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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Beautiful Savior, Your mighty power makes us glad. We celebrate the victories You have given us in the past and trust You with our future.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations, and we are sustained by Your steadfast love. Today, surround our Senators with the shield of Your favor as they labor to keep our Nation strong. Inspire them to be obedient to Your commands, doing what You desire of them as You fill them with Your wisdom.

Lord, manifest Your power through their labors so that this Nation will fulfill Your purposes. May Your angels guard us in all our ways.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, history will look back at 2020 and find many lessons and even some silver linings to unpack.

The loss of more than 300,000 American lives so far will be mourned for

years to come. Operation Warp Speed, which President Trump launched, turned out to be a historic public-private partnership. It has delivered a lifesaving vaccine in record time, shattering scientific benchmarks along the way. For the last 9 months, Americans have pulled together in shared sacrifice to do their part.

As the COVID-19 vaccine makes its way into the communities across our country as it is right now, I encourage my fellow Iowans to keep pulling together. When public health officials say it is your turn to get a vaccine, roll up your sleeve. I will be doing the same when my turn arrives.

Getting immunized is the only way we will beat the virus and get back to the normal way of American life. History will show Americans turned the page on the pandemic when all of us roll up our sleeves.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday leaders in the Senate and the House and the Secretary of the Treasury reached a major agreement that struggling Americans have needed for months.

We are going to pass another historic rescue package to help American families through this pandemic. We are going to pass full-year government funding so the Armed Forces and all Federal Departments have the resources and the certainty they need. And we are going to do both of these things as soon as possible.

Senate Republicans have been trying since July—July—to get more targeted, bipartisan relief into the hands of the American people. Back in July,

we proposed to send about \$1 trillion to priorities including a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program, direct checks for households, and funding for healthcare providers, testing, and K-12 schools—back in July.

Democrats said no. They said they would block anything short of their multitrillion-dollar leftwing wish list. Here was one headline that particularly underscores their view: “\$2 trillion or bust: Democrats draw red line in coronavirus spending battle.”

So, in July and in August, when Republican Senators tried to extend expiring Federal unemployment benefits, Democrats blocked us. Laid-off workers lost their benefits.

In September and again in October, as people kept hurting, the virus kept spreading, and schools tried to find footing, every Republican voted for a multihundred-billion-dollar package. Both times Democrats blocked the relief. Their view was all or nothing.

But a few days ago, with a new President-elect of their own party, everything changed. Democrats suddenly came around to our position that we should find consensus, make a law where we agree, and get urgent help out the door.

In a few days of hard work, we have assembled another historic bipartisan rescue package: just under \$900 billion of relief targeted toward our fellow Americans who need help the most.

I will begin where this pandemic will end: vaccinations. Thanks to the genius of science and the leadership of President Trump, Operation Warp Speed has produced safe and effective vaccines. Now, we need to distribute them nationwide.

This rescue package provides many billions more dollars to expand vaccine purchasing and vaccine distribution. Until we have won, we need to keep wearing masks and taking precautions. Even so, more Americans will fall ill, so this legislation continues to fund health providers and COVID testing.

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



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The pandemic has fallen especially hard on children and parents. Our legislation includes major funding—more than \$80 billion—for K–12 schools to reopen safely and get kids' educations back on track. There are billions more for childcare providers to reopen safely as well, and new investments in rural broadband will improve both education and telehealth down the road.

Then there are Americans' personal finances, the impossible kitchen table questions that millions of working families have faced this year through no fault of their own.

Back in March, thanks to Chairman RUBIO, Senator COLLINS, and Senator CARDIN, we created a Paycheck Protection Program. It saved small businesses and helped millions of American workers keep receiving paychecks rather than pink slips.

It would be insanity for us to have saved these jobs all this time only to drop the ball with the end in sight, so this bill will send more than \$280 billion to reopen the PPP for a targeted second round, and we made sure churches and faith-based organizations will continue to be eligible.

Of course, millions have already been laid off, so months after Republicans tried to stop benefits from expiring in the first place, this package will resume a temporary Federal supplement to unemployment insurance, and it extends other programs for the self-employed and gig workers that would have expired.

Thanks to the particular leadership and direction of President Trump and Secretary Mnuchin, households will receive a second round of direct relief checks—\$600 per adult and per child. This is just some of the aid that will be heading Americans' way in a matter of hours. No sprawling leftwing wish list, no unconstrained bailouts for State and local government with no connection to COVID needs—just smart, targeted, bipartisan policies, what Senate Republicans have been recommending since the summer.

I cited a figure of \$900 billion, but listen to this. The net new cost—new cost—is less than roughly \$350 billion. We are recovering more than half a trillion dollars in unspent money that Congress had already set aside and channeling it to these urgent needs.

Thanks to our colleague Senator TOOMEY, this legislation winds down some of the temporary emergency powers we lent the Federal Reserve to make sure our financial system survived last spring.

A lot of talented leaders helped make this happen. Leader MCCARTHY has been an invaluable partner. White House Chief of Staff MARK MEADOWS has been central. Colleagues such as Senators COLLINS, MURKOWSKI, ROMNEY, CASSIDY, and PORTMAN helped prod the Senate toward consensus with their bipartisan work. And I just mentioned Senator TOOMEY.

I want to give particular thanks to the Secretary of the Treasury, Sec-

retary Mnuchin. Before the pandemic, Steven was already a crucial partner for the Republican majorities in Congress. We enacted the most consequential tax reform in a generation. We helped create the conditions for explosive job growth, wage growth, and record-low unemployment. Our country had the strongest possible starting point to weather this storm.

This year, the Secretary has been even more essential. He helped Congress develop and pass the historic CARES Act in record time. It prevented a complete economic collapse at the hands of the virus. From drafting CARES to implementing it, to the intervening months, to this latest package, Secretary Mnuchin has been an extremely capable and patient partner. He helped guide our Nation through this dark period toward the daybreak that lies ahead.

On behalf of the Senate and the country, I thank the Secretary for his countless hours of work and his incredible effectiveness in extraordinary times.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a related matter, while this rescue package will dominate headlines, we are also set to fund the entire Federal Government on a bipartisan basis.

We must not overlook the tireless work from Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and our Appropriations Committees in both Chambers. Their hard work goes beyond just avoiding shutdowns. Full-year funding bills give our Armed Forces the certainty to make plans and budgets so we can continue to modernize our capabilities and keep pace with competitors like Russia and China.

This year's bills also tackle important domestic priorities. Everything from agricultural research to the fight against opioid abuse, to border security and law enforcement are provided for. We aren't defunding the police or abolishing ICE around here—not on our watch.

Federal law enforcement from the U.S. Marshals to the Border Patrol will get the resources they need to protect innocent Americans and uphold the rule of law.

And I want to especially thank Chairman SHELBY and Congresswoman GRANGER for beating back a number of far-left poison pills. These bills maintain pro-life guardrails on funding, secure President Trump's approach to title X, and respect our citizens' Second Amendment rights.

The Senate is about to cast some incredibly impactful votes. None of us think any of this legislation is perfect, but a big bipartisan majority of us recognize the incredible amount of good it will do when we send it to the President's desk.

The American people have waited long enough. I am glad for our country that we are now moving ahead together.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

WINTER SOLSTICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before I say anything else, I want to say happy winter solstice. And 2020 is almost gone. It is an announcement I made to my family this morning, and I hope America shares it. We are turning a corner as a nation and to a new year and a new season, and, I hope, a much better day for all of us across this country.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 9 months ago, in March, we created the relief known as the CARES Act, and it passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 0. It was a measure intended to address the pandemic and the resultant economic downturn in America. I have heard various estimates of the total cost, but it is somewhere in the range of \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion. It was the largest single investment in our Nation in our history. It was a massive national response to a massive national health crisis, and it worked, at least on the economic front. I believe that it created demand in our economy that otherwise would not have been there, and it gave some businesses a chance to survive. Sadly, all did not, and many are still suffering. But it was necessary. It was done on a bipartisan basis. It was massive, and I believe it achieved its goal.

It started us on the course of dealing with the COVID-19 coronavirus, and one has to look back and say it only had limited success in that regard. As of today, we have lost more than 317,000 American lives, and millions have been infected. Our hospitals are still overrun with patients. But we did the right thing, and we quickly realized what we did could make a difference.

The unemployment compensation, which we provided for millions of Americans, was not only the humane thing to do but, as economists would tell you, it was the best single thing you could do to fight a recession. A

person who is unemployed, without a paycheck, will spend virtually every penny they are given into the economy, not bank it away for another day. That spending created consumer demand and gave some businesses a fighting chance.

The Paycheck Protection Program, through the Small Business Administration, was the work product of many, but I want to single out Senators BEN CARDIN and MARCO RUBIO for their bipartisan effort. I later saw Senator COLLINS and Senator SHAHEEN working to give it another day. But here was a program which extended a lifeline to American businesses—forgivable loans if the money were spent on the necessities: utilities and rent and mortgage and payroll.

