House are no longer in office. Of the Senators who voted, only 23 remain in the Senate today—23 out of 100. That comes out to about 70 percent of the Congress who has not voted to authorize force against terrorist groups abroad.

It is long past time for Congress to calibrate the legal underpinning of the war against terrorism to today's realities. ISIS, for example, did not exist when the 2001 law was approved. We have learned a number of things since we voted to go to war with the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks, and I think it is time to incorporate those lessons into a new AUMF.

For example, we have learned that no administration is ever going to want to have the powers granted to it under the 2001 law curtailed. The Obama administration fought efforts to put an ISIS-specific AUMF in place, and the Trump administration has signaled it believes the 2001 authorities are adequate, and it does not plan to seek a new AUMF.

We have also learned that crafting a new AUMF that garners bipartisan support is an especially difficult task. I know, because we have been trying for a while.

I think we can all agree, the only thing worse than having the 2001 statute in place is a partisan vote on a new AUMF.

Lastly, we have learned that America is strongest when we speak with one voice, which means Congress needs to have some buy-in. We have to have some skin in the game. Otherwise, we can simply blame the administration for any effort overseas.

We can't let wars against new terrorist groups like ISIS be waged only by the executive branch. We in Congress need to weigh in and we have to let our allies and our adversaries know we are serious and committed.

Taking these lessons into account, I think it is imperative for any future terrorism-related AUMF to include a sunset provision that requires Congress to put its skin in the game. That way, we can avoid being put in the position we are in today—having to vote on an amendment to repeal a law that authorizes force against groups that are actively planning attacks against American interests.

Ultimately, I cannot support my colleague's effort to repeal the 2001 AUMF in 6 months because of the very real risk associated with repealing such a vital law before we have something to replace it with. Fortunately, I know the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee remains committed to considering legislation to repeal the 2001 AUMF and to replace it.

As I mentioned, the Senator from Virginia and I have introduced legislation to do just that. That legislation, S.J. Res. 43, would repeal the 2001 law and authorize the use of force against al-Qaida, the Taliban, and ISIS. It would allow for greater congressional oversight of what groups can be deemed as ''associated forces'' of those organizations. It also contains a sunset provision.

So I look forward to working with my colleague from Kentucky and other members of the Foreign Relations Committee to move an AUMF that can garner bipartisan support. That is the right way to do it—under regular order, moving it through the Foreign Relations Committee, and then bringing it here to the floor, where we can debate and we can have buy-in, and the Senate can vote on an AUMF and then the House. Then, the U.S. Government—the Congress and the executive branch—can speak with one voice.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Defense bill has a long tradition of bipartisan cooperation, and I was glad to join in that tradition as part of the Armed Services Committee. As with any far-reaching legislation, there are a number of provisions in this I support and some I do not, but, on the whole, this bill is a win for national security and a win for Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has a lot to offer our national security. Each of our military bases is unique in making vital contributions to our defense. The Massachusetts National Guard has a proud history, dating back to 1636, and it contains the oldest units of the U.S. Army.

Today we are proud of our military tradition, and we have a unique ecosystem of universities, industries, startups, and military labs, all focused on the next-generation needs for our warfighters. Research and development is critically important to this effort. It will literally save lives. I have made research funding a major priority, and I am very pleased we have secured an additional $45 million in funding for the Army's Basic and Applied Research accounts, for places like Natick, where researchers are doing cutting-edge work to better protect our soldiers. Overall, the bill increases funding for science and technology $250 million above the President's budget.

The bill also recognizes the critical role that MIT Lincoln Lab plays in national security research, and supports the construction of a new advanced microelectronics integration facility that will begin in 2019. It also fully funds the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, or DIUx, which is doing

great work connecting DOD with innovative startups in Cambridge and around the country.

Our military bases, which are the lifeblood of their communities in Massachusetts, are also receiving much needed facility upgrades. Hanscom Air Force Base will receive $11 million to build a new gate complex that will dramatically improve its security. Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee will receive more than $60 million to construct a new maintenance facility and build a new indoor small arms range to improve readiness. Natick Soldier Systems Center will receive $21 million to improve family housing facilities, bringing our families working at Natick closer to the base.

All three of my brothers served in the military, and I know the demands of the military can be hard on families and on servicemembers. I have spent a lot of time over the last 9 months working hard with both Republican and Democratic Senators to do everything I can to help improve the lives of our military personnel and their families. I partnered with Senator ERNST, a Republican from Iowa, to introduce the Leadership Recognition Act, which has been incorporated into this larger Defense bill. Our proposal ensures that our servicemembers get the pay raises they deserve.

Over the last 15 years, Congress directed the Pentagon to raise military pay so it was more comparable to civilian wages, but it also gave the President the authority to waive the requirement to raise military pay. Unfortunately, that keeps happening, and military families who are already sacrificing so much don't get the pay raises they are entitled to.

Our new provision restricts the use of this waiver. We promised our military their regular pay raises in line with inflation, and they ought to get those raises, period. This one is a no-brainer. I am sorry it is taking Congress so long to get it done, but we are there now.

The Defense bill also includes my Service Member Debt Collection Reform Act. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has identified how unscrupulous debt collectors often take advantage of military personnel, for example, by alleging that servicemembers owe disputed or imaginary debts and sometimes even by contacting a servicemember's commanding officer to intimidate a servicemember into paying a debt they don't owe. This is outrageous. My provision requires DOD to review and update its policies regarding harassment of servicemembers by debt collectors.

Our military personnel are also entitled to educational benefits that can help them earn a degree or transition to civilian life. However, too often military members don't actually use these benefits because they can't navigate a frustratingly complicated and bureaucratic application process. That is why I offered an amendment to the NDAA to make sure DOD works with the Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs to automate the application of student loan benefits available to military borrowers. These Departments can use this information that already exists in Federal databases to expedite student borrower benefits for servicemembers, and there is no reason we shouldn't just do that right away. This will make life a little easier for our vets, and it will help put many of them on the road to a better education and higher earnings for the rest of their lives.

There is another problem in our military that we need to address. I was appalled earlier this year at reports that some male servicemembers shared nude photos of their fellow female servicemembers without consent, and harassed them on a website called Marines United. The military is not immune to the rise of so-called revenge porn online. Make no mistake, revenge porn is sexual harassment. DOD concluded in a May 2017 report that such harassment can lead to sexual assault.

Just last week, I sat with women in Massachusetts who had been sexually harassed and sexually assaulted during their time in the military. They volunteered for the military out of a deep sense of patriotism, and now they are struggling hard to come to terms with what happened to them. Their sense of betrayal—betrayal by their fellow servicemembers—ran deep.

Acts like these are deeply wrong, and they undermine unit cohesion and readiness. The Marine Corps and other services have taken some positive steps in response to the website scandal, but military prosecutors need the tools to combat this specific behavior.

Commanders have always had the ability to prosecute disorderly conduct, but the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not explicitly prohibit nonconsensual photo-sharing in all cases. To solve this problem, I teamed up with Senator SULLIVAN, a Republican from Alaska, to introduce the Protecting Servicemembers Online Act. Our proposal closes the revenge porn loophole, making it unlawful under the UCMJ for military personnel to share private, intimate images without the consent of the individual depicted. It does this by balancing privacy protections and survivors' rights, and I am grateful this year's Defense bill takes similar steps to address this revenge porn problem. There is more to do to make sure each person who signs up to serve our country is treated with dignity and respect, but this is a positive step.

This year's Defense bill also addresses an issue which is very personal to me—how we care for victims of terrorist attacks. I had been a Senator for only 3 months when the twin explosions went off at the Boston Marathon finish line on April 15, 2013, killing three people and wounding hundreds more. I was on a flight from Boston to DC when the bombs went off. I didn't even leave the DC airport. I just caught the next flight back to Boston.

The next day, I met with Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes. They had been recently married. When the bombs went off, they were both seriously injured. Each had a leg amputated at the scene. They were rushed to separate hospitals, where they underwent more lifesaving treatments and where Jessica lost her other leg.

When I first saw Jessica, she still had gravel and glass embedded in her skin—injuries the doctors hadn't yet cleaned up. She was grateful to be alive, but worried about Patrick. When I first met Patrick, he had the same question: How is Jessica?

The Boston hospitals at which they received emergency care are among the world's best, and they saved many lives on that day, but those hospitals don't specialize in the long-term recovery from such complex and serious injuries like limb amputation. For that, you need military hospitals, like Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but right now, access to Walter Reed requires a special exemption from the Secretary of Defense. Jess and Patrick say they owe their recoveries to the doctors, physical therapists, and prosthetic lab technicians who treated them at Walter Reed and who have treated thousands of troops since 2001.

Earlier this year, Senator COLLINS, a Republican from Maine, joined me in introducing the Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes Act, which would allow all victims of terror attacks to receive treatment at military medical facilities if there is space available. I hope we will never see another attack like the Boston Marathon bombing, but this bill will help us be ready if it happens.

I am glad the Defense bill includes language to implement the policy in our bipartisan bill, and I am particularly thankful to Senator COLLINS for working with me so other victims of terrorist attacks will be able to access our world-class military medical facilities if they need them the way Jessica and Patrick did.

The work on servicemember pay, GI student loan benefits, and help for civilian victims of terror made me proud to be in the U.S. Senate. At the same time, I worked hard this year to ensure the Defense bill contains a number of provisions that will strengthen our national security.

Like my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, I am concerned about Russian aggression. Too often this year, this issue has been obscured by partisan sniping, and it shouldn't be that way. Russia's attempts to sow global instability are a major national security threat, and on the Armed Services Committee we have treated it that way.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Countering Foreign Interference with Our Armed Forces Act. This bill contains two provisions—one requiring annual reports on the new and disturbing trend of Russian efforts to target our military personnel with disinformation

campaigns and a second bill in response to the Michael Flynn scandal so DOD will be required to report to Congress when a retired general officer requests permission to accept payments from a foreign government. We need to protect our military and our country from outside influence, and these are two steps we can take right now.

Another area which concerns me is the money we spend to outfit our military. The DOD buys a lot of goods and equipment, which means it pays an extraordinary amount of money to government contractors. It shouldn't be too much to ask those contractors to provide high-quality products at a reasonable price, to treat their workers decently, and to knock off any efforts to extort extra profits out of the government. I am pleased the Defense bill also includes a number of my priorities to promote these kinds of reforms.

Step one in this process needs to be a full audit of the Department of Defense. DOD spending makes up half of the discretionary budget, and yet the DOD—unlike other government agencies—has never been audited. That makes no sense at all. Senator ERNST and I teamed up to fight for a provision to incentivize the Department to achieve audit readiness by mandating a pay reduction for the Secretary of each military service unit that does not achieve audit after 2020, and we got it passed.

Senator PERDUE, a Republican from Georgia, and I joined together to press the Defense Innovation Board to study how we can improve the way the Department acquires software.

Senator ROUNDS, a Republican from South Dakota, and I successfully fought for a provision requiring DOD to open source software methods and open source licenses whenever possible for unclassified, nondefense software, in accordance with best practices from the private sector. This one is particularly important so contractors can't shake down the Pentagon for new piles of cash every time DOD needs to upgrade and improve its software systems.

Finally, after stories about contractors with terrible safety records continuing to get DOD contracts, one after another, I successfully secured a provision that will require DOD contracting officers to consider workplace safety and health violations when they evaluate a potential DOD contractor. I introduced the Contractor Accountability and Workplace Safety Act to address this issue, and I am very glad it has been included in the NDAA.

This Defense bill isn't perfect. I don't agree with all of it. In a Republican-controlled Congress, I wouldn't expect to agree with all of it. For one thing, I vehemently disagree with the decision to authorize funding for research and development for a new generation of intermediate-range missiles. Everyone knows the Russians have violated the INF treaty already, but that is not a reason for the United States to violate this core anti-nuclear proliferation treaty as well. Our military doesn't want it. Our European allies don't want it. Even the White House doesn't want it. We obviously don't need it. In a world of limited resources, spending tons of taxpayer money to build an unnecessary weapon that will make all of us less safe is a terrible idea.

I also disagree with the committee's recommendation to zero out the funding for the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, otherwise known as WIN-T. I have listened to the critiques of this system, but WIN-T Increment 2 is the only tactical communications system the Army currently has that permits communications on the move. GEN Mark Milley, the Army Chief of Staff, has noted the importance of remaining mobile on the battlefield. ''If you stay in one place longer than 2 or 3 hours, you will be dead,'' he said. We should improve WIN-T, not junk it, and we definitely shouldn't abruptly cancel this program without having any earthly idea of what will replace it. Fortunately, this program is not zeroed out in the House version so I will continue to fight for this during the House-Senate conference.

Finally, I am concerned about the overall increase in defense spending contemplated by this bill, particularly when there is no real plan in place to pay for it. The Defense Department is not the only agency that is critical to our national security, and most of those other agencies are under attack in this Congress. Moreover, it is important for us to make the investments we need here at home, to do things like address climate change and promote resilience after natural disasters, to invest in scientific research and discovery, to improve access to healthcare and education, to build new schools, and to repair aging roads and bridges. We cannot support a buildup in military spending that leaves our country weakened and unable to build a strong economy going forward.

Fortunately, the bill we are putting forward today merely authorizes new defense funding. Actual dollar amounts for Federal spending will be determined later this year for all of our agencies as part of the appropriations process. At that point, all spending—defense and nondefense—will be on the table at the same time. If that process is going to serve the American people well, it must provide for significant increases in spending on education, infrastructure, basic research, and the other building blocks of a strong country with a vibrant future.

I commend the leadership of Senators JOHN MCCAIN and JACK REED throughout this process. Our committee has a long history of bipartisanship, and Senators MCCAIN and REED have continued that proud tradition. This legislation supports our servicemembers and their families, promotes commonsense Pentagon spending reforms, advances cutting-edge defense research, and bolsters the Commonwealth's innovation economy. Most importantly, this NDAA will make a real, positive impact on the lives of Americans. For those reasons, I intend to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand to support my friend Senator RAND PAUL and to encourage my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to support his proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

In the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers lodged the following grievance against King George III: ''He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.''

A decade later, the Founders included a safeguard in the Constitution so ''civil power''—in other words, the people and their duly elected representatives—would play an important role in matters of war and peace. The safeguard takes up all of seven words in the Constitution: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . to declare War.''

Today this safeguard—this crucial check on government—has been eroded in several ways and in ways many Americans would find downright alarming.