I will quickly add that we have a responsibility to taxpayers to make an honest assessment of how that program was implemented. I am sorry to say that I have already heard anecdotal evidence that some of the loans were not carefully made. That is to be expected in something of this magnitude. But, by and large, this program was essential. Money that we put into healthcare made a difference. The CARES Act also protected those who were renting from eviction, delayed the payment of student loans, and a litany of other measures that made a difference.

That bill—the CARES Act of March of 2020—was really written with a notion that this was a short- to medium-term challenge. Many thought that, by the middle of this year, we would be turning the corner. Sadly, that was not the case. As of July, it was apparent that the worst was yet to come.

Speaker PELOSI, of the U.S. House of Representatives, introduced a measure known as the Heroes Act in an attempt to have a follow-on relief bill after the CARES Act. It was passed but was not considered in this Chamber.

The Republican leader, who spoke earlier today, said at the time that there were two things he wanted to make clear. First, he wanted to measure whether it was a needed follow-on bill. Second, he was drawing a redline that said unless we provided immunity from liability for corporations and businesses, he wouldn't consider another relief act. And the matter stalled.

The Speaker went on to pass another bill, a smaller one in size, but nothing happened. She went into conversations with Mr. Mnuchin and Senator SCHUMER on the Democratic side here, but little was produced from that exchange. We were stuck, stalled. As of the election day of November 3, it wasn't clear that there would ever be another relief bill this year.

I want to say a word about what happened next because I know more detail about that than some. It was about 4 weeks ago when a Republican Senator and a Democratic Senator invited six of their colleagues for dinner. It was a bipartisan group. When Senator

McCONNELL mentioned the participants earlier, he only mentioned Republicans. I want to let you know who was in on it on both sides, Democrats and Republicans. Yes, it was Senator COLLINS, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator CASSIDY, and Senator ROMNEY at the initial meeting; on the Democratic side, Senator MANCHIN, Senator WARNER, myself, and Senator SHAHEEN. Our ranks changed over the several weeks when we were debating to include MAGGIE HASSAN of New Hampshire, ANGUS KING of Maine, and ROB PORTMAN of Ohio.

For 3 or 4 weeks, we tried to write a relief bill. We did it by phone, by Zoom, and through staff work that was endless. Finally, Tuesday of last week, we were able to announce it. Let me get this number right, a \$748 billion consensus bill for relief. We were unable to reach a final agreement when it came to State and local funding, as well as the question of liability. We set those aside, but we produced this \$748 billion bill, much of which is included in this relief package we are going to consider today.

I want to thank my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, for their patience and determination to reach that point. I really believe that we ended up opening the conversation. The leaders, thank goodness, moved in to follow on and make it a reality.

Today, we are going to seriously consider a measure to keep America's economy moving and give us a fighting chance against the coronavirus. I think this bipartisan effort, this grassroots bipartisan effort by the 8 of us—soon to be 10 or 11 before it was all over—will make a significant difference in this Nation. We are going to come through with dramatic offers of relief across the board. It is in the range of \$900 billion, is the total. I don't know the exact amount.

It is going to provide several more weeks of unemployment compensation. The final agreement, I am told, reduced the number of weeks that we proposed, and I am sorry for that, but it did include a cash payment, which, under the right circumstances—I don't know all the details—could be a godsend for many families across the United States who are desperately trying to survive in troubling and difficult times.

It also extends the PPP program I mentioned earlier for small businesses to give them a chance for the kinds of loans and forgivable loans that might give them an opportunity to see another day.

Money is there especially for coronavirus vaccine distribution and logistics—testing, tracing, and the vaccine.

I would say this. In fairness, I agree with the Republican leader, who gave credit to the Trump administration for the Warp Speed program. That has been a dramatic success. To think that we have come up with not just one but two vaccines that work against this

COVID-19 is an amazing achievement, and I am glad that it received the high priority it deserved under this administration and particularly glad that the researchers and scientists who spent countless hours exploring opportunities for this vaccine were ultimately successful. America owes them a great, great debt of gratitude.

What is going to happen next? There are some parts of this measure which, as we study it, we will realize are inadequate. Merely extending unemployment benefits for 10 or 11 weeks may not be long enough. We may have to return to take a look at it. Whether we have enough money for logistical support for vaccines remains to be seen. Whether the businesses of Americans need another helping hand, we also have to consider that as well.

Let us hope that in the new year and the new President's administration, that we will have a more positive, bipartisan approach. This experience this year was disappointing in some respects, but it ended well with the bill we are going to consider this afternoon.

I want to thank all the colleagues, Senators, who joined me in this bipartisan effort, who started the conversation on Capitol Hill last week. We have more work to be done. We are not out of the woods. We have to consider measures that will address the reality of the economy in the future. We want to make sure that Americans have a chance to get back to work and businesses have a chance to survive in this time of COVID-19.

By the middle of next year, it has been estimated—this is not for certain, but I hope it is right—by the middle of next year, all Americans who are seeking a vaccination will be able to receive one, and that will be a day when we can finally hope that we will have reached that magic number of herd immunity and turn the corner on this terrible pandemic.

I want to thank Senator SCHUMER for coming to the floor and asking me to say a word or two more. I want to say this about the Members of the Senate, both Democrats and Republicans. There has been more activity on the floor of the Senate in the last several days than I have ever seen. And it isn't just rollcalls; it is Members standing on the floor to discuss the details of this agreement. There were parts we were never going to agree on, that is for sure, but so many times, I would step into a conversation on the floor where they would be hammering out the final details of an agreement. It was heartening. There has been so little of that activity on the floor in the past year or two. It is perilously close to legislating to have Members of the Senate of both political parties working toward agreeable language that can solve America's problems. Let's hope we have more of that.

Unfortunately, the Senate has drifted away from its traditional role of deliberation and legislation. This year, for

example, we have only considered 29 amendments in the entire year in the Senate, absent the impeachment proceeding. Twenty-nine amendments. The year before, 2019, there were 22 amendments. That is a waste of talent.

The men and women of the Senate should come together, hopefully on a bipartisan basis, but regardless, should come together to debate the issues and offer their best ideas and, having offered them, be given the chance to vote up or down. I think that appetite is strong on both sides of the aisle.

On the Democratic side, Senator MERKLEY of Oregon has been a leader in discussing changes in the Senate rules, and we reached out to Republicans as well to engage in that conversation. I think we are a better Senate for it if we do it and a better Nation for it if the debate becomes relevant to the issues of the day from people across America who are watching closely to see if we understand what they are struggling with economically and politically.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I heard the remarks of the Senator from Illinois. It is a hope that we can change the way the Senate operates and do more amendments and do more debating on the floor. We haven't seen much give from some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but hopefully that could and will happen.

Now, about remarks here, every day, it seems, for the past week or so, I have come to the floor ready to talk about the merits of bipartisan legislation we have been drafting, not wanting to be critical at all. Then I listen to the Republican leader. The leader's remarks just about every day this week as he has opened the Senate have been so nastily partisan and in so many ways false that I have no choice but to correct the record as the Democratic leader.

The Republican leader's accusation that the blame for this bill's delay lies totally on one side is just ridiculous. It is "Alice in Wonderland" thinking. It defies all the facts as to what we have seen. Then his comparison—that the agreement we are voting on today and the most recent Republican offer are so similar—is absurd. The two bills are nothing alike, and I had to point that out several times.

I have a chart here.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this chart printed in the RECORD.

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

BIPARTISAN EMERGENCY COVID RELIEF LEGISLATION SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES ON MCCONNELL'S INADEQUATE PROPOSAL

Item	New Bipartisan Relief Agreement	December 1 GOP Proposal
Unemployment Insurance ..	\$300 per week enhanced UI and other program extensions through March 14, 2021	\$0 enhanced UI and program extensions end on January 31, 2021
Direct Payments	Additional round of payments—\$600 individual, \$1,200/married couple, and \$600/child dependent	\$0
Corporate Immunity	Excluded	McConnell/Cornyn Corporate Immunity "Red Line"
SNAP	\$13 billion	\$0
Rental Assistance	\$25 billion	\$0
Transportation	\$45 billion	\$0
Support for Small Businesses (PPP)	\$284.5 billion	\$257.7 billion
Support for Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions ..	\$12 billion	\$0
SBA Grants	\$20 billion	\$0
Debt Relief Payments and Enhancements for SBA Lending Programs	\$5.5 billion	\$0
SAMHSA Funding for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder	\$4.25 billion	\$0
NIH COVID Research	\$1.25 billion	\$0
Broadband	\$7 billion	\$0

Mr. SCHUMER. I am just going to read from it, comparing the new, bipartisan relief agreement to the December 1 GOP proposal of Leader MCCONNELL.

How about direct payments? This bill has \$600 per individual, \$1,200 per married couple, \$600 child dependent. Many of us didn't think that was enough, but it is in the bill. Do you know how much was in the Republican leader's proposal? Zero.

Unemployment insurance. This bill that we are voting on has \$300 per week of enhanced UI and other program extensions through March 14. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero enhanced UI. Program extensions end January 31.

This bill has \$13 billion in SNAP; the Republican leader's bill, zero.

This bill has \$25 billion in rental assistance; the Republican leader's bill, zero.