Congressional authorization for the use of military force is being used in a contorted way to justify wars with an ever-growing list of adversaries without any input from Congress or the American people about whether we should be fighting those wars in the first place.

Senator PAUL has submitted an amendment to sunset two such authorizations: the 2001 authorization of military force against the perpetrators of 9/11, and the 2002 authorization of military force against the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

I support my colleague's amendment because the world has changed and our adversaries have changed since those authorizations were passed into law by Congress. Osama bin Laden is dead. Saddam Hussein is dead. In fact, his statue in Firdos Square came down almost a decade and a half ago. Yet thousands of American troops are still serving in the Middle East based on the same authorizations Congress granted more than a decade and a half ago. Instead of changing these authorizations to reflect a changing world, politicians have used the old authorizations to start new wars in countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan against adversaries that had nothing to do with 9/11.

The 2001 AUMF has been used to justify a drone war across the Middle East without a debate or a vote in Congress. It has been used to justify air wars in Libya and Yemen without a debate or a vote in Congress. It has been used to justify military action against the Islamic State terrorist group without a debate or a vote in Congress. Some of these military actions may be justified, but the best way to determine

whether they are is to submit them to scrutiny, to debate and vote on the matter in Congress as the Constitution prescribes.

As many of you know, we are in the midst of sort of a populist challenge to Washington, DC. Senator PAUL and I have listened to countless Americans voice many of their grievances against Washington. The gist of their complaint in this area is this: They don't feel as though their interests are being taken into account in our Nation's Capital. Bit by bit, they have watched their representatives cede decision-making power to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in the executive branch. They have watched as a Washington consensus has emerged, a kind of faux consensus shared nowhere else other than in Washington, DC.

If you understand these concerns that Washington, DC, is deeply unrepresentative of how much of the country feels, then you understand a lot about the populist moment. It applies to foreign policy as well as domestic policy, to how our government conducts itself abroad as well as at home.

A decade and a half after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the American people want a place at the table in decisions about war and peace, about life and death. They want to be represented in decisions that concern them and their sons and their daughters so intimately. If we do not give the American people these things, if we don't listen to their concerns, advocate for them in the legislative branch and vote on them openly under the light of day in this Chamber, then we are failing them as representatives, and we are ignoring the Constitution. That is why I am supporting Senator PAUL's amendment. I hope my colleagues will join me so that this issue can get the vote it deserves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I have listened intently to the discussions this afternoon with respect to the AUMF of 2001 and the AUMF of 2002, and all of the speakers have made a point that I think is obvious: We have to update our authorizations to account for the past 16 years, to account for the transformation of the threats in those 16 years and many other factors.

The Paul amendment does not give us that transformative language so that we can make a reasoned judgment. It simply gives us a 6-month period of time to work our way through all of the nuances, which are very complicated and difficult. I think it would unwittingly and unintentionally cause more difficulties than be an effective way to urge action and to seek complete action in this Senate and the House and a signature by the President.

Again, I do understand the concerns of all. I supported the 2001 authorization for the use of military force after the incredible and shattering attacks on New York City, Washington, and the crash of an aircraft in Shanksville, PA, and we responded.

Like so many of my colleagues who were here at the time, I did not expect that 16 years later we would still be engaged in the evolution of that fight that began on 9/11, but we cannot simply stop and threaten to pull back our legal framework with the expectation that in 6 months we will produce a new and more appropriate authorization for the use of military force.

I think we should be on the floor debating such an AUMF. I think it should have been debated seriously and thoroughly in the Foreign Relations committee, subject to amendment, and brought forward to this Senate so that we could debate it. Then we could present it to our colleagues in the House and ultimately to the President and also do so in the full view of the American public.

What we are simply doing, if the Paul amendment is adopted, is saying: If we can't get our job done in 6 months, then we have no legal authority or questionable legal authority to continue operations across the globe. It would be an arbitrary 6-month period. I think it would, unfortunately, send a very inappropriate signal to our troops and to our allies in the fight across the globe. Also, it would send an unfortunate signal to our adversaries because it would raise, quite literally, the possibility, since we have supported the option, of abandoning our legal basis for conducting many of these operations in 6 months. I think it would be read many places as a signal that the Senate has essentially declared that in 6 months we are going to de-authorize our military efforts. I think that signal would be very disturbing to our troops in the field, to our allies, and it would give a huge propaganda lever to our adversaries.

The 6-month period is not related to our operations on the ground, not related to the planning and the operational procedures that are in place already. It is unrealistic to believe that if we cannot come to some resolution in 6 months, we could suddenly withdraw our forces or find some other reason to prosecute these wars and these efforts.

Again, we have to think seriously about what the message would be if we adopted this resolution. I think the headline might say ''Senate moves to end involvement.'' I am more certain, after multiple trips to Iraq and Afghanistan and recently to Syria, that the headline in Baghdad and Kabul and Damascus would be ''U.S. moves to end engagement.'' That would cause great concern among our allies. It would cause great concern among our troops.

Operationally, our planning and staging is not something that is done in 6-month periods. It takes months and months for military forces to prepare to go in. Unless we could do something literally next week, we would be running into the reality of American military commanders wondering whether they should begin to plan for the extraction of our forces and the closing of our facilities on these bases. I don't think anyone here believes, with the workload we have, that we could tackle this issue in the next week or two.

As the days go by, that contingency becomes more pressing on our military forces. Those commanders would have to start making serious plans. Those serious plans would be easily communicated to our allies, to our adversaries, and to our troops on the ground. As a result, I think, again, this is not the responsible way to pursue what we all want, which is a more realistic AUMF, one more resonant in terms of being consistent with the reality today.

Some people have argued—in fact, this seems to be the most compelling argument—that this will force Congress to act. Well, I do think we have to act, but I think what the proponents are missing is that our action will not be immediate. As we look ahead, we have recesses that we will observe; we will have other requirements; we have to get appropriations done. We have a host of legislative items. If this effort takes a backseat and we approach the 6 months again, the difficulty of conducting military operations will be significantly complicated. What is intended to be a forward effort in Afghanistan will gradually begin planning for withdrawal, even if at the last moment we come forward with a new authorization.

We have to think about those things because it does affect the troops who are defending us today, it does affect how much our allies will be supportive of our efforts, and it will also, as I indicated, give our adversaries the argument that they have used repeatedly—that the United States is going. It was pointed out years ago on one of my first trips to Afghanistan—a saying has become commonplace where the Taliban would say: ''You all have the watches, we have the time.'' And what we are doing with this measure is once again giving them the time so they can predict or proselytize with more power that our presence will be diminished.

Secretary Mattis and Secretary Tillerson have written to the Senate leadership expressing their concerns with this approach, and I immensely respect both gentlemen. I particularly respect Secretary Mattis for his service. He has been on the ground. He knows what it takes to lead marines, soldiers, airmen, and sailors in action. They are quite concerned. They are concerned about issues, too, to which we have not devoted full attention.

As Secretary Mattis and Secretary Tillerson indicate, there is a strong argument that the legal basis for continuing to hold captured combatants at Guantanamo Bay would be taken away and that these individuals could, through our courts, apply for habeas corpus and could likely be released—

something that I don't think anyone would want to see. The presence of an AUMF provides a legal basis for holding these very dangerous combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

I think it could also affect our ongoing operations against terrorists throughout the globe, particularly our military operations, our special forces operations that are focused on terrorists connected to Al-Qaida, connected to ISIS, connected to those groups who have, over several administrations, been included within the scope of the AUMF.

To a point my colleagues have made, administrations going back to President George W. Bush, the Obama administration, and now the Trump administration—particularly in the case of the Obama and Bush administrations—have adjusted the AUMF to confront new circumstances, such as the rise of ISIS, et cetera. They have done so, though, in the context of a congressional statute, not because of the expansive power, under article II of the Constitution, of the President to defend the United States. One issue here is, again, do we want to put ourselves in the position where there is no governing law; rather it is simply that article II of the Constitution that provides the legal basis?

For many reasons, I hope we will think carefully about our role with respect to Senator PAUL's amendment. He has been tireless in his advocacy—''relentless,'' I think, is probably a better word. He is doing so with the utmost integrity and the utmost commitment to doing what he thinks is in the best interest of the United States.

I come here today to point out what I think our consequences would be, which would be very serious and very detrimental to ourselves, particularly our troops. I ask all of my colleagues to think clearly about what we are doing. We should and we must replace the AUMFs—both of them; however, until we have a replacement, we shouldn't create a 6-month period of uncertainty, doubt, and confusion. That is what it will be because it will affect our soldiers, our allies, and in some respects, give more leverage to our adversaries.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, in my absence today, I would like to note my support for the confirmation of Mr. Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Due to ongoing and urgent recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma, which finished its course through Florida only yesterday, and the lack of commercial air travel in the wake of this disaster, I am staying in my State to help coordinate and marshal the full capacity of recovery resources available to us.

Had I been able to attend today's vote, I would have voted in favor of Mr. Hassett's confirmation as Chairman.●

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on Executive Calendar No. 110, Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act. I would have voted yea.●

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 194 on the nomination of Kevin Allen Hassett, of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.●

ABOLISH HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate this body on its passage of two important antitrafficking bills: the Abolish Human Trafficking Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

I am proud to have worked with Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, and KLOBUCHAR on these comprehensive bills and commend them and their staffs for the thoughtful and bipartisan manner in which they were drafted.

I would also like to thank the numerous law enforcement and antitrafficking organizations and, most importantly, the survivors, who have provided feedback and support throughout this process. It is my hope that the legislation passed last night will assist the tremendous work these groups do in the fight against human trafficking.

Both bills reauthorize a number of important programs that help victims and strengthen efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to human trafficking crimes.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I authored with Senator GRASSLEY, promotes victim-centered training for school resource officers, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement. It ensures that trafficking victims are properly screened and that more comprehensive data about trafficking crimes are collected.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act also includes one of my top priorities, which is to prevent the proliferation of trafficking offenses over the internet. I want to take a moment to discuss why I believe this to be a deeply important step in curtailing the criminal enterprise of trafficking.

The commercial sex industry is evolving. The use of the internet to sell commercial sex has escalated dramatically over the past several years.

Online platforms have provided an easily accessible and seemingly low-risk forum for buyers. In 2014, one website advertised nearly 12,000 advertisements for commercial sex in a single day.

Some of these sites have become hubs of human trafficking. Backpage.com, in particular, has been used to facilitate sex trafficking of minors for years. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has determined that Backpage.com is linked to 73 percent of all suspected child sex trafficking reports that it receives through its ''CyberTipline.''

Indeed, just a few months ago in my home State, a 3-month investigation into Backpage.com led the Stockton Police Department to discover eight victims being trafficked for sex in the area. Some of these girls were as young as 14 years old. San Joaquin District Attorney's Human Trafficking Task Force said that advertisements on Backpage com offered sexual acts with the victims for as little as $20.

Under current law, it is a criminal offense to knowingly advertise commercial sex acts with a minor. Backpage.com has repeatedly asserted that it has no involvement with the advertisements posted on its website. However, after a thorough review of Backpage.com's screening methods and practices regarding their advertisements, the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded that Backpage.com knows that its website facilitates trafficking and knowingly concealed evidence of criminality by systematically editing its adult ads to help them avoid detection by law enforcement.

Shortly after these findings were publicly released, the Washington Post obtained documents that showed that contractors hired by Backpage.com were specifically instructed to solicit and create sex ads aggressively, including the posting of ads suggestive of sex with minors. In fact, these documents revealed that ''invoices and call sheets indicate Backpage.com was pushing [the contractor] to get as many new listings as possible.''

These revelations are deeply concerning, and I hope that they will be

thoroughly investigated. Those who knowingly advertise minors for commercial sex must be held accountable.

It is appalling that even as serious questions about Backpage.com's culpability are raised, law enforcement officers do not have all of the tools they need to prevent young children from being exploited on the site.

The language we have included in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act will prevent the continued victimization of children by providing law enforcement with a tool to prevent traffickers from using online tools to further their exploitation.

Specifically, the provision adds civil injunction authority to the criminal statute that prohibits the advertisement of commercial sex acts with a minor. This allows the Department of Justice to file civil enforcement cases to prevent traffickers from using the internet and other tech platforms to sell children for sex.

Civil injunction authority is not new. It exists for the Attorney General to obtain orders against criminal defendants to stop them from committing certain kinds of crimes. For example, such authority has been used by the Department to shut down websites from distributing software for spying on people.

Adding this authority to existing criminal trafficking provisions gives law enforcement a more readily accessible means to deny human traffickers access to platforms like Backpage.com and thereby restrict their ability to traffic children online.

I am similarly proud to have cosponsored the Abolish Human Trafficking Act, which was led by Senators CORNYN and KLOBUCHAR. The bill includes critical provisions to aid victims in restoring their lives. It extends the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, which helps fund victim services and increase law enforcement efforts. It also expands mandatory restitution provisions for sex tourism and other trafficking-related crimes.

The bill further strengthens law enforcement's ability to prevent and prosecute trafficking offenses For example, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act expands the authority of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to use wiretaps in sexual exploitation cases. It also enhances statutory maximum penalties for several human trafficking offenses and establishes a human trafficking coordinator at every U.S. Attorney's Office.

As the sex trafficking industry continues to evolve, so must our laws. We must ensure that we are doing all we can to curtail this criminal enterprise and do right by those who have been victimized. The bills we have passed last night aim to do just that. Again, I congratulate my colleagues on the passage of this important, comprehensive legislation. I hope that ending the scourge of human trafficking will continue to be a top priority for this body.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, WY. On January 10, 1917, William F. ''Buffalo Bill'' Cody passed away, resulting in the creation of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association on March 1, 1917. This association became known as the Buffalo Bill Center of the West on February 8, 2013, and has since performed the task of preserving the great legacy and historical significance of Buffalo Bill Cody. He came to symbolize the American West and lived the tale like no other as an explorer, frontiersman, soldier, scout, actor, entrepreneur, and civic leader.

In 1867, Cody received his nickname of ''Buffalo Bill'' as he hunted buffalo for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, where he became known as an expert shot. He soon became a civilian scout for the U.S. Army, and in that capacity, he was awarded the U.S Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1883, Cody created Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, in which he gained fame and notoriety for the show's dramatic recreations of life on the frontier. The performances highlighted Cody's knowledge of the American West. Cody was an important source of information regarding the West for American Presidents from Ulysses S. Grant to Woodrow Wilson.