This bill has \$45 billion in transportation for airlines and mass transit and buses and airports and highways. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero.

This bill has, very importantly, money for community development financial institutions and minority institutions, \$12 billion. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero.

SBA grants, \$20 billion this year; Republican leader's bill, zero.

Debt payments and enhancements for SBA. This bill, \$5.5 billion; Republican bill, zero.

SAMHSA funding for mental health and substance use disorder. This bill, \$4.25 billion; Republican leader's bill, zero.

NIH COVID research, \$1.25 billion; Republican bill, zero.

Broadband so homes can get broadband. This bill, \$7 billion; Republican leader's bill, zero.

The list could go on. There is a complete difference between the two bills.

We all know as well that the Republican leader, who blames Democrats for

delay, said for several months that the Senate should be on pause. As Democrats were demanding more action, the Republican leader was unmoved. The Republican leader's answer was that 20 Republican Senators wanted to do nothing more at all. When he finally proposed legislation, it was completely partisan, insufficient, and littered with poison pills.

I forgot to add one thing that was in the leader's bill but not in this bill—the broad corporate liability immunity provision, which the Senator from Illinois tried to straighten out. Another huge difference—a poison pill.

So when the leader finally proposed legislation because of public pressure to do something, it was partisan—no Democratic input, zero—insufficient, much too little in so many areas, as I mentioned, and littered with poison pills designed to ensure the bill would fail. Most notably was a provision to give corporations, no matter how egregious their behavior, sweeping immunity from legal accountability. Leader MCCONNELL said on the floor that for Republicans, corporate immunity was a red line.

And he blames the Democrats, as he did again today, for why this bill is being debated now? It is just turning truth on its head. It is like "Alice in Wonderland."

Even in the recent negotiations, the Republican majority made an eleventh hour demand that had nothing to do with helping people during this pandemic but, rather, sabotaged the incoming Biden administration's recovery effort and restricted the Federal Reserve's ability to save jobs and right the economy in a time of crisis.

Thankfully, the agreement we reached contains neither the leader's corporate immunity provision nor Senator TOOMEY's last-minute provision to handicap the Fed's authority to stabilize the economy in a crisis. And it will do a whole lot of good, besides, some of the programs I mentioned.

Look, after months of tense and difficult negotiations, we have this agreement. It is not as large as Democrats want. It is certainly larger than what many Republicans want. That is the nature of compromise. It does us no good to end the year with the kind of bitter, partisan fighting that has defined too much of the year. In a new session and under a new administration, we can and should do better because our job is far from over.

The bill today is a good bill. Today is a good day, but it is certainly not the end of the story. It cannot be the end of the story. Anyone who thinks this bill is enough doesn't know what is going on in America. Anyone who thinks this bill is enough hasn't heard the desperation in the voices of their constituents, has not looked into the eyes of a small business owner on the brink of ruin.

By all rights, there should be direct assistance in this bill for State and local governments. The checks should

be larger. While this agreement includes a new and larger forgivable PPP loan for restaurants, we need to do much more for restaurants. We have bipartisan legislation to deliver the relief that is truly needed, the RESTAURANTS Act, which, regrettably, did not make it into this legislation. We must do all we can to save restaurants, and I will not stop fighting until we pass the RESTAURANTS Act into law. This bill cannot and will not be the final word on congressional relief from the coronavirus pandemic. This is an emergency survival package.

When we come back in January, our No. 1 job will be to fill in the gaps left by the bill and then get the economy moving with strong Federal input. Still, the significance of this package should not be underestimated. It will be the second largest bill—the second largest Federal input—in the history of our country. It will be the second largest amount of Federal dollars going to the people ever. The times demand it. Even some of our conservative Republican friends will vote for it, and it is good we have it. For much of the year, it looked unlikely that it would ever get done, and our success today, our ability to pass this bill today, should give us confidence we can do more. We can end the year on a rare note of optimism.

Now, Queen Elizabeth, every year, gives a talk to her subjects about the status of the monarchy and the British royal family. In a very challenging year, she called the year *annus horribilis*—a horrible year. Unlike in 1992, which was the year Elizabeth referred to the problems with Charles and Diana, this year has been an *annus horribilis* not just for Great Britain and the royal family, which she was talking about, but an *annus horribilis* for the entire world.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has infected more than 70 million people across the globe. Another 500 million have gone, likely, undiagnosed. There are 1.6 million people who have died, 20 percent of whom have been Americans, more than 315,000—more than the entire population of Pittsburgh or St. Louis, more than all of the American combat deaths in World War II. The September 11 attacks to my fair city shaped much of the first decade of this century. In 2020, our dear country has suffered the equivalent of a 9/11 attack every day for 106 days in a row.

We have lost so much. We have missed holidays and reunions, retirements and graduations, bar mitzvahs and confirmations, weddings and funerals. Trapped in our homes, our companions were isolation and loneliness and the faint glow of tiny screens. The image of seeing people on the screen, watching their loved ones pass away when they couldn't be with them, will stay with us forever. Doctors had to stack iPads in waiting rooms for end-of-life conversations—how tragic, how awful. There were cars lined up, bumper to bumper, for food assistance.

Grandchildren, wrapped in protective gear, waved goodbye to grandparents from across the silence of a hospital room.

It has been a horrible year—*annus horribilis*. Yet here, at the very end, finally, there is hope—not just one, not just two, but three strong beacons of hope. One, soon many Americans will have the vaccine. Two, Joe Biden will become President. He has the experience and the empathy to handle the COVID crisis and will replace a man who has shown no capacity or even interest in doing so. And, three, we are on the verge of passing another historic, bipartisan relief bill to deliver emergency assistance during a time of national emergency. So there are three beacons of hope: the vaccine, a new administration, and a bill that will help in an emergency.

Very soon, our country will close the book on the most chaotic President in recent history. Joe Biden, an experienced leader and a person of fundamental human decency, will become the 46th President of the United States. KAMALA HARRIS, my good friend and hard-working colleague, will become the first woman, the first Black person, and the first Asian American to ascend to the Vice Presidency of the United States. Together, they will return competency and compassion to our government after 4 long years of division and demonization, which far too many people have tolerated and gone along with.

Even though this disease has not been vanquished yet, there is light at the end of the tunnel in the form of a vaccine. Everyone should appreciate how miraculous that truly is. It usually takes between 5 and 10 years to develop a new vaccine—5 to 10 years. It took American doctors, biochemists, and medical researchers less than 10 months to produce not one but two viable vaccines for the coronavirus. The discovery of a vaccine in a single calendar year is the crowning scientific achievement of the 21st century—the medical Manhattan Project of our times. It is a reminder that, when we work together and persevere and sacrifice for one another, nothing—nothing—is beyond our capacity as a nation.

The same resilience and innovation and fortitude that saw our country through its darkest hours has emerged once again. COVID-19 has changed our country, but it has not changed our character. America is the night-shift nurse fashioning protective equipment from shoelaces and sheets of vinyl. America is a restaurant owner who sent meals to frontline workers for free. America is the home-stitched mask sent to friends and families. It is the metallic clang of pots and pans that celebrates essential workers. America is the grocery store clerk and the busdriver and the plasma donor and the lab technician, late at night, poring over the results of a clinical trial. It is the Brooklyn doctor, 62, on

the verge of retirement, who, for 2 straight weeks, worked day shifts at the ICU and night shifts at the nearby hospital before finally succumbing to the disease himself.

Last week, the first American—a nurse in Queens—was vaccinated against COVID-19. Many millions will soon follow. Eventually, our businesses will reopen, our economy will reopen, and life will reopen. We will travel and worship and send our kids to school and see our friends and be together again. It won't be tomorrow or next week or even next month, but it will happen, not because we merely waited long enough, not because we were patient, but because we persevered.

Our job right now is to help the country get from this stormy present to that hopeful future, to survive this dark winter until spring thaws the ice. Our job is to do what is necessary—pass this bill, pass another stronger bill next year—whatever it takes to hold our country together until we eradicate the awful scourge of this disease.

At the end of this *annus horribilis*—this horrible year—let us give the American people another reason to hope.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am, like many of my colleagues, very pleased that we have reached an agreement on a final COVID relief package and none too soon.

Last week, we celebrated what will, hopefully, be a turning point in the COVID fight—the first coronavirus vaccinations. We need to build on that momentum and make sure that vaccine distribution goes swiftly and smoothly so that we can vaccinate as many Americans as possible as quickly as possible. The COVID relief package will help us achieve that goal by providing important funding for vaccine distribution. It will also provide critical support to Americans to help them weather the rest of the pandemic, including a second round of paycheck protection funding for the hardest hit small businesses, money to help schools reopen safely and operate so that our kids aren't left behind, and more money for coronavirus treatment and other frontline medical priorities.

I am very pleased that the final package includes my Paycheck Protection for Producers Act, which will help more farmers and ranchers benefit from the Paycheck Protection Program. The bill also includes funding to allow the Department of Agriculture to provide additional assistance to farmers and ranchers. Ag producers were dealing with a challenging agricultural economy even before the pandemic hit, and the coronavirus has only made things tougher. I strongly advocated for including additional funding for farmers and ranchers in this legislation, and I am very glad that the final bill includes this support.