After his death, the Buffalo Bill museum opened on July 4, 1927, to tell the story of Col. William F. ''Buffalo Bill'' Cody. Since this opening, the Buffalo Bill Center has expanded and become known as one of America's finest Western museums. The center actually features four museums: the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Plains Indian museum, and the Cody Firearms Museum.

Thanks to the overwhelming support and dedicated staff and board of trustees, there is always something new to see and explore from the days of the Wild West. It represents a story of a time when people who were larger than life dominated the national stage, and thanks to the historical center, they will never be forgotten. I encourage folks to come to Wyoming and explore the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. It will be an experience they will never forget. It is an opportunity to see firsthand what inspired Buffalo Bill to take the story of the West and tell it all over the world. I am pleased to be a part of this tradition and express my continuing support for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and its inspiring education of the American West. Congratulations on 100 years and my best wishes for the next 100.

Thank you.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRIDGTON HOSPITAL

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of Bridgton Hospital. Over the past 100 years, Bridgton Hospital in Bridgton, ME, has consistently provided high quality, personal patient care for local communities in western Maine. Nationally recognized for its excellent performance, I am pleased to honor this hospital for its century of service and commitment to our State.

Bridgton Hospital was originally founded in 1917 after Bridgton resident Clara Fogg left a bequest for the creation of the facility. Since then, Bridgton Hospital has grown tremendously due to the diligent efforts and commitment by community leaders. In 1999, Bridgton Hospital became a subsidiary of Central Maine Medical Center, making it a crucial part of the integrated regional healthcare system. During this past decade, Bridgton Hospital has taken a number of steps to expand its services, facilities, and operations, giving patients access to high quality care close to home that they once had to travel miles to receive.

The exceptional team of physicians, professional clinicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers who work together to make Bridgton Hospital truly unique have garnered a number of awards for its care. In 2016 alone, it was one of 21 hospitals to be awarded ''Top Rural Hospital'' in the country. Bridgton Hospital was also selected as one of the top 20 hospitals in the categories of overall performance and quality outcomes out of 1,400 small and rural hospitals in the U.S. The hospital was the only hospital in Maine to achieve top performance in all categories, including overall, quality outcomes, services scores, and financial results, as awarded by Maine Health Access Foundation. In past years, Bridgton Hospital has also been named one of the Best Places to Work in Maine. Additionally in 2016, Bridgton Hospital CEO David Frum was recognized as a ''Top 50 Critical Access CEOs to Know'' by Becker's Hospital Review magazine. Frum was recognized for his leadership and commitment to excellence.

In January 2017, I had the privilege to personally visit Bridgton Hospital and speak with their healthcare experts and providers. This hospital stands as a shining example of how strong leadership and compassion for the community results in a successful organization. Bridgton Hospital has played an instrumental role in ensuring safe and quality healthcare in Maine. I wish to join the entire Bridgton community in congratulating Bridgton Hospital on their centennial achievement and thank them for their immeasurable service to the State of Maine.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KELLEY KASH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and thank Col. Kelley Kash for his exceptional service to our Nation while serving in the U.S. Air Force, as well as his leadership as the CEO of Maine Veterans' Homes, MVH, a post he has held since 2007.

Colonel Kash grew up in a military family. His father was a career Army officer and flew helicopters in Vietnam. While not a native of Maine, Colonel Kash first moved to the State of Maine to attend Colby College in Waterville, where he graduated in 1981 with a bachelor of arts in classics. He then went on to earn his master of science in hospital and health services administration from Ohio State University, before earning a commission in the U.S. Air Force in 1984. As deputy commander of an air transportable hospital, he provided medical support to deployed U.S. forces in support of Operation Provide Comfort, as well as medical care to over 5,000 indigent Haitian patients. In his final assignment, he served as commander of the 18th Medical Group, the largest U.S. Air Force medical unit in the Pacific.

Upon his retirement from Active Duty in 2007, the veterans community of Maine was fortunate to gain a profound leader when Colonel Kash was hired as the CEO of Maine Veterans' Home. During his tenure as CEO, he directed a successful national effort that inspired Federal legislation to correct serious underfunding problems with the new VA program for severely disabled veterans receiving care in State veterans homes.

While his efforts and achievements both in the Air Force and with MVH are notable, a few highlights that illustrate his leadership are MVH Scarborough became the first nursing home in Maine to achieve the rare Gold Excellence in Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and one of only 31 awarded nationally since 1997. Not only have all six facilities in Maine been recognized for providing quality customer services, but they have also achieved the elite Silver Achievement in Quality Award. Four MVH facilities are currently at the highest five-star overall rating by the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services for survey results, staffing, and quality indicators.

Colonel Kash has prepared Maine Veterans' Home for long-term success by completing a strategic master plan for all MVH campuses with the goal of better delivering resident-directed care in ''home'' environments using small-house model design principles. His plan includes over $200 million worth of funding spanning over the next 15 years. His plan is already underway with modernizations projects occurring at various MVH locations in Maine, including a state-of-the-art therapy and rehab addition at Bangor, a multipurpose room addition at Machias, and decentralized dining projects at Scarborough, Bangor, and South Paris. Colonel Kash's leadership has led Maine Veterans' Homes to remarkable transformations and major success in providing better care for Maine's veterans. On behalf of veterans communities across the State of Maine, I want to thank Colonel Kash for his commitment to providing excellent care and access to services for our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT WILLIAM T. MAHONEY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute and honor the distinguished service of one of my former Defense fellows, Marine Corps MGySgt William T. Mahoney. Will and his family have faithfully served our Nation for 30 years, and for that, we are forever grateful. Will's service has always been exemplary, and he will be sorely missed as he moves on to enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

Will enlisted in the Marine Corps on January 7, 1987, and attended basic training in Parris Island, SC. His occupational specialty training as a ground-to-air missile systems operator took place at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX. Tours in Yuma, AZ, and Okinawa, Japan, followed, with deployments to San Clemente Island, CA, and South Korea.

Will was selected for Marine security guard duty while in Japan and, after graduating, went to school in Quantico, VA, and served at the U.S. Embassy security detachments in Vienna, Austria, and Lusaka, Zambia. Upon his return to the United States, he was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, NC. Following this tour, Will was assigned to 8th Marine Corps District Recruiting Headquarters in New Orleans, LA.

Selected for Marine security guard duty for a second time while serving in New Orleans, Will returned to Quantico for training as a security detachment commander. After completing his training as the class honor graduate, Will assumed command of the Marine detachment at the American Embassy in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He later served as command of the security detachment in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant and selected for instructor duty in Quantico.

Will served as an instructor-adviser and the operations chief for Marine Corps Embassy Security Guard School, where he was responsible for training the men and women who guard America's embassies and consulates around the world. Upon completion of that tour, Will was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station, New River, NC. He deployed to Anbar Province, Iraq, in late 2008.

While serving in Iraq, Will was selected for the prestigious congressional fellowship program, one of only four enlisted servicemembers to have been selected for this program at that time. After returning stateside in August 2009 and completing several months of familiarization training and education in Washington, DC, he was assigned to serve as a member of my legislative staff. Will provided invaluable insight on matters ranging from the New START Nuclear Disarmament Treaty to veterans' affairs issues to weapons procurement programs for the Department of Defense.

Following his fellowship in my office, Will was assigned as the senior enlisted adviser to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. In this position, he advised senior Department of Defense officials on all matters pertaining to the enlisted members of the Armed Forces, their families, and retirees. Additionally, Will assumed the additional duty of senior enlisted adviser to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs for more than 2 years, providing senior military medical leadership with a line perspective on many initiatives and policies.

After completing his time in the Pentagon, Will was selected to serve as the senior enlisted adviser to the director of the White House Military Office, WHMO. In this position, he advised the director and other senior White House officials on all matters pertaining to the members of the Armed Forces assigned to support the office of the Presidency.

Will's humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Claire, and their three daughters, Katrina, Shannon, and Sophie. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency, which the Mahoney family patriotically embodies. Will's family is his pride and joy and will be equally missed by all they have served with.

While we will miss seeing Will in uniform, his future endeavors will continue to make us proud. I want to again thank Will and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him on his retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CONNOR WESTLAKE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Connor Westlake of Bozeman, MT, is a driven, determined and diligent 19-year-old who has proven to be a leader among his peers and in his community. As an athlete, Connor has had a distinguished career and was awarded the Christian Character Award by the Montana Christian Athletic Association These experiences have led him to apply his leadership in the service of our Nation's defense, continuing the legacy of military service of his grandfathers, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy; and uncles, U.S. Navy.

Connor has spent the past year preparing to enter the U.S. Army, where he plans to serve his country in Special Forces with the Green Berets. He will war the uniform for the first time later this month upon arrival at Fort Benning, GA, where he will be among a group of highly qualified recruits who will proceed directly from initial entry training to Special Forces training. Upon completion of the rigorous and challenging 2-year training, Connor will become a member of one of the best and most highly skilled combat forces in the world.

I join the Westlake family in praying for his success and safety and thank Connor as he pursues this noble calling of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DON SLAZNIK

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the distinguished career of Marshal Don Slaznik of O'Fallon, IL. Don is retiring as U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, a position that he has the distinction of having held under three Presidents, being first nominated by President Bush and confirmed in 2002 and retained by President Obama in 2009.

Don has served his country with dignity and honor as an Active-Duty member of the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army in the 1960s and 1970s.

Since then, he has been the chief of police in Poplar Bluff, MO, Storm Lake, IA, and O'Fallon, IL, and served in leadership positions with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

In 2015, under Don's leadership, the Southern District of Illinois received the highest award given by the U.S. Marshal's Service: the Distinguished District Award.

While he will be missed, we will remember this public citizen for his tireless, dedicated, and honorable commitment to service Many thanks to U.S. Marshal Slaznik and his family for their sacrifices and contributions to our community.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH ATWOOD

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, this month, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Elizabeth Atwood, of Rochester, NH, as our Granite Stater of the Month for her contributions to her community as a capacity building specialist with SOS Recovery Community Organization, where she helps individuals who are struggling with substance misuse access recovery services and support networks.

As someone who struggled with substance misuse herself, Elizabeth has shown tremendous courage in telling her own story of accessing treatment and recovery services. At New Horizons homeless shelter, Elizabeth received help enrolling in Medicaid, allowing her to undergo treatment for substance use disorder, improve her physical health, and receive counseling. Through her perseverance and determination, Elizabeth regained custody of her son, gained employment, and now receives health insurance coverage through her employer.

Now working at SOS Recovery Community Organization, Elizabeth provides incredible value to her community, working tirelessly to help individuals struggling with substance use disorder. Elizabeth does everything from helping create policy and procedures and offering trainings to community members, to helping find detox beds for people who come into the Rochester facility.

As many Granite Staters like Elizabeth know, the heroin, fentanyl, and opioid crisis is the most pressing public health and safety challenge facing New Hampshire. Now more than ever, New Hampshire needs more people like Elizabeth who are dedicated to helping combat this crisis. I am deeply grateful for the courage she has shown in telling her inspirational story and her drive to help others who face the same challenges she did. Elizabeth represents the best of New Hampshire, and I am honored to recognize her as our Granite Stater of the month.●

TRIBUTE TO SARKIS TATIGIAN

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, who will achieve the extraordinary milestone of 75 years of combined military and civilian service to the United States on September 26, 2017. Eligible for retirement since 1973, Mr. Tatigian has continued to honor America through his faithful service. Currently the associate director of the Small Business Programs Office at Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA, Mr. Tatigian is a champion for our Navy, our small business community, and our country.

Mr. Tatigian began his civilian career with the Navy in July 1942 as a junior radio inspector at the naval aircraft factory in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the Navy Office of Inspector of Naval Aircraft in Linden, NJ. He left his position as an inspector in March 1943 and entered the uniformed Navy as an Active-Duty sailor in April 1943. In June 1944, as an aviation electronics technician's mate, he aided in the development of the Navy's first guided antiship munition, the ASM-N–2 ''BAT'' glide bomb, which later became an operational weapon in January 1945.

In 1943, Mr. Tatigian began his Federal civil service with NAVSEA, where he still works today. Throughout his long career, he has received numerous awards, including the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award in 2007. In recognition of his exceptional accomplishments in service, the Navy has even named an award after him, the Sarkis Tatigian Small Business Award, which recognizes outstanding performance through organizational culture and command climate.

At 95 years young, Mr. Tatigian's dedication and resolve are inspirational. We can all learn a great deal about service to country and the American spirit from his great example. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you, Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, for all you have done for our people, our government, and our Navy.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 11, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3732. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on September 11, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. DAINES).

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–2773. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Black Stem Rust; Additions of Rust-Resistant Species and Varieties'' (APHIS–2017–0049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2774. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''U.S. Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts and Walnuts in the Shell'' (AMS–SC–16–0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2775. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting a report relative to the overall effectiveness of the property disposal process from prior Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds; to the Committees on Armed Services; and Appropriations.