The final package also explicitly makes biofuels, like ethanol and biodiesel, eligible for USDA assistance at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. Biofuel producers have suffered from a drop in fuel demand during the pandemic, and I hope the Secretary will ensure that they are able to receive assistance, which will further help our ag economy recover.

I am very happy that the COVID relief package includes an extension of the Thune-Warner Employer Participation in Repayment Act. The Thune-Warner bill allows employers to make tax-free contributions to their employees' student loans of up to \$5,250 per year. This is a win for employees, who get help in paying off their student loans, and it is a win for employers as they look to attract and retain talented workers. Our bill was included in the CARES Act—the major coronavirus relief legislation we passed in March—but it was scheduled to expire at the end of the year. Under the coronavirus relief package, however, our legislation will be extended for an additional 5 years.

The COVID relief package also includes Senator CORNYN's Small Business Expense Protection Act, which I cosponsored. This legislation will ensure that small businesses that qualify for forgiveness of their Paycheck Protection Program loans can still deduct their ordinary business expenses on their taxes.

The relief package also includes legislation I introduced this summer with Senator ENZI that will establish anti-fraud measures within the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program so that we can ensure that beneficiaries are truly eligible for the program.

We have addressed a lot of coronavirus priorities in this relief package, and I am very pleased that we are finally getting it out the door. Republicans spent months pushing for additional, targeted coronavirus relief, and I am glad the Democrats finally decided that they were ready to work with us in a bipartisan way to arrive at this legislation.

The Senate Democratic leader was just here, once again, attacking Republicans over their failure—the Democrats' failure—to work with us to get a coronavirus relief bill sooner. We brought up multiple times on the floor legislation that could have passed if there had been a little cooperation from the Democrats. He pointed out that this bill we are going to be voting on today looks nothing like the Republican bill, which isn't the case. There are a lot of similarities between the bill that we put on the floor in September and again in October—about \$600 billion in targeted relief that addresses the most fundamental needs the American people need right now. One is an unemployment insurance extension for those who are unemployed. The very amount that is in the bill that we will vote on today was in the Republican bill that we brought to the

floor in September and again in October and voted on here.

The vaccine money—the money that is out there to help with the vaccines that are going to be so effective in trying to get this pandemic under control—was also in the bill that was on the floor both in September and in October.

The relief for small businesses that have been hit hard by this pandemic and have seen their balance sheets and their income statements get depleted by its economic impact also would have been funded with additional Paycheck Protection Program relief in the bill that we brought before the Senate both in September and again in October. That very assistance is included in the legislation that we will vote on today.

Money for schools, as I mentioned earlier, to help them reopen safely—something that was in the legislation that we voted on in September, again in October—is in the legislation that we will vote on today.

The only things that are different, really—substantially different—from what we brought up on the floor back then are the assistance checks that are included in this legislation. That is something that was a priority. It was a priority for Members on the Republican side; it was a priority for Members on the Democratic side; it was a priority for the White House, so it ended up being included in this and, hopefully, will provide some much needed relief to people across this country who have been struggling with their personal finances and their family finances through the pandemic.

So those are all things that we have discussed and debated previously, and I would point out that, contrary to the assertions made by the Democratic leader just now, there were numerous attempts to try and move this legislation previously.

Now, it is fair to say that the House of Representatives did send the Senate a \$3.4 trillion package, which was bloated and included lots of nonpandemic, noncoronavirus relief-related items—things that were on their liberal wish list. That wasn't realistic, and they knew it. That was a campaign document designed to try and help them, at the time, win an election.

But I am glad they have decided to get down and negotiate in a serious way because the number that we are going to be passing today—a little under \$1 trillion, about \$900 billion—is very close to what Republicans put on the floor in September and again in October.

It is a far cry from the \$3.4 trillion bloated bill that the Democrats sent over from the House and the Democrats here in the Senate tried to advance and suggested that that should be what the Senate should vote on.

We have said all along that we need to address this in a targeted way, a fiscally responsible way, a way that recognizes the most critical needs out

there, both on the healthcare front and also on the economic front, and we have moved aggressively to address those needs not once, but twice.

Legislation, a real bill brought to the floor, which received a majority vote in the U.S. Senate—52 U.S. Senators in September and again in October voted here on the floor of the U.S. Senate to do the very things that I just mentioned—but it was blocked from even being considered by the Senate Democrats.

We all know here in the Senate it requires 60 votes to invoke cloture. It is a procedural motion to get on a bill. The Senate Democrats gave us no support to even get on the bill.

So, as a consequence, even though there was majority support—52 U.S. Senators voting in favor of getting on and debating the bill—because the Democrats blocked it, we didn't even have an opportunity to debate—not even to get on it, let alone offer amendments and have a discussion and a conversation and work on legislation. If they had objections to it or things they wanted to improve or things they wanted to make better, they would have had an opportunity to do that if we had simply been able to get on the bill.

So we are where we are today at this late hour in the year—December 21, Christmas week—doing this now because they didn't want to do it earlier, and some have publicly acknowledged that one of the reasons they didn't want to do it earlier is that there was a campaign underway, and they had hoped that there would be a new President, an opportunity to do it their way later.

But, nevertheless, we have before us now, finally, at long last, a piece of legislation that addresses the most critical needs that are out there, and it is very similar in many ways, in terms of the substance, the content, and the features of the bill and the overall pricetag, to what Republicans have brought on the floor of the U.S. Senate previously.

So I am glad that we are finally going to get this done, but I absolutely disagree with the statements that were made earlier by the Democratic leader, because they don't reflect reality. In fact, they don't reflect anything close to reality about what has been happening here in this Chamber over the past several months when it comes to trying to provide much needed relief to the American people who are suffering from this pandemic.

There are a couple of things that I would just mention briefly that aren't included in the bill, and I wish they were.

I have a bill called the Remote and Mobile Worker Relief Act, and I am sorry that was not included in the final bill.

This bipartisan legislation would have prevented unexpected tax bills and tax complications for medical professionals who traveled to other States

to help during the pandemic and for Americans who worked from home to help slow the virus's spread.

It is unfortunate that opposition from a handful of States with aggressive taxation policies—like the Senate Democratic leader's home State of New York—has so far prevented legislation like mine from getting through Congress. But I will continue to fight for tax relief for remote and mobile workers.

It has been a difficult year for our country. There are way too many virus infections, way too many hospitalizations, way too many people who have lost loved ones from this dreaded virus. It has affected people in so many ways—their health, their confidence, their economic standing and status, their mental health. There are just so many—so many—effects of this, and this winter is likely to be very challenging.

But the encouraging news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. There is a vaccine out there that will get more widely out there, and thanks to the resources that we put into the first coronavirus bill—the CARES Act that passed last March—those vaccines have been moving forward at record speed—five times faster than any vaccine in history.

Light is at the end of the tunnel. The vaccines are coming. They are going to be proven to be very effective, and there is additional funding in this particular legislation that we will vote on today to make sure that it gets distributed as quickly as possible.

We are going to make it through this, and I look forward to sending the additional relief that is included in this legislation that we will move through the Senate today and put on the President's desk, where he can sign it into law. I look forward to seeing that additional relief get out to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARRASSO). The Senator from North Carolina.

HONORING JASON SHUPING

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of Concord, NC, Police Officer Jason Shuping, who was tragically killed in the line of duty this week.

Officer Shuping was only 25 years old and had served the Concord Police Department for 1½ years with honor and distinction.

Officer Shuping and Officer Kaleb Robinson were responding to a 9-1-1 call for a car crash and an attempted carjacking. Officers Shuping and Robinson located the suspect and were prepared to bring him to justice. However, when Officer Shuping, Officer Robinson, and a third ALE officer approached, the suspect immediately began opening fire.

Officers Shuping and Robinson were both shot. Additional officers arrived on the scene and took out the suspect.

While Officer Robinson is, fortunately, expected to make a recovery, Officer Shuping, tragically, passed away from his injuries.

Jason Shuping was an outstanding police officer who courageously ran to danger to protect residents of Concord.

He was also a loving son and a husband to his wife Haylee. He was active in his community since his childhood. He attended East Rowan High School in Salisbury, and he was an honor student and track and field athlete at UNC-Pembroke.

He was a young man with a bright future ahead of him, described by those who knew him as a "gentle soul who made an impact."

His hometown paper, the Salisbury Post, noted: "Whether it was staying after practice to provide coaching to a youngster or coming back home from college to play the handbell in his church's ensemble, you could always count on Jason Shuping."

It is no surprise to see the outpouring of love coming from the community of Concord to honor his life and service. There have been a candlelight vigil and a touching law enforcement escort that brought many residents and a long line of American flags proudly displayed.

As we gather with our families this Christmas, my thoughts and prayers will be with the family of Officer Shuping, as well as the families of Mount Holly Police Officer Tyler Herndon and Nash County Deputy Sheriff Jared Allison, who also lost their lives this month in the line of duty.

Those families are going through an unimaginable period of grief, but they should know that the people of North Carolina are forever grateful for the selfless service of their loved ones, and I will never forget the ultimate sacrifice that they made in answering the call to protect others.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues who worked so hard on the bill that is coming to the floor today, the pandemic relief package.

We know all the top priorities in there—the vaccine distribution—and I want to thank Senator SCHUMER and leaders and those on both sides of the aisle who put more funding into that.

I want to thank the group who has worked so hard on this agreement and this negotiation in the Senate for their work, including Senator MANCHIN and Senator ROMNEY and Senator WARNER and Senator SHAHEEN and Senator HASSAN and Senator DURBIN, as well as all of their Republican colleagues, Senator COLLINS and Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator CASSIDY, who worked so hard on this original agreement, with many others who joined in as well.

This bill contains such important priorities, including unemployment

and help for our hospitals and help for our rural areas—housing, rent, small businesses, unemployment, the direct checks.

I think we all know that there is more work to be done, including next year, including for our cities and our States, but it is so important that we get this done by the end of the year.

I wanted to focus on something that I have worked on for quite a while with Senator CORNYN from Texas. We have done this on a bipartisan basis from the beginning, and it is the Save Our Stages Act.

When we first introduced it in July, we knew that it was going to be a long road, and we also knew that the only way we would get this done is by sticking together as a team and by working with other Members of Congress from red and blue States. And by the end—this bill is included in full in this package—we had 57 Senators who sponsored this bill out of 100, with many more supporting it. We had over 200 House Members.

We worked so hard to make this about America and American music and American theater and American culture.

We all know that you can't go stand in a mosh pit in the middle of a pandemic. These live entertainment venues were among the first businesses to close, and they will almost certainly be among the last to reopen.

This was about, yes, Nashville and New York, but it was just as much about the Fargo Theater or a small, small country music venue in Texas. And while we see the light at the end of tunnel with the vaccines, we know that it will be quite a while before these businesses, which operate on such thin margins as it is, can keep going.

I think we also know the importance of the arts and music, not only as a cultural icon in America but also as an economic driver. It is one of our No. 1 exports, when you combine all of it. And the fact that we were able to stick together with not only the nitty-gritty of this bill and this coalition and actually add partners as we went along is a tribute to all the musicians out there, all the venues, all the lighting operators, all the truckers—everyone who came together and said: We are going to get this done.

I know when Senator CORNYN and I first introduced this, people kind of patted us on the head and said: Oh, this sounds nice. But I think when people started to hear the facts and how much this matters to economies and even small towns, it made a difference. In the end, to quote Minnesota's own Bob Dylan from "The Times They Are a-Changin'," he says:

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block the hall

No one blocked the hall.

I want to thank my colleagues, and I want to especially thank Senator CORNYN. We have led many bills together, and we had to go back and forth a lot.

I want to thank Dayna Frank, who is the head of First Avenue in Minnesota, made famous, of course, by Prince.

Prince wouldn't be Prince if not for First Avenue. Everyone in our State, when they think about First Avenue, they think about Prince.

She is the head of the National Venue Association. She called me one night in the beginning of the pandemic and said: I just can't make it through this without some help.

They already received PPP loans, but that is not enough for these venues because of the unique circumstance where they can't partially open. You can't go to a theater right now and sit elbow-to-elbow with your friends and family.

I also want to thank my legislative director, Doug Calidas, who has worked on this from the beginning, including all the last month's late-night negotiations. He did a wonderful job.

I want to thank Senators SCHUMER and MCCONNELL and Representatives Speaker PELOSI and Leader MCCARTHY for getting this over the finish line—Senator MCCONNELL for putting it in his original bill and Senator SCHUMER, who cares so much about this because of all of the great music and acts and everything coming out of New York State. It was certainly very, very helpful—and that would put it mildly—to have Senator SCHUMER in the room where it happened, where the last negotiations were made.

I also want to thank Senators SHAHEEN and COLLINS, who worked on this in the original negotiation; Senators CARDIN and RUBIO with the Small Business Committee, who made this a priority; and finally, our House authors, our bipartisan House authors out there, Representatives WELCH and WILLIAMS, for their work.

So how this works—the Small Business Administration will create a new \$15 billion grant program to help venues cover 6 months of expenses and make it through this pandemic. We are very hopeful that once the summer comes, we are going to see more and more openings because of the vaccine, because of what I hope will be, with a new administration, an increased emphasis on testing, and that we will see more and more venues able to open.

The grants can be used to cover all the major costs the venues have to pay to stay in business, including rent and mortgage, utilities, employee wages, key benefits, maintenance costs, State and local taxes, payments to contractors, and purchases of protective equipment.

Venues that are at the greatest risk of closing—sadly, we have already lost a number of our venues—will have priority access to the majority of the grant funding. All venues will be able to apply within 4 weeks of the program's launch with the Small Business Administration, but in the first 2 weeks, those venues that have suffered 90 percent revenue loss over the year before will be the first to be able to apply for these grants.

So we in Congress don't want to let the music die, and we don't want that to happen to any of our other places of culture in America either. That is why over the last month or so, we have worked with the museums and with the zoos, and I want to especially thank Senator SCHUMER for his work on that, as well as Senator BLUNT and many others who worked with us—as well as the movie theaters.

We wanted to make sure that if we expanded our coalition, that we didn't hurt the originals, which were these small, small theaters and small music venues across the country. We did not do that, because this new program will be a lifeline for small entertainment venues across the country, such as First Avenue and the Bluestem Amphitheater in Moorehead, MN.

It will also help the millions of Americans who work behind the scenes and who have been sidelined, from the engineers and truckdrivers to the ticket takers and the designers and the spot operators. It will help revive the local economies of neighborhoods and small towns across this Nation.

It is not every day that a coalition sticks together from beginning to end, that they kept with their original purpose, haven't been picked off, haven't gotten into infighting, but this group did it. Maybe it is because so many Americans at home right now cherish music and entertainment and that part of America like they have never done because they are watching things alone. They are listening to concerts by themselves. They are listening to them with their iPhones, or they are listening to them on their computers, and it is not quite the same.

We also know that all of these artists don't exactly get a big boost up by themselves with huge funding when they first start out. So many of them start out at these little venues—a country music band playing at the Bluestem Amphitheater; a little local theater troupe trying out a new play in Lanesboro, MN. They can't do it without these venues.

So today we celebrate the fact that we held together. Not only are we passing this bill as a part of this package, we actually brought in friends, and we brought in partners, and we made it an even bigger deal than it was to begin with.

So as I began by quoting the great Bob Dylan from Minnesota, I will end. He once said:

Well, I sing by night, wander by day.
I'm on the road and it looks like I'm here to stay.

Finally, we are reaching out to this group of employees and these businesses and saying: We want you to be here to stay.

So thank you to Save Our Stages and to all of our colleagues who worked so hard on this, and special thanks to my friend Senator CORNYN. Again, when we did this, we didn't know if we would be able to mount this grassroots effort, but it happened because artists and

fans just wouldn't give up. So thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to thank, first of all, the preceding speaker, Senator KLOBUCHAR, for her efforts to help those venues in those entertainment areas that at this point have been left out. We certainly have some of those in West Virginia, and I am pleased to say that the coronavirus package we are putting together today will help those folks and hopefully get them over the hump.

Before I begin, I would like to wish everybody, as much as they can, a happy holiday and a joyful new year. Turning the page of 2020 is something I think we are all pretty anxious to do. Sometimes it seems like the longest year, and sometimes it seems like the shortest year, but it definitely seems like "Groundhog Day" a lot of the year.

I am very pleased that we have this relief package in front of us. While I am glad an agreement has been reached, we certainly should have done this earlier and could have done this earlier. We have been working since July to deliver targeted additional relief through efforts such as we put forward in the CARES Act, and it has been voted down twice—once in September and once in October.

To date, we, the Republicans, have offered targeted relief legislation, voted in favor of enhanced employment benefits, more money for our schools, which would have been great to have had in early September and should have had in early September. We voted in favor of stand-alone emergency funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, which we know is exceedingly important, and more dollars for vaccines and testing so that we could get the great news of the vaccine that we see coming forward out to everybody in this country. We offered all kinds of ideas to the other side, but they blocked it—all of it. I am glad to say that after all this, we have finally joined together, realizing that, yes, a deal is better than no deal.

Last week, unfortunately, a very good friend of mine passed away after battling coronavirus. At one point in her life, she was a small business owner. I thought so much about her over the last several weeks. I thought, what would she say if she knew that months ago, as a small business owner, we could have delivered the same help to her that we are delivering today.

We have to do better by the people we represent. It is disappointing that politics has gotten in the way. It is disappointing and, quite frankly, insulting, in my view, when I see the Speaker of the House admitting to holding out on this relief because she thought it would be beneficial politically in the end. We can do much better than this.

I am also a proud member of the Appropriations Committee. We have

worked hard to get these funds and resources where they are most needed, especially in a year like this one. But due to delays, critically needed resources to combat the opioid epidemic have had to wait; investments to improve broadband have had to wait; research dollars into Alzheimer's have had to wait; and the list goes on. This is so frustrating to me, as it should be to every American, and I know they are frustrated because they tell us they are.