EC–2776. A communication from the Principal Director (Force Resiliency), performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to aggregate amounts identified for Reserve Component equipment and construction in future-years defense programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2777. A communication from the Director, Naval Reactors, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health, as well as a report providing an overview of the Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2778. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David E. Quantock, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2779. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2780. A communication from the Attorney Advisor and Federal Register Certifying Officer, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House'' (RIN1510–AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2781. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2782. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2783. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2784. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2785. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Automated Indicator Sharing: Fiscal Year 2016 Report to Congress Implementing the 'Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015' ''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2786. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report relative to Hurricane Harvey funding; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2787. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturer Assistance Program'' (10 CFR Part 611) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2788. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safeguarding of Restricted Data by Access Permittees'' (RIN1992–AA46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2789. 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 and Air Quality Designation; TN; Redesignation of the Knoxville 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area to Attainment'' (FRL No. 9966–92–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2790. 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; Georgia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 9965–15–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2791. 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; Kentucky; Louisville Miscellaneous Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9967–05–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2792. 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; Kentucky; Revisions to Jefferson County Emissions Monitoring and Reporting'' (FRL No. 9966–94–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2793. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference; Correction'' (FRL No. 9967–14–Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2794. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9959–81)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2795. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Sources Permits'' (FRL No. 9965–89–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program'' (FRL No. 9966–55–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Attainment Date Extensions for the Logan, Utah-Idaho 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9967–22–Regions 8 and 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2798. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Regional Haze Progress Report; Correction'' (FRL No. 9966–82–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2799. 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; Rhode Island; Reasonably Available Control Technology for US Watercraft, LLC; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule'' (FRL No. 9967–29–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2800. 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; Ohio; Volatile Organic Compound Control Rules'' (FRL No. 9967–40–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2801. 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; New Hampshire; Rules for Open Burning and Incinerators'' (FRL No. 9967–27–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2802. 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; Indiana; Redesignation of the Indiana Portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH–IN-KY Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9967–17–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2803. 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; Maine; New Motor Vehicle Emission Standards'' (FRL No. 9967–28–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2804. 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; AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough; 2006 PM2.5 Moderate Area Plan'' (FRL No. 9967–21–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in

the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2805. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's 2017 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2806. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the April 9, 2017–June 8, 2017 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2807. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom for the manufacture and assembly of F135 engine parts and components in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2808. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel in the amount of $25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2809. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, defense services, and manufacturing know-how to the Republic of Korea to support the design and manufacture of Controllable Pitch Propellers and Shafting Systems for the Korean KDX–III Batch II Destroyer program in the amount of $15,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16–124); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2810. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List of 9mm semi-automatic pistols to Canada in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2811. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled ''Electronic Visa Update System''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2812. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended'' (RIN1400–AD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2813. A communication from the Chief of Regulations Special Projects, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program'' (RIN2900–AP61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2814. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Armed Forces Retirement Home for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2815. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Scope of NTIA's Authority Regarding FirstNet Fees'' (RIN0660–AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2816. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles Containing Specified Phthalates: Determinations Regarding Certain Plastics'' (RIN3041–AD59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. BURR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve college savings under section 529 programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1791. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the ''Former Presidents Act of 1958'', with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1792. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1794. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1795. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youths and foster care children and youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 1796. A bill to require a report on the military and security ramifications of the new ground-launched cruise missile of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1797. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1798. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1799. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1800. A bill to require a report on significant security risks of the national electric grid and the potential effect of any such security risks on the readiness of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1801. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) 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. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

S. 783

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 783, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the effect of including telehealth services in Medicare health care delivery reform models.

S. 870

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1050, a bill 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. 1057

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1057, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

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

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1266, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal offices, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1697, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1766, a bill to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1768, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize energy programs through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

S. 1783

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1784

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, to ensure personal liability of owners, officers, and executives of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 61, a resolution calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 168, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 250

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 250, a resolution condemning horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calling on Aung San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy.

AMENDMENT NO. 329

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 329 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 393

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 393 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 394

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 394 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 464

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 464 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 556

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 556 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 563

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 563 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 592

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 592 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 663

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 663 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 674

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 674 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 701

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 701 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 730

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 730 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 730 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 735

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 735 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 775

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 775 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 789

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 789 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 796

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 796 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 801

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 801 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 811

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 811 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 812

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 812 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 814

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 814 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 819

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 819 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 826

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 826 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 828

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 828 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 843

At the request of Mr. STRANGE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 843 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 850

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 850 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 853

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 853 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 891

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 891 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 893

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 893 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 906

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 906 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 930

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 930 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the IRS has never been, and likely will never be, an agency anyone is glad to hear from.

However, American taxpayers should at least have confidence that they will receive a fair shake from the agency. Without this, our system of taxation that relies on voluntary reporting of income will fall apart.

In recent years, gross mismanagement and inappropriate actions by certain IRS employees have shaken what confidence taxpayers have had in the agency.

Today, Senator THUNE and I are reintroducing legislation we introduced last Congress aimed at ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect taxpayer rights by preventing IRS abuses.

Called the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Enhancement Act (TBORE), our bill updates and strengthens several provisions enacted in prior Taxpayer Bill of Rights legislation.

I am pleased that several of the provisions in last Congress' version of the bill were enacted into law, including codifying the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

However, more must be done if we are going to renew the taxpaying public's confidence in the IRS.

No legislation is likely to fix all of the IRS recent shortcomings on its own. There is a need for a change of culture within the IRS.

We hope our bill will serve as a catalyst for a cultural shift within the IRS. Our bill sends a clear message to the IRS—Congress is not going to tolerate poor service and the systematic abuse of taxpayer rights.

We look forward to working with our colleagues toward reforming the IRS and protecting taxpayer rights.

By Mr VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1798. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I would like to discuss the importance of ensuring that federally funded infrastructure projects are built to withstand flood damage.

As we work to provide Federal support to the people of Texas, Florida, and the Gulf Coast, Congress should consider how we can ensure that our roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure are better equipped to withstand future flooding.

In 2015, President Obama signed an executive order to reinforce and expand existing policy regarding Federal action in a floodplain, directing agencies to use a higher vertical flood elevation and horizontal floodplain for federally funded projects. This was a commonsense step to improve our resilience in the face of increased flood risk.

Then last month, President Trump signed an executive order to reverse his predecessor's action. Despite support from groups ranging from environmentalists to the insurance industry, the President has decided to undo what a former director of public affairs at FEMA called ''the most significant action taken in a generation to safeguard U.S. infrastructure.''

We must prepare our Nation's critical infrastructure to deal with flooding. That is why I am I, along with Senators SCHATZ and BOOKER, am introducing the Flood Risk Management Act of 2017. This bill will codify common-sense flood standards and ensure that federally funded infrastructure projects are built to withstand flood damage. The legislation is supported by the Smarter Safer Coalition, a diverse group of organizations ranging from insurance groups, environmental organizations to taxpayer advocates.

If we fail to invest when our roads and bridges are being built, we risk the lives of American families and ultimately spend more taxpayer dollars to repair them after floods occur. Now is the time to prepare for the next disaster—not after it occurs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1801. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, sexual assault is a major issue on our Nation's college campuses. Too many young people are sexually assaulted while in school. Alarmingly, the majority of these crimes will go unreported. The consequences of these crimes are often destructive to a student's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. In addition, the trauma of the assault and its aftermath drives many survivors to drop out of school.

Sexual assault survivors deserve access to a safe and supportive educational environment. I have met with students in Virginia and across the Country who have expressed the need for someone on campus to turn to for unbiased advice and guidance following an assault. Given the prevalence of this issue, it is clear that our federal higher education policy must do more to prevent sexual assaults and ensure that survivors have access to and can navigate through a plethora of resources.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act of 2017 or SOS Campus Act. The SOS Campus Act requires universities that receive Federal funding to establish an independent, on-campus advocate for survivors of sexual assault. The advocate will help students access all of the resources available to them, both on and off campus, in the wake of a sexual assault and will guide them through the process of reporting their assault if they choose to do so, acting always in the interests of the victim, not the university.

The SOS Campus Act requires that the confidential advocate is responsible for ensuring that survivors, regardless of whether they decide to report the crime, have access to emergency and follow-up medical care, guidance on reporting assaults to law enforcement, medical forensic or evidentiary exams, crisis intervention, and information on their legal rights. The advocate will also conduct a public information campaign on campus to inform students of their services, and train other university staff to provide information to students about the advocate.

I am proud to introduce this legislation that would ensure all college students across our Country have access to a supportive advocate following a sexual assault on campus. I strongly ertdourage my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation to help protect our students from sexual violence and its damaging impact.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 940. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 941. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 942. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 943. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 944. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 945. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 946. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 947. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 948. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 949. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 950. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 951. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 952. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 953. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 954. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 955. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 956. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 957. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 958. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 959. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 960. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 964. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 965. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 966. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 967. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 968. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 969. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 970. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 971. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 972. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 973. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 974. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 975. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 976. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 977. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 770, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 978. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. CRUZ)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 979. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 980. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 981. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 982. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 983. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 984. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 985. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 986. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 987. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 988. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 989. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 990. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 991. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 992. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 993. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 994. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 995. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 996. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 997. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 998. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 999. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1000. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1001. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 940. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____. INTERIM COMBAT SERVICE RIFLE.

(a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Army is authorized to expedite acquiring a commercially available off-the-shelf item, non-developmental item, or Government-off-the-shelf materiel solution for an Interim Combat Service Rifle for purposes of defeating the evolving threat that has placed the United States Armed Forces at increased risk.

(b) ACCELERATION OF RELATED PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure a complete capability is fielded simultaneously with the acquisition program authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary is also authorized to use funding under the program to accelerate by one year the Squad Designated Marksman Rifle program and by two years the Advanced Armor Piercing ammunition program.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority under this subsection does not supersede the requirement to develop a Next Generation Squad Weapon.

SA 941. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 85, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

''(7)(A) The installation commander of a military installation impacted by a proposed energy project shall submit to the Clearinghouse a statement of objection or non-objection regarding the impact of proposed project.

''(B) The statement shall include the following elements:

''(i) An analysis of the impact on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(ii) A detailed description of any potential negative impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(iii) Any additional information the installation commander determines relevant for consideration in the evaluation process.

''(iv) A statement of objection or non-objection.

''(C) The installation commander's recommendation shall be incorporated into the Clearinghouse analysis and made a matter of permanent record.

''(D) Any decision by the Clearinghouse that contradicts the installation commander recommendation shall be accompanied by a report addressing all the points made in the installation commander's statement, and describe how any impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness will be prevented.''.

SA 942. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF E–8 JSTARS AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABLE OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT.—No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any E–8 JSTARS aircraft.

(b) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RETIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the limitation in subsection (a), during the period before December 31, 2018, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup flying status any E–8 JSTARS aircraft.

(2) MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure the Air Force maintains the entire current fleet of E–8 aircraft as primary mission aircraft inventory.

(c) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.—No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act of otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any E–8 JSTARS aircraft wing or squadron.

(d) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION ON SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.—In addition to the limitation in subsection (c), during the period before December 31, 2018, the Secretary of the Air Force may not make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any E–8 JSTARS wing or squadron.

SEC. ___. REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUATION OF E–8 JSTARS RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Air Force shall continue the current recapitalization plan for the E–8C JSTARS fleet until the Secretary of Defense certifies that a new approach would not result in increased capability gaps in Battlefield Management, Command and Control/Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (BMC2/ISR).

SA 943. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. ___. JOINT USE OF DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, MARIETTA, GEORGIA, WITH CIVIL AVIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may enter into an agreement that would provide or permit the joint use of Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, Georgia, by the Air Force and civil aircraft.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 312 of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (Public Law 100–456; 102 Stat. 1950) is hereby repealed.

SA 944. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. _____. ELEMENT IN NEXT QUADRENNIAL REVIEW OF MILITARY COMPENSATION ON VALUE ASSIGNED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MILITARY COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ensure that the first quadrennial review of the principals and concepts of the compensation system for members of the uniformed services under section 1008(b) of title 37, United States Code, after the date of the enactment of this Act includes a review of the comparative value members of the Armed Forces assign to various aspects of military compensation, including immediate and deferred cash compensation and in-kind compensation.

(b) SURVEYS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall be based on an analysis of one or more surveys, conducted for purposes of the review, of representative populations of members of the Armed Forces, including regular members of the Armed Forces and members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(c) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—The President shall include the results of the review required by subsection (a) in the first report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1008(b) of title 37, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 945. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. INFORMATION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDING IN DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES AND RELATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2257 the following new section:

''§ 2258. Department of Defense press releases and related public statements on Department funded programs, projects, and activities

''Any press release, statement, or other document issued to the public by the Department of Defense that describes a program, project, or activity funded, whether in whole or in part, by amounts provided by the Department, including any project, project, or activity of a foreign, State, or local government, shall clearly state the following:

''(1) That the program, project, or activity is funded, in whole or in part (as applicable), by funds provided by the Department.

''(2) An estimate of the amount of funding from the Department that the program, project, or activity currently receives.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 134 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2257 the following new item:

''2258. Department of Defense press releases and related public statements on Department funded programs, projects, and activities.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the

date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to programs, projects, and activities funded by the Department of Defense with amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years after fiscal year 2018.

SA 946. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF THE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE ADVANCED TURBINE ENGINE ARMY MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

No action may be taken to reduce the capability of, or to eliminate or transfer the tools and equipment of, the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance (ATEAM) of the Army National Guard until the Secretary of Defense certifies each of the following:

(1) That Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance capabilities relating to the capability do not result in any cost avoidance or savings to the Department of Defense.

(2) That there is no existing or anticipated requirement for Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance technical expertise and capabilities among any Armed Force or the militaries of United States allies (through the Foreign Military Sales program) that cannot be done by another capability in the Department of Defense.

(3) That there is no existing or anticipated requirement to support and maintain readiness of any unit of the Armed Forces, including Army National Guard units in the Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee, or any other unit of the Army National Guard under the control of a State, that may require the capabilities of the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance for on-site repair or field support during training events or otherwise that cannot be done by another capability in the Department.

SA 947. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. ARMY MILITARY VALUE ANALYSIS MODEL.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Military Value Analysis model of the Army has been a key determinant for the force structure and strategic basing decisions of the Army in recent years.

(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of the Army shall, pending the submittal of the report required by subsection (c), provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on the preliminary findings of a force structure and basing decision for the Army not later than 60 days before making a formal or final decision on such force structure and basing.

(c) REPORT ON UPDATED MODEL.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an update of the Military Value Analysis model of the Army.

(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall update the Military Value Analysis model for purposes of the report required by paragraph (1) following a review undertaken by the Secretary for purposes of the update. The review and update shall address and appropriately incorporate the following:

(A) Qualitative and quantitative criteria and sub-criteria to be used for force structure and strategic basing decisions, including quantitative and qualitative measures on the average daily use of, and accessibility to, maneuver training acreage.

(B) Deployment criteria using a measure of the time required to deploy a unit of action from its home installation to its deployment site, including the transportation of unit personnel by military aircraft, and transportation of the commonly defined set of unit equipment to its designated out-port for deployment.

(d) SCORING DATA FOR FORCE STRUCTURE AND MAJOR BASING DECISIONS.—After making a force structure or major basing decision for the Army, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the scoring data developed pursuant to the Military Value Analysis model of the Army with respect to each military installation considered for purposes of the decision.

SA 948. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC-PRIVATE CYBER-SECURITY COALITION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Guard Bureau shall establish regionally focused coalitions, tasked with creating cross-functional partnerships and strategies to coordinate and share information among local, regional, and national entities, both public and private, in order to protect vital assets in the cyber realm.