But here now, we were able to include funds for things that are important to me in my State of West Virginia, such as fossil energy research, our universities, and the many Federal facilities that call West Virginia home.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation that reflects our Nation's priorities and funds the government, which is our responsibility as Members of Congress.

Within the Omnibus appropriations act is the fiscal year 2021 Homeland Security appropriations bill. I chair that subcommittee, and it is with great pride that I can report to the American people and to West Virginians that this title invests billions of dollars to protect our homeland.

We maintain our commitment to border security through a border wall system to include physical barriers and enhanced technologies.

We avoided a drastic cut to our cyber security capabilities that we see we need now more than ever after all of the reports and the vicious cyber attack that we uncovered that has been launched against many of those in our country, not just the government but the private sector as well.

We continue our commitment to use every resource at our disposal in the effort to prevent those opioids that are killing our people. We see overdoses going up and deaths from overdoses going up during this pandemic. We tried to get the resources to our Homeland Security folks to prevent those drugs from entering into this country at all.

The men and women at the Department of Homeland Security work constantly against threats both old and new, traditional and emerging, and deserve the support this legislation gives them.

So while this is great news in the end, I will repeat what I said earlier, and that is, Congress can do better. We could have done this earlier, and it should have been done earlier. So there is no reason we should be standing here several days before Christmas discussing the items that were ready to go several months ago, but we are where we are. As we turn the page gleefully into 2021, I think we should all pledge to one another and to the country that we will do better, that we will work better with each other and prevent politics from infecting every decision that could positively impact so many people in this country.

Lastly, I give a hat tip to my friend, whom I will miss seeing and who was a

great friend to our family, a longtime friend of our family. Godspeed. I know she is dancing up there with her mom and dad because they loved to dance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, Republicans like to mock modern monetary theory—the idea that government can print money with impunity and that government can spend whatever it wants without the need to tax. Modern monetary theory is basically the Dick Cheney “deficits don't matter” crowd, trussed up with a new fancy title.

Most Republicans rightly lampoon this quackery; that is, when they are not practicing the quackery themselves. Today, many of these same Republicans will vote for a bill that makes modern monetary theory look like child's play in comparison. The monster spending bill presented today is not just a “deficits don't matter” disaster, it is everything Republicans say they don't believe in.

This bill is free money for everyone. Proponents don't care if you are fully employed or own your own house or own your own business. “Free money for everyone,” they cry. And yet, if free money were the answer and if money really grew on trees, why not give more free money? Why not give it out all the time? Why stop at \$600 a person? Why not \$1,000? Why not \$2,000? Maybe these new free-money Republicans should join the “everybody gets a guaranteed income” caucus. Why not \$20,000 a year for everybody? Why not \$30,000? If we can print up money with impunity, why not do it?

The Treasury could just keep printing the money; that is, until someone points out that the Emperor has no clothes and that the dollar no longer has value. To so-called conservatives who are quick to identify the socialism of Democrats, if you vote for this spending monstrosity, you are no better. When you vote to pass out free money, you lose your soul, and you abandon forever any semblance of moral or fiscal integrity.

So the next time you see Republicans in high moral dudgeon, claiming and complaining about spending of Democrats and socialism, remind them—remind them if they supported this monstrous bill, that really the difference between the parties is less Adam Smith versus Marx and more Marx versus Engels.

How bad is our fiscal situation? Well, the Federal Government brought in \$3.3 trillion last year and spent \$6.6 trillion. The deficit last year, a record-busting \$3.3 trillion. If you are looking for more COVID bailout money, we don't have any. The coffers are bare. We have no rainy day fund. We have no savings account. Congress has spent all the money long ago.

The economic damage from this pandemic is not the reason for this run-

away spending. This spending has been going on for decades. Every year, even before we get to all the extra COVID-free money, we have been spending \$1 trillion we don't have.

Today's money is gone, so Congress is spending tomorrow's money. The spending chart is a red line of red ink that goes on forever. When we talk about spending tomorrow's money, it is not just the money that we need next month. It is the money we might need in a decade. It is the money we will need in one, two, three generations from now—for national defense and for infrastructure. This is the money that your children and your grandchildren will pay back with interest.

The deficit doubling and tripling—under George Bush, it went from \$5 trillion to \$10 trillion. Under President Obama, it went from \$10 trillion to \$20 trillion. We are now at \$27 trillion, but we are adding it at \$1 trillion a year before we get to this COVID budget-busting bailout.

Every tax-paying American already owes over \$136,000, and they are staring at projections into the future that show no end. We are \$27 trillion in debt today. How do we expect a child to have the economic opportunity when this crushing debt is their inheritance from Congress? The numbers are mind-boggling. It is hard to conceive of what \$1 billion is, much less \$1 trillion.

How big is \$1 billion? Well, a billion seconds ago was 1988 and Reagan was President. A billion minutes ago, Jesus walked the shore of the Sea of Galilee. A billion hours ago, man still lived in caves. But \$1 billion ago, was just 80 minutes ago—\$1 billion ago, at the rate Congress spends money, was just 80 minutes ago.

All of this should be setting off alarm bells. But the only alarm bells in Congress are sounding the alarm for more spending and more debt. No cuts, no offsets, no pay-fors, and no prioritization. Just print it up. Print up more money and give it out to everybody because it is free money. Come and get yours while the getting is good. But it leads to a mountain of debt. Spend all this money and leave the future to figure itself out.

John Maynard Keynes was once asked: What about the long run?

He said: In the short run, you can make a stimulus. You can print money, and you can give it to everybody.

And Maynard Keynes, his response was: In the long run, we will all be dead; no concern for the future, only for the immediate.

Our budget deficit for 2020 was \$3.3 trillion, but this new spending package will also give us another \$2 trillion in the next fiscal year. By refusing to acknowledge the debt crisis, we are only hastening the day of economic reckoning.

Total debt was 55 percent of GDP just 20 years ago. Today, it is 128 percent of GDP. So our annual or our total debt is more than our GDP—128 percent of our GDP. The World Bank estimates there

is a tipping point of debt to GDP at about 77 percent. Every percentage point costs another 10th or so of economic growth. So every year, we are giving out somewhere between 5 to 8 percent of growth every year because of this burden of debt. This is thousands of jobs, every year—tens of thousands of jobs that we lose because of this burden of debt.

We are borrowing and worsening this debt crisis in part because too many Governors and mayors have imposed heavyhanded restrictions that crush business. It isn't the pandemic that is killing the economy; it is the government's overzealous response that is killing the economy. The pandemic itself was disruptive, but Congress is being asked to help to perpetuate these lockdowns. The more money we give to the States, the more they keep us in lockdown.

Every bailout dollar printed and passed out to the Governors only allows these tin-pot dictators to perpetuate the lockdowns. Their rules are arbitrary and unscientific. Governors and mayors across the country are picking winners and losers.

Businesses, some that have been in families for generations, are being wiped out because they are not allowed to open. Restaurants have to close their doors for indoor dining, but then they are told they can open at limited capacity, but then they are told they have to close again. Then they are told they can open outside, and then they are told they can't open outside. Confusing doesn't even explain the half of it.

Bars are told they can only serve alcohol if people are sitting and not standing and only if they have heavy foods on their menus.

Restaurants are told they can serve outdoors, and then they have their permission revoked after they have sunk time and money converting their restaurant to outdoor services, but a caterer is told they can still serve outside.

Businesses are told they have to close at an arbitrary time determined by government officials, as though the virus only comes out late at night. A business in one ZIP Code can open, but one in an adjoining ZIP Code across the street has to close, as if the virus can't cross an imaginary line.

Airlines are allowed to fly, but hotels have to limit their occupancy, so you may not have anywhere to stay when you get there.

Mom-and-pop stores and specialty stores are forced to close, but big-box store competitors are allowed to stay open.

How is any business expected to survive with this kind of arbitrary regulation that changes from day to day? Meanwhile, many schools remain closed—despite overwhelming evidence showing kids can learn safely in person—which means parents can't go to work, which forces parents to leave their jobs and take care of homebound

kids. Now they have no income because the government forced them to leave their jobs to take care of their kids. And many kids are struggling with this improvised virtual school.

The need for help is real. I hear it every day from Kentuckians and across the country. But it is clear that government has worsened the economic damage and acted as the biggest obstacle to economic recovery.

There is no free money that can get us out of this situation. The only thing that can save us is to open the economy. If we give these tin-pot dictators—these Governors—more money, they are less likely to open the economy.

The answer is not printing up and distributing "free money"; it is opening the economy. We are not even debating the real answer to this. We are like, just print up the money and shovel it out the door, the deficit be damned, the threat of the destruction of our currency be damned.

We can choose to let our economies open with guidance and precautions but not obstruction. Let people rebuild their livelihoods. Reopen our schools so our kids can return and parents can go back to work.