(2) BLENDING SKILL SETS.—The coalitions established under paragraph (1) shall seek to create partnerships described in such paragraph that blend divergent skill sets to collaborate on joint defense of public and private systems that each face cyber assault.

(3) COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND SHARED ANALYSIS.—Such partnerships shall address threats equally shared among the entities participating in the partnerships through local coordination, shared cooperation, and shared analysis across the overarching cyber defense network.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of the coalitions established under subsection (a) is to coordinate National Guard State cyber protection assets and to collaborate with locally based Federal agencies and private industry stakeholders in order to broaden the collective intellectual capital, to strengthen active participation and sharing of information, to integrate new threat mitigation strategies, and to grow the cyber network through shared experience.

(c) DUTIES.—The coalitions established under subsection (a) shall carry out the following:

(1) Development of a framework for the conduct by relevant public and private cyber-enabled entities, while coordinating with regional assets of the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, and the Department of Defense, as appropriate.

(2) Dissemination of common operating paradigms across relevant organizations specified in paragraph (1) to promote active participation in a shared goal of national asset protection through a regionally focused coalitions.

(3) Collection across local entities for consolidating, packaging, and sharing data to the Department of Defense, intelligence agencies, or relevant organizations for analysis.

(4) Using already established State fusion center partnerships as a template, the National Guard shall assess individual State cyber assets and capabilities currently collaborating with local agencies and private industry for proper synchronization in the cyber and critical infrastructure realms as a bridge for cooperation with Federal defense agencies writ large.

(d) HEAD OF CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TASK.—The Director of the National Guard Bureau shall appoint as the head of each coalition established under subsection (a) such individual as the Director considers appropriate from among individuals serving in the region of interest a State adjutant general. In cases where regional priorities overlap, the adjutant generals for States involved will co-chair the coalition.

(e) PERIODIC STATUS REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter until the date that is three years after the date of such submittal, the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the status of the efforts of the Director to carry out this section and the efforts of the coalitions to carry out subsection (c).

SA 949. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Modernizing Government Technology

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017'' or the ''MGT Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Technology Modernization Board established under section 1094(c)(1).

(3) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term ''cloud computing'' has the meaning given the term by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in NIST Special Publication 800–145 and any amendatory or superseding document thereto.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Technology Modernization Fund established under section 1094(b)(1).

(6) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''information technology'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(7) IT WORKING CAPITAL FUND.—The term ''IT working capital fund'' means an information technology system modernization and working capital fund established under section 1093(b)(1).

(8) LEGACY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM.—The term ''legacy information technology system'' means an outdated or obsolete system of information technology.

SEC. 1093. ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered agency'' means each agency listed in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The head of a covered agency may establish within the covered agency an information technology system modernization and working capital fund for necessary expenses described in paragraph (3).

(2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The following amounts may be deposited into an IT working capital fund:

(A) Reprogramming and transfer of funds made available in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this Act, including the transfer of any funds for the operation and maintenance of legacy information technology systems, in compliance with any applicable statutory transfer authority or reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives or transfer authority specifically provided in appropriations law as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) Amounts made available to the IT working capital fund through discretionary appropriations made available after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund established under paragraph (1) may only be used—

(A) to improve, retire, or replace existing information technology systems in the covered agency to enhance cybersecurity and to improve efficiency and effectiveness across the life of a given workload, procured using full and open competition among all commercial items to the greatest extent practicable;

(B) to transition legacy information technology systems at the covered agency to commercial cloud computing and other innovative commercial platforms and technologies, including those serving more than 1 covered agency with common requirements;

(C) to assist and support covered agency efforts to provide adequate, risk-based, and cost-effective information technology capabilities that address evolving threats to information security; and

(D) to reimburse funds transferred to the covered agency from the Fund with the approval of the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, of the covered agency.

(4) EXISTING FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund may not be used to supplant funds provided for the operation and maintenance of any system within an appropriation for the covered agency at the time of establishment of the IT working capital fund.

(5) PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDS.—The head of each covered agency—

(A) shall prioritize funds within the IT working capital fund of the covered agency to be used initially for cost savings activities approved by the Chief Information Officer of the covered agency; and

(B) may reprogram and transfer any amounts saved as a direct result of the cost savings activities approved under clause (i) for deposit into the IT working capital fund of the covered agency, consistent with paragraph (2)(A).

(6) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any funds deposited into an IT working capital fund shall be available for obligation for the 3-year period beginning on the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds were deposited.

(B) TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts in an IT working capital fund that are unobligated at the end of the 3-year period described in subparagraph (A) shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.

(7) AGENCY CIO RESPONSIBILITIES.—In evaluating projects to be funded by the IT working capital fund of a covered agency, the Chief Information Officer of the covered agency shall consider, to the extent applicable, guidance issued under section 1094(b)(1) to evaluate applications for funding from the Fund that include factors including a strong business case, technical design, consideration of commercial off-the-shelf products and services, procurement strategy (including adequate use of rapid, iterative software development practices), and program management.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall submit to the Director, with respect to the IT working capital fund of the covered agency—

(A) a list of each information technology investment funded, including the estimated cost and completion date for each investment; and

(B) a summary by fiscal year of obligations, expenditures, and unused balances.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make the information submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on a website.

SEC. 1094. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND AND BOARD.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a Technology Modernization Fund for technology-related activities, to improve information technology, to enhance cybersecurity across the Federal Government, and to be administered in accordance with guidance issued by the Director.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council and with the approval of the Director, shall administer the Fund in accordance with this subsection.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations from the Board, use amounts in the Fund—

(A) to transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the acquisition of products and services, or the development of such products and services when more efficient and cost effective, to improve, retire, or replace existing Federal information technology systems to enhance cybersecurity and privacy and improve long-term efficiency and effectiveness;

(B) to transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the operation and procurement of information technology products and services, or the development of such products and services when more efficient and cost effective, and acquisition vehicles for use by agencies to improve Governmentwide efficiency and cybersecurity in accordance with the requirements of the agencies; and

(C) to provide services or work performed in support of—

(i) the activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(ii) the Board and the Director in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (c)(2).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CREDITS; AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

(B) CREDITS.—In addition to any funds otherwise appropriated, the Fund shall be credited with all reimbursements, advances, or refunds or recoveries relating to information technology or services provided for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(C) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited, credited, or otherwise made available to the Fund shall be available until expended for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(5) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT BY AGENCY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency shall reimburse the Fund for any transfer made under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3), including any services or work performed in support of the transfer under paragraph (3)(C), in accordance with the terms established in a written agreement described in paragraph (6).

(ii) REIMBURSEMENT FROM SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency may make a reimbursement required under clause (i) from any appropriation made available after the date of enactment of this Act for information technology activities, consistent with any applicable reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(iii) RECORDING OF OBLIGATION.—Notwithstanding section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, an obligation to make a payment under a written agreement described in paragraph (6) in a fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act shall be recorded in the fiscal year in which the payment is due.

(B) PRICES FIXED BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director, shall establish amounts to be paid by an agency under this paragraph and the terms of repayment for activities funded under paragraph (3), including any services or work performed in support of that development under paragraph (3)(C), at levels sufficient to ensure the solvency of the Fund, including operating expenses.

(ii) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—Before making any changes to the established amounts and terms of repayment, the Administrator shall conduct a review and obtain approval from the Director.

(C) FAILURE TO MAKE TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT.—The Administrator may obtain reimbursement from an agency under this paragraph by the issuance of transfer and counterwarrants, or other lawful transfer

documents, supported by itemized bills, if payment is not made by the agency during the 90-day period beginning after the expiration of a repayment period described in a written agreement described in paragraph (6).

(6) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the transfer of funds to an agency under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), the Administrator, in consultation with the Director, and the head of the agency shall enter into a written agreement—

(i) documenting the purpose for which the funds will be used and the terms of repayment, which may not exceed 5 years unless approved by the Director; and

(ii) which shall be recorded as an obligation as provided in paragraph (5)(A).

(B) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF INCREMENTAL FUNDING, COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, AND RAPID, ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES.—The Administrator shall ensure—

(i) for any funds transferred to an agency under paragraph (3)(A), in the absence of compelling circumstances documented by the Administrator at the time of transfer, that such funds shall be transferred only on an incremental basis, tied to metric-based development milestones achieved by the agency through the use of rapid, iterative, development processes; and

(ii) that the use of commercial products and services are incorporated to the greatest extent practicable in activities funded under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), and that the written agreement required under paragraph (6) documents this preference.

(7) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) LIST OF PROJECTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall maintain a list of each project funded by the Fund, to be updated not less than quarterly, that includes a description of the project, project status (including any schedule delay and cost overruns), financial expenditure data related to the project, and the extent to which the project is using commercial products and services, including if applicable, a justification of why commercial products and services were not used and the associated development and integration costs of custom development.

(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The list required under clause (i) shall be published on a public website in a manner that is, to the greatest extent possible, consistent with applicable law on the protection of classified information, sources, and methods.

(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing—

(i) the costs associated with establishing the Fund and maintaining the oversight structure associated with the Fund compared with the cost savings associated with the projects funded both annually and over the life of the acquired products and services by the Fund;

(ii) the reliability of the cost savings estimated by agencies associated with projects funded by the Fund;

(iii) whether agencies receiving transfers of funds from the Fund used full and open competition to acquire the custom development of information technology products or services; and

(iv) the number of IT procurement, development, and modernization programs, offices, and entities in the Federal Government, including 18F and the United States Digital Services, the roles, responsibilities, and goals of those programs and entities, and the extent to which they duplicate work.

(c) TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION BOARD.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Technology Modernization Board to evaluate proposals submitted by agencies for funding authorized under the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are—

(A) to provide input to the Director for the development of processes for agencies to submit modernization proposals to the Board and to establish the criteria by which those proposals are evaluated, which shall include—

(i) addressing the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks;

(ii) having the greatest Governmentwide impact; and

(iii) having a high probability of success based on factors including a strong business case, technical design, consideration of commercial off-the-shelf products and services, procurement strategy (including adequate use of rapid, agile iterative software development practices), and program management;

(B) to make recommendations to the Administrator to assist agencies in the further development and refinement of select submitted modernization proposals, based on an initial evaluation performed with the assistance of the Administrator;

(C) to review and prioritize, with the assistance of the Administrator and the Director, modernization proposals based on criteria established pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(D) to identify, with the assistance of the Administrator, opportunities to improve or replace multiple information technology systems with a smaller number of information technology services common to multiple agencies;

(E) to recommend the funding of modernization projects, in accordance with the uses described in subsection (b)(3), to the Administrator;

(F) to monitor, in consultation with the Administrator, progress and performance in executing approved projects and, if necessary, recommend the suspension or termination of funding for projects based on factors including the failure to meet the terms of a written agreement described in subsection (b)(6); and

(G) to monitor the operating costs of the Fund.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of 7 voting members.

(4) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Board shall be the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.

(5) PERMANENT MEMBERS.—The permanent members of the Board shall be—

(A) the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government; and

(B) a senior official from the General Services Administration having technical expertise in information technology development, appointed by the Administrator, with the approval of the Director.

(6) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The other members of the Board shall be—

(i) 1 employee of the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(ii) 4 employees of the Federal Government primarily having technical expertise in information technology development, financial management, cybersecurity and privacy, and acquisition, appointed by the Director.

(B) TERM.—Each member of the Board described in paragraph (A) shall serve a term of 1 year, which shall be renewable not more than 4 times at the discretion of the appointing Secretary or Director, as applicable.

(7) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board may not receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Board.

(8) STAFF.—Upon request of the Chair of the Board, the Director and the Administrator may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any employee of the Federal Government to the Board to assist the Board in carrying out the functions of the Board.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the responsibilities described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall support the activities of the Board and provide technical support to, and, with the concurrence of the Director, oversight of, agencies that receive transfers from the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Administrator are—

(A) to provide direct technical support in the form of personnel services or otherwise to agencies transferred amounts under subsection (b)(3)(A) and for products, services, and acquisition vehicles funded under subsection (b)(3)(B);

(B) to assist the Board with the evaluation, prioritization, and development of agency modernization proposals.

(C) to perform regular project oversight and monitoring of approved agency modernization projects, in consultation with the Board and the Director, to increase the likelihood of successful implementation and reduce waste; and

(D) to provide the Director with information necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (b)(7).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the third report required under subsection (b)(7)(B), the Administrator may not award or transfer funds from the Fund for any project that is not already in progress as of such date.

(2) TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all projects that received an award from the Fund are completed, any amounts in the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury and shall be used for deficit reduction.

(3) TERMINATION OF TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION BOARD.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all projects that received an award from the Fund are completed, the Technology Modernization Board and all the authorities of subsection (c) shall terminate.

SA 950. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. ___. AUTHORITY TO INCREASE PRIMARY AIRCRAFT AUTHORIZATION OF AIR FORCE AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD A–10 AIRCRAFT UNITS FOR PURPOSES OF FACILITATING A–10 CONVERSION.

In the event that conversion of an A–10 aircraft unit is in the best interest of a long-term Air Force mission, the Secretary of the Air Force may increase the Primary Aircraft Authorization of Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard A–10 units to 24 aircraft to facilitate such conversion.

SA 951. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 99, line 21, insert after ''M–1 Garand,'' the following: ''M–1 Carbine,''.

SA 952. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 564, line 11, insert after ''less'' the following: ''expenses for shipping, securing, inspecting, gunsmithing, cleaning, test-firing, marketing, and sales and other''.

SA 953. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 338. REPORT ON OPTIMIZATION OF TRAINING IN AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bases, Ranges, and Airspace Directorate of the Air Force shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, submit to Congress a report on optimization of training in and management of special use airspace that includes the following:

(1) Best practices for the management of special use airspace including such practices that—

(A) result in cost savings relating to training;

(B) increase training opportunities for airmen;

(C) increase joint use of such airspace;

(D) improve coordination with respect to such airspace with—

(i) the Federal Aviation Administration;

(ii) Indian tribes; and

(iii) private landowners and other stakeholders; or

(E) improve the coordination of large force exercises, including the use of waivers or other exceptional measures.

(2) An assessment of whether the capacity of ranges, including limitations on flight operations, is adequate to meet current and future training needs.

(3) An assessment of whether the establishment of a dedicated squadron for the purpose of coordinating the use of a special use airspace at the installation located in that airspace would improve the achievement of the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(4) Recommendations for improving the management and utilization of special use airspace to meet the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) and to address any gaps in capacity identified under paragraph (2).

(b) SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''special use airspace'' means special use airspace designated under part 73 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 954. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF WORKING CAPITAL FUND ACTIVITIES.

Section 2208(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)'' ; and

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

''(2) The accomplishment of the most economical and efficient organization and operation of working capital fund activities for the purposes of paragraph (1) shall include actions toward the following:

''(A) Implementation of a workload plan that optimizes the efficiency of the workforce operating within a working capital fund activity and reduces the rate structure.

''(B) Encouragement for a working capital fund activity to perform reimbursable work for other entities to sustain the efficient use of the workforce.

''(C) Unless otherwise impracticable, delegation of the approval process for the acceptance of work from other entities to the local command executive director of a working capital fund activity.''.

SA 955. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 504, add the following:

(c) DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE OF THE AIR FORCE.—Section 8037(e) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)''; and

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

''(2) If the Secretary of the Air Force elects to convene a selection board under section 611(a) of this title to consider eligible officers for selection to appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General, the Secretary may, in connection with such consideration for selection—

''(A) treat any section in chapter 36 of this title referring to promotion to the next higher grade as if such section referred to promotion to a higher grade; and

''(B) waive section 619(a)(2) of this title if the Secretary determines that the needs of the Air Force require the waiver.''.

SA 956. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XXVI, insert the following:

SEC. ___. CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER AT JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Secretary of the Army may construct a National Guard readiness center at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

SA 957. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 184, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(4) To provide workforce training, in coordination with junior, community or technical colleges in the vicinity of the locations of the pilot program, private industry, and nonprofit organizations, for members of the Armed Forces participating in the pilot program to transition to jobs in the clean energy industry, including cyber and grid security, natural gas, solar, wind, and geothermal fields.

SA 958. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 184, line 2, strike ''satisfiable'' and insert ''fulfilled''.

On page 184, line 7, insert ''available pre-employment testing and'' after ''identify gaps in the''.

On page 184, line 13, insert ''testing or'' after ''receive''.

On page 187, line 14, insert ''public and private'' after ''using existing''.

On page 188, line 17, insert before the semicolon the following: '', and to determine the pre-employment testing that could be readily added to veterans workforce training programs to assist in that effort''.

On page 189, line 7, insert ''pre-employment testing,'' after ''credentials,''.

On page 191, line 2, insert ''or pre-employment testing'' after ''additional training''.

On page 191, line 5, insert before the semicolon the following: ''or testing''.

On page 191, line 8, insert before the period the following: '', including any cost borne by private entities''.

SA 959. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title IX, add the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of section 922 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2354) and the amendments made by that section (in this section collectively referred to as the ''covered authority'').

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A statement of the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict that is consistent with the covered authority, including an identification of any responsibilities to be divested by the Assistant Secretary pursuant to the covered authority.

(2) A resource-unconstrained analysis of manpower requirements necessary to satisfy the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority.

(3) An accounting of civilian, military, and contractor personnel currently assigned to the fulfillment of the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority, including responsibilities relating to budget, personnel, programs and requirements, acquisition, and special access programs.

(4) A description of actions taken to implement the covered authority as of the date of the report, including the assignment of any additional civilian, military, or contractor personnel to fulfill additional responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority.

(5) An explanation how the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that assigned to the Assistant Secretary by the covered authority will be fulfilled in the absence of additional personnel being assigned to the office of the Assistant Secretary.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 960. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1088. RESEARCH ON CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIETNAM ERA EXPOSURES AND BILE DUCT CANCER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies conduct epidemiological research to determine whether there is a causal relationship between exposure described in subsection (b) and bile duct cancer.

(b) EXPOSURE DESCRIBED.—Exposure described in this subsection is exposure to—

(1) the range of phenoxy herbicides known to be present in Vietnam and the greater Southeast Asia region (Agent Blue, Orange, Pink, or White); or

(2) liver fluke.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If research conducted under subsection (a) indicates that there is at least suggestive evidence of causality between an exposure described in subsection (b) and bile duct cancer, the National Academies shall recommend to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that a presumption of service-connection be established for bile duct cancer for purposes of health care and other benefits furnished to Vietnam era veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving recommendations under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transmit those recommendations to Congress.

(d) VIETNAM ERA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Vietnam era'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. BRIEFING ON PLANS TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES.

Not later than December 1, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the Department's plans to develop and improve additive manufacturing, including the Department's plans to—

(1) develop military and quality assurance standards as quickly as possible;

(2) leverage current manufacturing institutes to conduct research in the validation of quality standards for additive manufactured parts; and

(3) further integrate additive manufacturing capabilities and capacity into the Department's organic depots, arsenals, and shipyards.

SA 962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States military is keenly aware of the need to support the families of those who serve our country.

(2) Military children face unique challenges in educational achievement due to frequent changes of station by, deployments by, and even injuries to their parents.

(3) Investing in quality education opportunities for all military children from cradle to career ensures parents are able to stay focused on the mission, and children are able to benefit from consistent relationships with caring teachers who support their early learning so they can be ready to excel in school.

(4) Investing in early learning for military children is an important element in a comprehensive strategy for ensuring a smart, skilled, and committed future national security workforce.

(5) To strengthen the global standing and military might of the United States, technology, and innovation, the Nation must continuously look for ways to strengthen early education of children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Armed Forces in order to ensure the following:

(1) The placement of a priority on supporting early learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for children who are served in Military Child Development programs, at Department of Defense schools, and schools serving large military child populations.

(2) Support for efforts to ensure that teachers and other caregivers and staff serving military children have the training and skills necessary to implement instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that provides the necessary foundation for future learning and educational achievement in such areas.

(3) Training and curriculum specialists and other personnel who provide training and support to teachers of military children are sufficiently trained to support developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for such children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the progress made in improving educational opportunities and achievement for military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(2) A description and assessment of efforts to implement the guidance issued under subsection (b).

(d) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should, in partnership with the Secretaries of the military departments, conduct an independent evaluation of efforts to strengthen teaching of military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including—

(1) assessments of the impact of curriculum and education programs in such areas on student achievement; and

(2) a comparison of the educational achievements of military children in such areas with the educational achievements of nonmilitary children in such areas.

SA 963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF SENATE ON NAMING A DESTROYER OF THE NAVY AFTER THE LATE PATRICK GALLAGHER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of the Navy should name an otherwise unnamed destroyer of the Navy on the Naval Vessel Register as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or an unnamed destroyer added to the Naval Vessel Register after that date, after the late Patrick Gallagher, United States Marine Corps, who was awarded the Navy Cross.

SA 964. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. _____. ADDITION OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE TO THE BERRY AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Stainless steel flatware.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (3) of section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into after the date occurring one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 965. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 322. REPORT ON RELEASE OF RADIUM OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL INTO THE GROUNDWATER NEAR THE INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT IN BETHPAGE, NEW YORK.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress an addendum to the report submitted to Congress in June 2017 entitled ''2017 Annual Report For Groundwater Impacts at Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Bethpage, New York'' that would detail any releases by the Department of Defense of radium or radioactive material into the groundwater within a 75-mile radius of the industrial reserve plant in Bethpage, New York.

SA 966. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Environmental Restoration, Navy, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$323,000,000''.

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Total Miscellaneous Appropriations, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$1,494,291''.

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Total Operation & Maintenance, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$194,945,230''.

SA 967. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds made available by this Act for Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization, Defense-wide, not less than $20,000,000 shall be used by the Air Force and not less than $15,000,000 shall be used by the Navy for mitigation efforts by impacted National Guard installations to take actions that mitigate identified sources of polyfluoroalkyl substances at sites as a result of surveys conducted by the Air Force or the Navy (as the case may be) so as to restore public confidence in potable water which may be affected in those sites.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing how the Secretary will allocate funds in accordance with subsection (a).

SA 968. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. BURDENS OF PROOF APPLICABLE TO INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS RELATED TO PROTECTED COMMUNICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PROHIBITED RETALIATORY ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

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

''(i) BURDENS OF PROOF.—The burdens of proof specified in section 1221(e) of title 5 shall apply in any investigation conducted by an Inspector General under subsection (c) or (d), any review performed by a board for the correction of military records under subsection (g), and any review conducted by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (h).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to allegations pending or submitted under section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, on or after that date.

SA 969. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies

flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 970. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 971. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 972. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 973. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 974. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. ENROLLMENT OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(a) ENROLLMENT AUTHORIZED.—Section 9314a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees'';

(ii) by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee''; and

(iii) by inserting ''or homeland security-focused'' after ''defense-focused'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''125 defense industry employees'' and inserting ''an aggregate of 125 defense industry employees and homeland security industry employees''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee'' each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees'' each place it appears;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or homeland security'' after ''and defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or the Department of Homeland Security, as applicable'' after ''the Department of Defense''; and

(4) in subsection (f), by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees''.

(b) HOMELAND SECURITY INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: ''For purposes of this section, an eligible homeland security industry employee is an individual employed by a private firm in one of the critical infrastructure sectors identified in Presidential Policy Directive 21 (Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience).''; and

(2) in the last sentence, by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 9314a. United States Air Force Institute of Technology: admission of defense industry civilians; admission of homeland security industry civilians''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 901 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 9314a and inserting the following new item:

''9314a. United States Air Force Institute of Technology: admission of defense industry civilians; admission of homeland security industry civilians.''.

SA 975. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. BRINGING JOBS HOME.

(a) TAX CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45S. CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the insourcing expenses credit for any taxable year is an amount equal to 20 percent of the eligible insourcing expenses of the taxpayer which are taken into account in such taxable year under subsection (d).

''(b) ELIGIBLE INSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible insourcing expenses' means—

''(A) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States, and

''(B) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of the business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

''(2) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES.—The term 'eligible expenses' means—

''(A) any amount for which a deduction is allowed to the taxpayer under section 162, and

''(B) permit and license fees, lease brokerage fees, equipment installation costs, and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, other similar expenses.

Such term does not include any compensation which is paid or incurred in connection with severance from employment and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, any similar amount.

''(3) BUSINESS UNIT.—The term 'business unit' means—

''(A) any trade or business, and

''(B) any line of business, or functional unit, which is part of any trade or business.

''(4) EXPANDED AFFILIATED GROUP.—The term 'expanded affiliated group' means an affiliated group as defined in section 1504(a), determined without regard to section 1504(b)(3) and by substituting 'more than 50 percent' for 'at least 80 percent' each place it appears in section 1504(a). A partnership or any other entity (other than a corporation) shall be treated as a member of an expanded affiliated group if such entity is controlled (within the meaning of section 954(d)(3)) by members of such group (including any entity treated as a member of such group by reason of this paragraph).

''(5) EXPENSES MUST BE PURSUANT TO INSOURCING PLAN.—Amounts shall be taken into account under paragraph (1) only to the extent that such amounts are paid or incurred pursuant to a written plan to carry out the relocation described in paragraph (1).

''(6) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—Any amount paid or incurred in connection with the on-going operation of a business unit shall not be treated as an amount paid or incurred in connection with the establishment or elimination of such business unit.

''(c) INCREASED DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT.—No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed exceeds the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the last taxable year ending before the first taxable year in which such eligible insourcing expenses were paid or incurred. For purposes of this subsection, full-time equivalent employees has the meaning given such term under section 45R(d) (and the applicable rules of section 45R(e)). All employers treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of this subsection.

''(d) CREDIT ALLOWED UPON COMPLETION OF INSOURCING PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the taxable year during which the plan described in subsection (b)(5) has been completed and all eligible insourcing expenses pursuant to such plan have been paid or incurred.

''(2) ELECTION TO APPLY EMPLOYMENT TEST AND CLAIM CREDIT IN FIRST FULL TAXABLE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF PLAN.—If the taxpayer elects the application of this paragraph, eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the first taxable year after the taxable year described in paragraph (1).

''(e) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'United States' shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.''.

(2) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of such Code is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(37) the insourcing expenses credit determined under section 45S(a).''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 45S. Credit for insourcing expenses.''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) APPLICATION TO UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS.—

(A) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS.—

(i) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make periodic payments to each possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system in an amount equal to the loss to that possession by reason of section 45S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Such amount shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(ii) OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make annual payments to

each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system in an amount estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of section 45S of such Code if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to any possession of the United States unless such possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payment to the residents of such possession.

(B) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—No credit shall be allowed against United States income taxes under section 45S of such Code to any person—

(i) to whom a credit is allowed against taxes imposed by the possession by reason of such section, or

(ii) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i).

(C) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

(i) POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term ''possession of the United States'' includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(ii) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this section, the term ''mirror code tax system'' means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

(iii) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from sections referred to in such section 1324(b)(2).

(b) DENIAL OF DEDUCTION FOR OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 280I. OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any specified outsourcing expense.

''(b) SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSE.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specified outsourcing expense' means—

''(A) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States, and

''(B) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of the business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

''(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms 'eligible expenses', 'business unit', and 'expanded affiliated group' shall have the respective meanings given such terms by section 45S(b).

''(B) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—A rule similar to the rule of section 45S(b)(6) shall apply for purposes of this section.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) APPLICATION TO DEDUCTIONS FOR DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION.—In the case of any portion of a specified outsourcing expense which is not deductible in the taxable year in which paid or incurred, such portion shall neither be chargeable to capital account nor amortizable.

''(2) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'United States' shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations which provide (or create a rebuttable presumption) that certain establishments of business units outside the United States will be treated as relocations (based on timing or such other factors as the Secretary may provide) of business units eliminated within the United States.''.

(2) LIMITATION ON SUBPART F INCOME OF CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—Subsection (c) of section 952 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) EARNINGS AND PROFITS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this subsection, earnings and profits of any controlled foreign corporation shall be determined without regard to any specified outsourcing expense (as defined in section 280I(b)).''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 280I. Outsourcing expenses.''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 976. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON USE OF TEST SITES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON COUNTERING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the armed unmanned aircraft systems deployed by adversaries for military purposes pose a threat to military installations, critical infrastructure, and members of the Armed Forces in conflict areas like Iraq and Syria;

(2) the unmanned aircraft systems test sites designated by the Federal Aviation Administration offer unique capabilities, expertise, and airspace for research and development related to unmanned aircraft systems; and

(3) the Armed Forces should, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, seek to leverage the test sites described in paragraph (2), as well as existing Department of Defense facilities with appropriate expertise, for research and development on capabilities to counter the nefarious use of unmanned aircraft systems.