Congress should do away with automatic spending increases and scrutinize where in the budget we can find savings to pay for the pressing needs arising from the pandemic, but we shouldn't simply print up money and pass it out to everyone. Or Congress can follow the status quo. Congress can continue to borrow from our kids—the same children we have locked out of our schools. Congress can keep enabling and shutting down businesses by force, spend all of today's money and all of tomorrow's money, and then good luck. Good luck figuring out how to pay for all of this massive debt.

It doesn't have to be this way. There is another alternative that won't be debated, and that alternative is to open the economy. It is not too late to change our course. Cut unnecessary spending. Eliminate waste. Stop fighting a \$50-billion-a-year war in Afghanistan that hasn't had a military mission in at least a decade.

Make the hard decisions now. We can't keep pretending that more debt is a sustainable policy course. "Leadership" is not passing on the problem to someone who can't protest; "leadership" is making the hard choices now. This is what we have to do.

I will oppose this new debt, and I will continue to sound the alarm until we change our course. Our country can be saved. We can survive this if we pull together. But adding more debt is a mistake. It is not the solution, and we should resist it.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was going to speak in a few minutes, but things have been filed now appropriately.

Let me speak in my role not only as the Senator from Vermont but as the vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. We have had months of delay and painstaking negotiations. Sometimes those negotiations have gone all weekend long, until midnight, 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. But this afternoon, we will have before us a spending package. It includes all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2021. It also includes a vitally important COVID relief package. Those are the numbers and figures, but let's talk about what it means.

It provides funding for programs that are critically important to the American people, and I would like to see it swiftly passed and on the President's desk. After all, it is not like we are suddenly rushing things. We are 2 months and 20 days into the fiscal year. It would be absolutely outrageous if we delayed it further.

As vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I worked hard to reach agreement on this Omnibus appropriations bill that will fund the Federal government through the remainder of the fiscal year, without relying on a long-term continuing resolution, as sometimes has been done in the past. That was not an easy task.

The budget caps are very lean this year, and we had to stay within those. They provided a less than 1-percent increase in nondefense discretionary spending, and that is to meet the needs of a nation that is reeling from the worst public health pandemic in a century.

Under normal circumstances, that would be difficult, but it is made even more difficult because of the global health and economic crisis we face. Notwithstanding the tight top line, we have produced a bill that provides important increases in programs that serve the American people and invest in our economy.

I think the bill finally drives a stake through the heart of the administration's effort to substantially diminish the role of government in helping Americans in need and in promoting economic growth.

We all know that President Trump's first budget proposed to substantially diminish the role of government. He wanted to cut nondefense spending by 9 percent in fiscal 2018 and 18 percent by 2021. He wanted to completely eliminate programs millions of Americans rely on every day. For 4 years, in Congress, leading Republicans and Democrats came together and we rejected these ill-conceived, arbitrary, and reckless cuts.

This year, I will say to my colleagues—those who have worked hard with us on the Democratic side and on the Republican side and who came together on this, and, especially, those who worked with us in the Appropriations Committee—we are going to do the same in rejecting these arbitrary cuts.

Now, this agreement is the product of weeks of hard work and compromise.

This is not the bill I would have written on my own. It includes things I support and, I must admit, some things I oppose. But that is often the way legislation is. No one Senator gets everything that he or she wants. But together, we can get things that the country wants, and on balance, passage of this bill is unquestionably in the interest of the American people.

Let me talk about some of those things. The omnibus spending bill includes increases for education and early childhood programs. It provides more funding for substance abuse and mental health services. I think every one of us knows, from what we hear from back home, that these services are of utmost importance in these extremely difficult times. It provides more for food assistance programs both here and abroad—the assistance that is desperately needed as many families struggle to survive during this pandemic. And it includes increases for housing and homelessness services to help those who are the most vulnerable. These are all programs that my fellow Democrats fought hard to include.

I support this agreement. As I said, I appreciate those who have worked with us weekends, holidays, and after midnight on so many nights. But I am deeply disappointed that Congress is so unforgivably late in completing our work. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why this bill could not have been finished months ago.

I thank Chairman SHELBY, Chairwoman LOWEY, and Ranking Member GRANGER for their cooperation and partnership. We worked through our differences on the Omnibus spending bill. As the Big 4, we realized we had to balance the needs and requests of all of our Members. I urge all Members to support it.

That is for the Omnibus.

Now, before us today is a much delayed COVID relief package. It, too, is the product of bipartisan compromise, and while it falls short in some critical areas, I support the agreement. It is also long overdue. The American people have been waiting for help for far too long, and I am worried our Republican leadership took a wait-and-see approach. We were ready to go on this last summer, but for 270 days Majority Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans have blocked every reasonable effort to provide desperately needed relief, even as Members of their party said quietly: We wish we could do something.

Now, this package is far from perfect, but time is not on our side. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Let's look at what the good things are in here. It provides much needed investments in our economy with support for small businesses—small businesses like those in my State of Vermont or those in the State of the Presiding Officer or anybody else here. It provides relief for unemployed workers by extending unemployment bene-

fits into March. It makes investments in vaccine production and distribution. It supports health providers, educators and farmers and transportation providers. It provides critical investments to expand broadband in rural and low-income areas, access which is vitally important during these difficult times, when many schools and many businesses are operating remotely.

It includes another round of direct payments to millions of Americans who are still struggling to pay their mortgage or their rent and feed their families and heat their homes and meet their monthly obligations. Many can't do all those things. Now they will at least get help.

I urged that this bill also includes \$4 billion in emergency funding for the Gavi Alliance. Let me explain that. And I appreciate those Senators who supported me on that money, the emergency funding for Gavi. This is for the procurement and delivery of vaccines to countries around the world whose rudimentary public health systems are being overwhelmed by COVID-19, whose economies are in free fall due to the virus. We cannot defeat this global pandemic, and international travel and Congress will not recover without fighting the virus overseas.

Just as we did during the Obama administration when we were faced with Ebola, the administration and the Congress came together and said: Sure, we will protect here in the United States, but we will also work at getting rid of it in other countries because if it flourishes in another country, it is an airplane trip away from our country.

I support the package, but I want to be very clear. This COVID bill is only a first step. We have to do more. Vermonters and the American people need more.

The direct payments included in this package are a fraction of what we should have provided, given the dire financial situation of millions of people across this Nation. People are hungry. Unemployment continues to plague our economies. We should have acted months ago, but let's at least act on this today. Families are struggling to pay their rent and put food on their table.

I will continue to fight for more. I made hundreds of phone calls from my own State of Vermont. I talked to people whom I never met, but I know that they are people who are typical of Vermonters, but they are typical of people in any one of the States we represent. I hear the fear in their voice. I hear the concern they have. In the middle of winter, as snow is coming down, do we heat or do we eat? How many meals should we, as parents, go without so we can make sure our children are fed? How are children going to do school if they are hungry?

Look at State and local governments. Around the country, they have laid off over 1.3 million teachers, first responders, and other employees since March. They need our help. Sometimes

there are things that we don't talk about. Rates of spousal abuse and child abuse have increased during the crisis. We should be providing funds for the Violence Against Women Act and child abuse prevention grants, just as Republicans and Democrats joined me a few years ago when I greatly expanded—with the help of Senator MIKE CRAPO in a bipartisan fashion—the Violence Against Women Act and the things we did. None of us, even at that time, could have conceived of the crisis we are facing now in the country.

In my State, Vermonters are facing the coldest, darkest months of winter. They are struggling to heat their homes. And families need help paying their utility bills through the LIHEAP program, and we will help that program. When it is 20 degrees below zero and you have had 15 inches of snow overnight, you can't really look at this as an abstract thing and say: Golly, maybe we should have a program to heat our home. You are going to die if you don't.

And we are finally making progress in delivering a vaccine to the American people, but the pandemic is far from over. We know that, notwithstanding a lot of the things said about this is on its way and everybody is going to get one, there are huge gaps in all parts of our country and getting the vaccine to them.

I will be the first at the negotiating table to work with President Biden and the 117th Congress to address the many needs that remain unmet in this bill.

The House will send this bill over to us. I would urge all Members to vote on it when it comes here.

Again, I have to look back at the history of this body. I have to look at the people who have worked so hard on so many things over the years. I know that we have people in both parties who are trying to address the needs of our country.

I don't say this with pleasure but with sadness, I am the dean of the United States Senate. Next year, I will start my 47th year in this body. I have seen us come together at a time when it is needed, but then I see one of the greatest needs I have seen in my years in the Senate that we ignored for month after month after month. All of this could have been done in July or August or September or October or November, not at the very last minute.

And why didn't we? We had to take time. We had to take time breaking long tradition—all of the promises that have been given by the other side. We had to take time to move one special interest-supported judge after another to lifetime jobs, but they will be paid well. They don't have to worry about paying their bills.

In all 50 of our States, we had people being tossed out of their homes, tossed out of their apartments, lost their jobs, unable to feed their children, or the fear and anxiety a parent has in telling a child: No, I don't know what tomorrow will be like. I don't know what

next month will be like. We will pray, and we will hope, but I don't know.

We could have stopped that anxiety in June, when the House bill came over here, or in July or in August or September and October and November. We are doing some of it now.