SA 977. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 770, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 16, strike ''Sixty'' and all that follows through line 19.

SA 978. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT ON HURRICANE DAMAGE TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on damage to Department of Defense assets and installations from hurricanes during 2017.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of a storm damage assessment.

(2) A description of affected military installations and assets.

(3) A request for funding to initiate the repair and replacement of damaged facilities and assets, including necessary upgrades to existing facilities to make them compliant with current hurricane standards, and to cover any unfunded requirements for military construction at affected military installations.

(4) An adaptation plan to ensure military installations funded with taxpayer dollars are constructed to better withstand flooding and extreme weather events.

SA 979. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. _____. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Paragraph (3) of section 1226(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 129 Stat. 1056), as added by section 1294(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2562), is amended by striking ''for such fiscal year'' both places it appears.

SA 980. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 331, on page ____, between lines ____ and ____, insert the following:

''(7)(A) The installation commander of a military installation impacted by a proposed energy project shall submit to the Clearinghouse a statement of objection or non-objection regarding the impact of proposed project.

''(B) The statement shall include the following elements:

''(i) An analysis of the impact on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(ii) A detailed description of any potential negative impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(iii) Any additional information the installation commander determines relevant for consideration in the evaluation process.

''(iv) A statement of objection or non-objection.

''(C) The installation commander's recommendation shall be incorporated into the Clearinghouse analysis and made a matter of permanent record.

''(D) Any decision by the Clearinghouse that contradicts the installation commander recommendation shall be accompanied by a report addressing all the points made in the installation commander's statement, and describe how any impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness will be prevented.

SA 981. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:

SEC. ___. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The ability of the Department of Defense to respond to national security challenges would benefit by increased workforce exposure to, and understanding of, modern problem-solving techniques and innovative methodologies.

(2) Presenting national security problems to universities and education centers will increase diverse stakeholder participation in the rapid development of solutions to national security challenges and improve Department of Defense recruitment of young technologists and engineers with critical skill sets, including cyber capabilities.

(3) National security innovation and entrepreneurial education would provide a unique pathway for veterans, Federal employees, and military personnel to leverage their training, experience, and expertise to solve emerging national security challenges while learning cutting-edge business innovation methodologies.

(4) The benefits to be derived from supporting national security innovation and entrepreneurial education programs include—

(A) enabling veterans and members of the Armed Forces to apply their battlefield knowledge in a team environment to develop innovative solutions to some of the United States' most challenging national security problems;

(B) encouraging students, university faculty, veterans, and other technologists and engineers to develop new and vital skill sets to solve real-world national security challenges while introducing them to public service opportunities; and

(C) providing an alternative pathway for the Department of Defense to achieve critical agency objectives, such as acquisition reform and the rapid deployment of new and essential capabilities to America's warfighters.

(b) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, support national security innovation and entrepreneurial education programs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Support under paragraph (1) may include the following:

(A) Materials to recruit participants, including veterans, for programs described in paragraph (1).

(B) Model curriculum for such programs.

(C) Training materials for such programs.

(D) Best practices for the conduct of such programs.

(E) Experimental learning opportunities for program participants to interact with operational forces and better understand national security challenges.

(F) Exchanges and partnerships with Department of Defense science and technology activities.

(G) Activities consistent with the Proof of Concept Commercialization Pilot Program established under section 1603 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 2359 note).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary may consult with the heads of such Federal agencies, universities, and public and private entities engaged in the development of advanced technologies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may—

(1) develop and maintain metrics to assess national security innovation and entrepreneurial education activities to ensure standards for programs supported under subsection (b) are consistent and being met; and

(2) ensure that any recipient of an award under the Small Business Technology Transfer program, the Small Business Innovation Research program, and science and technology programs of the Department of Defense has the option to participate in training under a national security innovation and entrepreneurial education program supported under subsection (b).

(e) PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary may encourage Federal employees and members of the Armed Forces to participate in a national security innovation and entrepreneurial education program supported under subsection (b) in order to gain exposure to modern innovation and entrepreneurial methodologies.

SA 982. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON USE BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FURNISHED UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ADVERTISING, MARKETING, OR RECRUITING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, an institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Department of Defense educational assistance funds for advertising, recruiting, or marketing activities described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the advertising, recruiting, and marketing activities subject to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

(2) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

(A) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

(B) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including Internet websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

(3) Such other activities as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under subsection (b).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Department of Defense educational assistance funds'' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

(1) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of such title.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Department of Defense educational assistance funds. As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives revenues from Department of Defense educational assistance funds shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and to Congress each year a report that includes the following:

(1) The institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting.

(2) A verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

(3) A certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this section.

SA 983. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Protecting Financial Aid for Students and Taxpayers Act''.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—Section 119 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (20 U.S.C. 1011m) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**AND RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES**'' after ''**FUNDS**'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsections (a) through (c)'' and inserting ''subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e)'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Federal educational assistance funds for recruiting or marketing activities described in paragraph (2).

''(2) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the recruiting and marketing activities subject to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

''(B) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

''(i) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other Internet communications regarding enrollment; and

''(ii) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

''(C) Such other activities as the Secretary of Education may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under paragraph (2).

''(4) FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—In this subsection, the term 'Federal educational assistance funds' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

''(B) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code.

''(C) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

''(D) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of title 10, United States Code.

''(E) Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

''(F) The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.).

''(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Federal educational assistance funds.

''(6) REPORTS.—Each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives 65 percent or more of revenues from Federal educational assistance funds shall report annually to the Secretary and to Congress and shall include in such report—

''(A) the institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting;

''(B) a verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection; and

''(C) a certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.''.

SA 984. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1635, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS OF RUSSIA'S GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report including the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the Russian Federation's new ground-launched cruise missile (SSC–8), its capabilities, and the threat it poses to the allies and assets of the United States in Europe and Asia.

(B) An assessment of whether the United States faces significant military disadvantages with the introduction of the SSC–8 to the European continent.

(C) An assessment of capability gaps that a new United States ground-launched intermediate-range missile with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers would address in Europe and Asia and whether such a missile is the preferred military response to Russian Federation violations of the INF Treaty.

(D) The timeline for fielding such a ground-launched intermediate-range missile, including time for research, development, and deployment of the system, and the total cost for development and deployment of the system.

(E) An assessment of the willingness of countries in Europe or the Asia-Pacific region to complete the legal requirements to host a ground-launched intermediate-range missile with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers for counterforce or countervailing strike missions against the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

(F) An assessment of the North Atlantic Council's willingness to endorse development of a ground-launched intermediate-range missile as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's collective response to the failure of the Russian Federation to comply with the INF Treaty.

(G) A determination of whether the United States developing, producing, or flight-testing a ground-launched intermediate-range missile would be compliant with the INF Treaty.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for a research and development program for a dual-capable roadmobile ground-launched missile system with a maximum range of 5,500 kilometers may be obligated or expended until the reports required by subsections (b) and (c) are received by the congressional defense committees.

SA 985. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. ____. GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.

(a) GARNISHMENT AUTHORITY.—Section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), any payment of retired pay that would otherwise be made to a member

shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Secretary concerned to another person if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of a child abuse garnishment order.

''(2) A court order providing for the payment of child support or alimony or, with respect to a division of property, specifically providing for the payment of an amount of the disposable retired pay from a member to the spouse or a former spouse of the member, shall be given priority over a child abuse garnishment order. The total amount of the disposable retired pay of a member payable under a child abuse garnishment order shall not exceed 25 percent of the member's disposable retired pay.

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'court order' includes a child abuse garnishment order.

''(4) In this subsection, the term 'child abuse garnishment order' means a final decree issued by a court that—

''(A) is issued in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction of that court; and

''(B) provides in the nature of garnishment for the enforcement of a judgment rendered against the member for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child.

''(5) For purposes of this subsection, a judgment rendered for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child is any legal claim perfected through a final enforceable judgment, which claim is based in whole or in part upon the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of an individual under 18 years of age, whether or not that abuse is accompanied by other actionable wrongdoing, such as sexual exploitation or gross negligence.

''(6) If the Secretary concerned is served with more than one court order with respect to the retired pay of a member, the disposable retired pay of the member shall be available to satisfy such court orders on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the order of precedence specified in paragraph (2), with any such process being satisfied out of such monies as remain after the satisfaction of all such processes which have been previously served.

''(7) The Secretary concerned shall not be required to vary normal pay and disbursement cycles for retired pay in order to comply with a child abuse garnishment order.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—Subsection (l) of section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a court order received by the Secretary concerned on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of the court order.

SA 986. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. ___. OUTSOURCING PREVENTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Defending American Jobs Act''.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into or renew a contract for the procurement of property or services unless the contractor certifies that, during the previous 5 years, the contractor has not outsourced a domestic operation or, in the case of an operation so outsourced, the contractor certifies that the operation has moved back to the United States.

(b) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning on the date that is one year after a contractor enters into a contract described under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the duration of the contract, the contractor shall certify whether it has outsourced a domestic operation since entering into the contract.

(c) OUTSOURCING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''outsourcing'', with respect to a domestic operation, means a plant closing or mass layoff (as described in section 2(a) of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2101(a)) in which the employment loss (excluding any part-time employees) for positions which will be moved to a country outside of the United States exceeds 50 employees.

SA 987. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. ___. ARSENAL SUPPORT PROGRAM INITIATIVE.

Section 343(a) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20 U.S.C. 7703a), as most recently amended by section 342 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, is further amended by striking ''through 2012'' and inserting ''through 2022''.

SA 988. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. ___. APPLICABILITY OF BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS TO ITEMS USED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Section 8302(a)(2)(A) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''needed on an urgent basis or for national security reasons (as determined by the head of a Federal agency)'' after ''for use outside the United States''.

SA 989. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. CYBERSECURITY OF INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.

(a) DESIGNATION OF INTEGRATING OFFICIAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate one official to be responsible for all matters relating to integrating cybersecurity and industrial control systems within the Department of Defense. Such official shall be responsible for all such matters at all levels of command, from the Department to the facility using industrial control systems.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the official designated under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) Developing, implementing, and be accountable for plans, programs, and policies to improve the cybersecurity of industrial control systems. Such plans, programs, and policies shall be applicable at all levels of command and apply to both the Department and the facility using the industrial control system.

(B) Developing Department-wide certification standards for integration of industrial control systems and taking into consideration frameworks set forth by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the cybersecurity of such systems.

(b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall consider carrying out one or more pilot programs to assess the feasibility and advisability of implementing various solutions for protecting industrial control systems against cyber attacks and discerning the specific criteria that a solution should demonstrate in order to be certified for military use.

(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to the determination of certification criteria for military energy industrial control systems.

SA 990. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON DELEGATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH DOMICILE-TO-DUTY LIMITATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than December 1, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth an assessment of the feasability and advisability of permitting the Secretaries of the military departments to delegate to commanding officers in general and flag officer positions authority to waive limitations on the use of passenger carriers as a means of transporting Government personnel between residence and place of employment under section 1344 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as ''Domicile-to-Duty''), for members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the military departments who have significant responsibility for missions executing or supporting round-the-clock performance of combat operations or intelligence, counterintelligence, protective service, or criminal law enforcement duties.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) assume that any delegation of waiver authority as described in that subsection

shall complement, and not replace, the waiver authority of the Secretaries of the military departments under section 1344 of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) take into account the extent to which delegation of such waiver authority would impact the safe and efficient conduct of missions described in that subsection.

SA 991. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 212 and insert the following:

SEC. 212. CODIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DEFENSE LABORATORIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR MILITARY MISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2362 the following new section:

''§ 2363. Mechanisms to provide funds for defense laboratories for research and development of technologies for military missions

''(a) MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE FUNDS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall establish mechanisms under which the director of a defense laboratory may use an amount of funds equal to not less than two percent and not more than four percent of all funds available to the defense laboratory for the following purposes:

''(A) To fund innovative basic and applied research that is conducted at the defense laboratory and supports military missions.

''(B) To fund development programs that support the transition of technologies developed by the defense laboratory into operational use.

''(C) To fund workforce development activities that improve the capacity of the defense laboratory to recruit and retain personnel with necessary scientific and engineering expertise that support military missions.

''(D) To fund the repair or minor military construction of the laboratory infrastructure and equipment, in accordance with subsection (b).

''(2) The mechanisms established under paragraph (1) shall provide that funding shall be used under paragraph (1) at the discretion of the director of a defense laboratory in consultation with the science and technology executive of the military department concerned.

''(3) After consultation with the science and technology executive of the military department concerned, the director of a defense laboratory may charge customer activities a fixed percentage fee, in addition to normal costs of performance, in order to obtain funds to carry out activities authorized by this subsection. The fixed fee may not exceed four percent of costs.

''(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—Funds shall be available in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(D) only if—

''(1) the Secretary notifies the congressional defense committees of the total cost of the project before the date on which the Secretary uses the mechanism under such subsection for such project; and

''(2) the Secretary ensures that the project complies with the applicable cost limitations in—

''(A) section 2805(d) of this title, with respect to revitalization and recapitalization projects; and

''(B) section 2811 of this title, with respect to repair projects.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use of the authority under subsection (a) during the preceding year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2362 the following new item:

''2363. Mechanisms to provide funds for defense laboratories for research and development of technologies for military missions.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 219 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note), is hereby repealed.

(2) Section 2805(d)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''under section 219(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note)'' and inserting ''section 2363(a) of this title''.

SEC. 213. ANNUAL REPORT ON UNFUNDED REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall submit to the congressional defense committees each year, at the time the budget of the President for the fiscal year beginning in such year is submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a reporting listing unfunded requirements on major and minor military construction projects for Department of Defense science and technology laboratories and facilities and test evaluation facilities.

SA 992. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Schumer to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PRIVATE RELIEF FOR THE MCALLISTER FAMILY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister shall each be eligible for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, or Sean Ryan McAllister enters the United States before the filing deadline described in subsection (d), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255), as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OF, OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a) and 1227(a)), Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister may not be removed from the United States, or denied admission to the United States, by reason of any act of any of such individuals that is a ground for removal or denial of admission and is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security, or the Visa Office of the Department of State, on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of deportability, that has been entered against Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, or Sean Ryan McAllister by reason of any act described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply unless Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister each file an application for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status, with appropriate fees, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent resident status to Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)).

SA 993. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle H—Matters Relating to Hizballah

SEC. 1290. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017''.

PART I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

SEC. 1291. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the

President determines knowingly assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for—

''(1) Bayt al-Mal, Jihad al-Bina, the Islamic Resistance Support Association, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

''(2) al-Manar TV, al Nour Radio, or the Lebanese Media Group, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

''(3) a foreign person determined by the President to be engaged in fundraising or recruitment activities for Hizballah; or

''(4) a foreign person owned or controlled by a foreign person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

''(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

''(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

''(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a) is—

''(I) inadmissible to the United States;

''(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

''(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

''(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

''(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

''(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph (1)(A) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(d) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(e) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—

''(A) BEFORE WAIVER ISSUED.—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to a foreign person, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

''(B) AFTER WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign person, and every 120 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that lists the foreign persons that the President has credible evidence knowingly assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for the foreign persons described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a).

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms 'admitted' and 'alien' have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

''(3) ENTITY.—The term 'entity' means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup.

''(4) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given such term in section 102(f).

''(5) PERSON.—The term 'person' means an individual or entity.

''(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term 'United States person' means a United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or a person in the United States.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 101 and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 101. Mandatory sanctions with respect to fundraising and recruitment activities for Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1292. MODIFICATION OF REPORT WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

Subsection (d) of section 102 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) REPORT ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

''(A) identifies each foreign financial institution described in paragraph (2) that the President determines engages in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2);

''(B) provides a detailed description of each such activity; and

''(C) contains a determination with respect to each such foreign financial institution that is identified under subparagraph (A) as engaging in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2) as to whether such foreign financial institution is in violation of Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism) by reason of engaging in one or more such activities.

''(2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DESCRIBED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign financial institution described in this paragraph is a foreign financial institution—

''(i) that, wherever located, is—

''(I) organized under the laws of a state sponsor of terrorism or any jurisdiction within a state sponsor of terrorism;

''(II) owned or controlled by the government of a state sponsor of terrorism;

''(III) located in the territory of a state sponsor of terrorism; or

''(IV) owned or controlled by a foreign financial institution described in subclause (I), (II), or (III); and

''(ii) the capitalization of which exceeds $10,000,000.

''(B) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—In this paragraph, the term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

''(i) section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

''(ii) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(iii) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

''(iv) any other provision of law.''.

SEC. 1293. SANCTIONS AGAINST AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 103. SANCTIONS AGAINST AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(b) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE DESCRIBED.—An agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in

this subsection is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that the President determines knowingly and materially assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for, goods or services to or in support of, or arms or related material to—

''(1) Hizballah;

''(2) an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah; or

''(3) an entity that the President determines has acted or purported to act for or on behalf of Hizballah.

''(c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (a) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(e) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(f) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—

''(A) BEFORE WAIVER ISSUED.—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the agency or instrumentality in activities described in subsection (b).

''(B) AFTER WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, and every 120 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the agency or instrumentality in activities described in subsection (b).

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE; FOREIGN STATE.—The terms 'agency or instrumentality of a foreign state' and 'foreign state' have the meanings given those terms in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code.

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

''(3) ARMS OR RELATED MATERIAL.—The term 'arms or related material' means—

''(A) nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

''(B) ballistic or cruise missile weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

''(C) destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons;

''(D) defense articles or defense services, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, of section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794);

''(E) defense information, as that term is defined in section 644 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403); or

''(F) items designated by the President for purposes of the United States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

''(4) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 102 the following new item:

''Sec. 103. Sanctions against agencies and instrumentalities of foreign states that support Hizballah.''.

PART II—NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH

SEC. 1294. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 201. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF HIZBALLAH.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Hizballah conducts narcotics trafficking and significant transnational criminal activities.

''(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of Hizballah if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (b) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(e) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(f) WAIVER.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title II and inserting the following:

''TITLE II—IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HIZBALLAH AND REPORTS RELATING TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH.''; AND

(2) by striking the item relating to section 201 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 201. Blocking of property of Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1295. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 202. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

''(1) Activities that Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, have engaged in that are racketeering activities.

''(2) The extent to which Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, engage in a pattern of such racketeering activities.

''(b) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

''(2) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).

''(3) RACKETEERING ACTIVITY.—The term 'racketeering activity' has the meaning given that term in section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 202 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 202. Report on racketeering activities engaged in by Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1296. MODIFICATION OF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS AND FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years'';

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and free-trade zones.'' and inserting ''free-trade zones, business partnerships and joint ventures, and other investments in small and medium-sized enterprises;''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) a list of provinces, municipalities, and local governments outside of Lebanon that expressly consent to, or with knowledge allow, tolerate, or disregard the use of their territory by Hizballah to carry out terrorist activities, including training, financing, and recruitment;

''(G) a description of the total aggregate revenues and remittances that Hizballah receives from the global logistics networks of Hizballah, including—

''(i) a list of Hizballah's sources of revenue, including sources of revenue based on illicit activity, revenues from Iran, charities, and other business activities; and

''(ii) a list of Hizballah's expenditures, including expenditures for ongoing military operations, social networks, and external operations; and

''(H) a survey of national and transnational legal measures available to target Hizballah's financial networks.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall prescribe, as necessary, enhanced due diligence policies, procedures, and controls for United States financial institutions, and foreign financial institutions maintaining correspondent accounts or payable-through accounts with United States financial institutions, that provide significant financial services for persons and entities operating in a jurisdiction included in the list required under subsection (a)(1)(F) if the President certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms 'correspondent account' and 'payable-through account' have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (2) by adding before the period at the end the following: ''and on any requirements for enhanced due diligence prescribed under subsection (b)''.

(b) REPORT ON ESTIMATED NET WORTH OF SENIOR HIZBALLAH MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(A) the estimated total net worth of each individual described in paragraph (2); and

(B) a description of how funds of each individual described in paragraph (2) were acquired, and how such funds have been used or employed.

(2) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—The individuals described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Secretary General of Hizballah.

(B) Members of the Hizballah Politburo.

(C) Any other individual that the President determines is a senior foreign political figure of Hizballah.

(3) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(A) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the report required under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Department of the Treasury in precompressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

(4) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury may use any credible publication, database, or web-based resource, and any credible information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity provided to or made available to the Secretary.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(B) FUNDS.—The term ''funds'' means—

(i) cash;

(ii) equity;

(iii) any other intangible asset the value of which is derived from a contractual claim, including bank deposits, bonds, stocks, a security (as defined in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a))), or a security or an equity security (as those terms are defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))); and

(iv) anything else of value that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appropriate.

(C) SENIOR FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE.—The term ''senior foreign political figure'' has the meaning given that term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 1297. REPORT ON COMBATING THE ILLICIT TOBACCO TRAFFICKING NETWORKS USED BY HIZBALLAH AND OTHER FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on combating the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah and other foreign terrorist organizations to finance their operations, as described in the report submitted to Congress in December 2015 by the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services entitled, ''The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security.''.

(b) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the steps to be taken by Federal agencies to combat the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah, other foreign terrorist organizations, and other illicit actors.

(2) A description of the steps to be taken to engage State and local law enforcement authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating within the United States.

(3) A description of the steps to be taken to engage foreign government law enforcement and intelligence authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating outside the United States.

(4) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action needed to address the threat of illicit tobacco trafficking networks.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

PART III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 1298. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, prescribe regulations as necessary for the implementation of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before the prescription of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees regarding the proposed regulations and the provisions of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle that the regulations are implementing.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 1299. EXCEPTIONS.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall not apply to the following:

(1) Any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) Any transaction necessary to comply with United States obligations under—

(A) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(B) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(C) any other international treaty.

SEC. 1299A. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle shall be construed to limit the authority of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other provision of law.

SA 994. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ___. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that the International Military Education and Training program—

(1) improves the professionalism, capabilities, and interoperability of United States military partners for our mutual benefit;

(2) strengthens the personal relationships between members of the United States Armed Forces and their foreign counterparts;

(3) supports regional stability and democracy promotion; and

(4) plays a vital role in United States national security and foreign policy.

SA 995. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3116. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF ADVISORY BOARD ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND WORKER HEALTH.

Section 3687(i) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7385s–16(i)) is amended by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

SA 996. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. _____. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ENLIST UNDER AUTHORITY FOR ENLISTMENT VITAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

(a) RETENTION AND STATUS.—Each member of the Armed Forces who accesses into the Armed Forces under section 504(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code—

(1) shall, to the extent practicable, remain a member of the Armed Forces until the Secretary concerned is able to determine the suitability of such member for retention in the Armed Forces; and

(2) may not be separated from the Armed Forces before completion of the background checks and security screenings required to certify the member for retention in the Armed Forces, except as follows:

(A) Upon a sentence of court-martial pursuant to chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), providing for separation of the member.

(B) Upon the discovery of current or prior disqualifying actions not related to the member's status under the immigration laws that require the separation of the member.

(b) IMMIGRATION STATUS OF ALIEN MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The protections and conditions specified in paragraph (3) shall apply to an individual described in paragraph (2) during the period—

(A) that begins on the date on which the individual enlists in the Armed Forces under the Delayed Entry Program provided for in section 513 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) that ends on either—

(i) the date on which the member is enlisted in a regular component of the Armed Forces; or

(ii) the date on which the member is determined by the Secretary concerned to be not suitable for retention in the Armed Forces.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual described in this paragraph is an alien who enlists in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to a determination provided for in section 504(b)(2) of such title.

(3) PROTECTIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The protections and conditions specified in this paragraph with respect to an individual are the following:

(A) That the individual may not be removed from the United States.

(B) That the individual shall be permitted to depart and reenter the United States.

(C) That the individual shall be deemed to be lawfully present and authorized for employment as of the date of accession into the Armed Forces.

(c) DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 513(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) A person enlisted under subsection (a) who accesses into the armed forces pursuant to section 504(b)(2) of this title shall not be subject to the provisions of paragraph (1), but shall be enlisted in a regular component of an armed force as soon as practicable after enlistment.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or (2)'' after ''paragraph (1)''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to persons described by paragraph (2) of section 513(b) of title 10, United States Code (as so amended), who are enlisted in the Armed Forces as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—If a person enlisted in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to a determination provided for in section 504(b)(2) of such title and was separated from the Armed Forces pursuant to the operation of section 513(b) of such title before the date of the enactment of this Act, the person shall, at the election of the person, be permitted to reenlist in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of such title after that date (and be subject to paragraph (2) of section 513(b) of such title (as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection) if the Secretary concerned determines that the individual remains eligible for enlistment in the Armed Force as of the date of reenlistment.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) The terms ''alien'' and ''immigration laws'' have the meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

SA 997. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States military is keenly aware of the need to support the families of those who serve our country.

(2) Military children face unique challenges in educational achievement due to frequent changes of station by, deployments by, and even injuries to their parents.

(3) Investing in quality education opportunities for all military children from cradle to career ensures parents are able to stay focused on the mission, and children are able to benefit from consistent relationships with caring teachers who support their early learning so they can be ready to excel in school.

(4) Research shows that early math is at least as predictive of later school success as early literacy.

(5) Investing in early learning for military children is an important element in a comprehensive strategy for ensuring a smart, skilled, and committed future national security workforce.

(6) To strengthen the global standing and military might of the United States, technology, and innovation, the Nation must continuously look for ways to strengthen early education of children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Armed Forces in order to ensure the following:

(1) The placement of a priority on supporting early learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for children, including those at Department of Defense schools and schools serving large military child populations.

(2) Support for efforts to ensure that training and curriculum specialists, teachers and other caregivers, and staff serving military children have the training and skills necessary to implement instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that provides the necessary foundation for future learning and educational achievement in such areas.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the progress made in improving educational opportunities and achievement for military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(2) A description and assessment of efforts to implement the guidance issued under subsection (b).

SA 998. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1088. LOCATION OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME.

Section 23107 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Dayton,'' and all that follows through ''trustees.'' and inserting ''Ohio.''.

SA 999. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After subsection (a) of section 343, insert the following:

(b) EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and in consultation with the Department of Defense, shall conduct an exposure assessment of no less than 8 current or former domestic military installations known to have per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in drinking water, ground water, and any other sources of water and relevant exposure vectors.

(2) CONTENTS.—The exposure assessment required under this subsection shall—

(A) include—

(i) for each military installation covered under the exposure assessment, a statistical sample to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the relevant State health departments; and

(ii) bio-monitoring for assessing the contamination described in paragraph (1); and

(B) produce findings, which shall be—

(i) used to help design the study described in subsection (a)(1); and

(ii) released to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 1 year after the conclusion of such exposure assessment.

(3) TIMING.—The exposure assessment required under this subsection shall—

(A) begin not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) conclude not later than 2 years after such date of enactment.

SA 1000. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO GARLIN M. CONNER FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Garlin M. Conner for the acts of valor during World War II described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Garlin M. Conner during combat on January 24, 1945, as a member of the United States Army in the grade of First Lieutenant in France while serving with Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

SA 1001. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL FOR MATTERS RELATING TO INTEGRATING CYBERSECURITY AND INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) DESIGNATION OF INTEGRATING OFFICIAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall designate one official to be responsible for all matters relating to integrating cybersecurity and industrial control systems within the Department of Defense.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The official designated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be responsible for all matters described in such subsection at all levels of command, from the Department to the facility using industrial control systems, including developing Department-wide certification standards for integration of industrial control systems and taking into consideration frameworks set forth by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the cybersecurity of such systems.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I have 8 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Examining the Fintech Landscape.''

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Health Care: Issues Impacting Cost and Coverage.''

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''Nominations.''

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled ''Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Flexibility'' on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing on the nominations of Daniel J. Kaniewski to be Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Jonathan H. Pittman to be an Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, from 2:30 p.m., in room SH–219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Member Roundtable.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY OVERSIGHT

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold Subcommittee Hearing on ''Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges.''

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Energy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to

hold a hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 3 p.m., in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeffrey Buck, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the year.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, and notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810 with no postcloture time remaining.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 470 of the 113th Congress and the nomination was referred sequentially to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for 20 calendar days under authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009:

ROBERT P. STORCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 12, 2017:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KEVIN ALLEN HASSETT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.