But I ask every Senator to search their conscience. Wouldn't it have been better if all of us from both sides did something and said: Put everything else aside, put aside all the special interest nominations. Put that aside, and let's care for the one special interest we should have and that is the American people—care for those men and women who elected us from either party, who rely on us.

I have never seen this country so split apart or having such fear except for a privileged few, and maybe that includes us. I am not here to represent me. I am here to represent over 600,000 Vermonters and fulfill my oath to the whole country, 320 million Americans. What we should be doing is saying that never again will we let these kind of partisan politics slow us and not allow us to go forward.

We know, and it is easy to say now, we should have taken the bill that came from the House of Representatives last summer and brought it up on the floor. If anybody didn't like it, file an amendment to change it. Vote for it or vote against it. Vote for or against the amendments you might bring up. That is what we usually do. I know how to vote. I voted over 16,000 times. Why don't we just vote? If we had done that this summer, it may not be a perfect bill, but it would be better than where we are. Every Member—Republican and Democratic alike—would have had a chance to bring up their amendment. They could have made their case, either win or lose. We go to the committee conference; we have the bill done.

I say all this not to just be a technocrat of what needs to be done but to say this is how you reflect the needs of the American people.

We faced the threat of Ebola in the last administration. We stood together, both parties. We helped the countries that were suffering from Ebola and, in doing so, we protected the United States of America, and we helped those in this country who might face it. That was a shining moment. That was a moment of America at its best. This is not.

I do hope we can do better next year. I know as senior Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, I will fight to do better. But I also use my voice and what example I might give as dean of the Senate to say to both parties: Here is what we do.

I think of such examples as Bob Dole, one of the best leaders this Senate had, a Republican. He came together with Senator Pat Moynihan, one of the most brilliant Senators I served with, a Democrat. And that Republican and Democrat came together and set aside their philosophical differences, cared

for the country, and saved Social Security.

I could give so many more examples. That was a Senate that acted as a conscience of the Nation, and how did they do that? They appealed to our conscience. I just use that one example because people said that they couldn't possibly do the difficult things necessary to save Social Security. Democrats wouldn't give this; Republicans wouldn't give that. Instead, you had two Senators of conscience who said: We can do it. Let's do it. Let's use our leadership and our conscience to bring others together. And that distinguished the Republican Senator Robert Dole, and that distinguished the Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and they came together and we saved Social Security.

Those of us in the Senate in both parties who voted for the final package knew we were going to have to vote for some things that would be unpopular with constituencies. But instead of worrying about special interests or single-issue constituencies, we worried about the men and women of our States and what they would face if we didn't come together. And that is what we voted for, and we saved it.

I sometimes say that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staffs, but we could not do the work we do without the staff.

I want to thank the staff who worked tirelessly to produce the bill. By "tirelessly," I mean until after midnight many nights and weekends and holidays. When the rest the Senate had gone home, they were still working. I know them. Much of the time, I would be on the phone with them. I would be working with them and, finally, I would say: It is so late. Everybody should go to bed. When I woke up in the morning, there would be an email sent to me at 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning because they kept on working.

So I thank Chuck Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Dianne Nellor, Jean Taol Eisen, Erik Raven, Doug Clapp, Ellen Murray, Scott Nance, Rachael Taylor, Alex Keenan, Michelle Dominguez, Tim Rieser, Dabney Hegg, and all the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee on both bills. I would thank Chairman SHELBY's staff: Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, and David Adkins.

Normally, at this time, Senators might just put these names in the RECORD, but I wanted to say them out loud, on the floor, because they should hear their names said out loud and know how much I appreciate what they have done, not just for the U.S. Senate but for the United States of America.

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

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

ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO "BUY AMERICAN"

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage all Americans to join the fight to support our Nation and our jobs and stand up against the growing threat of Communist China.

I have been saying it for months: Buying American products is the No. 1 thing we can do to support American jobs and stand up to our foreign adversaries.

There is a new Cold War occurring between the United States and Communist China, and we must be crystal clear about the negative impacts of continuing to buy Chinese-made products.

General Secretary Xi is a dictator and human rights violator. He is yet another Communist leader trying to be the dominant world power.

The Communist Party of China is stripping the people of Hong Kong of their freedoms—as the Presiding Officer experienced when he was over there—cracking down on dissidents, militarizing the South China Sea, supporting Maduro's genocide in Venezuela, surveilling its citizens, and imprisoning more than 1 million Uighurs in internment camps simply because of their religion.

Communist China is stealing American jobs and technology and spying on our citizens.

Is this the kind of nation we want to be sending our money to?

Absolutely not.

Washington politicians have been too concerned with short-term political success and have long ignored the long-term threats of Communist China to our way of life but not anymore. It is time to take action.

Now, more than ever, Americans must remember that every time we buy a product made in China, we are putting another dollar into the pocket of the people stealing our jobs and our technology, denying their people basic human rights and propping up dangerous dictators like Maduro in Venezuela.

We cannot continue to rely on countries like Communist China, which lied about the coronavirus and refused to be a partner in solving this crisis, for critical supplies.

This outbreak has shown why we need to end our reliance on foreign supply chains. As a nation, we need to finally take a stand and demand that Communist China is removed from our supply chain.

I am proud to lead my colleagues in a bipartisan resolution calling on Americans to buy products made in the United States whenever possible.

Buying American is not partisan, and I am glad my colleagues from both sides of the aisle are continuing to

come together to encourage Americans to take a stand.

I know it is not always easy, but it is an important step we can all take at home to support American jobs, American producers, and American manufacturers, while helping build up the U.S. supply chain.

In my State, we take immense pride in products made in Florida. It is a driving force that led to our incredible economic turnaround.

A return to this pride in homegrown businesses and products ensures that America remains strong as the undisputed leader of the global economy.

We all must do our part to support our Nation and make it clear to Communist China that the United States won't stand for their behavior.

I am committed to supporting American businesses over Chinese products. I am urging my colleagues to join me in this effort and pass this resolution today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 625.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 625) encouraging the Government and the people of the United States to "Buy American".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Scott amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 2726) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That—

(1) it is the policy of the United States Government to "Buy American" products for public use when fiscally and reasonably possible, in accordance with the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) the Senate supports American manufacturing and strengthening our American manufacturing base.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the resolution, as amended, be agreed to?

The resolution (S. Res. 625), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Scott amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, that the Scott amendment to the title be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 2727) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on July 15, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13881 titled "Maximizing Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials" (84 Fed. Reg. 34257), which would enforce the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) to the greatest extent permitted by law;

Whereas, the Buy American Act of 1933 requires Federal agencies to procure materials and products domestically—

(1) when the materials are intended for public use within the United States; and

(2) when the materials to be procured (or the materials from which they are manufactured) are present in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality;

Whereas American-made products are developed under United States' regulations and undergo testing to ensure their compliance with United States' safety standards, which are among the highest standards in the world;

Whereas American-made products are produced by workers earning competitive wages and working in safe working conditions;

Whereas purchasing American-made products supports the producers of those products and their communities;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturing Institute, each dollar spent in sales of manufactured products supports \$1.33 in output from other sectors of the economy;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Foundation, for every full-time job in manufacturing, there are 3.4 full-time equivalent jobs created in non-manufacturing industries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos, when buying products, nearly 70 percent of Americans find it important that the products they buy were made in the United States;

Whereas strengthening American manufacturing supports employment in the United States, produces innovation and the seeds for future industries, and supports the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas a strong American manufacturing base is an important component in helping to revitalize the United States economy as it recovers from the global COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas a strong domestic supply chain for certain goods and close cooperation with trusted allies can support national security and public safety;

Whereas the global COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the globally interconnected supply chain of medical products and has heightened the need for supply chain security of a variety of critical materials and products; and

Whereas, regarding the manufacturing of critical medical supplies and products essential to national security, national stockpiles and a healthy domestic industrial base would help handle any future surge in need for these supplies: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2728) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution affirming the benefits of 'Buying American'".

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 625

Whereas, on July 15, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13881 titled "Maximizing Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials" (84 Fed. Reg. 34257), which would enforce the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) to the greatest extent permitted by law;

Whereas, the Buy American Act of 1933 requires Federal agencies to procure materials and products domestically—

(1) when the materials are intended for public use within the United States; and

(2) when the materials to be procured (or the materials from which they are manufactured) are present in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality;

Whereas American-made products are developed under United States' regulations and undergo testing to ensure their compliance with United States' safety standards, which are among the highest standards in the world;

Whereas American-made products are produced by workers earning competitive wages and working in safe working conditions;

Whereas purchasing American-made products supports the producers of those products and their communities;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturing Institute, each dollar spent in sales of manufactured products supports \$1.33 in output from other sectors of the economy;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Foundation, for every full-time job in manufacturing, there are 3.4 full-time equivalent jobs created in non-manufacturing industries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos, when buying products, nearly 70 percent of Americans find it important that the products they buy were made in the United States;

Whereas strengthening American manufacturing supports employment in the United States, produces innovation and the seeds for future industries, and supports the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas a strong American manufacturing base is an important component in helping to revitalize the United States economy as it recovers from the global COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas a strong domestic supply chain for certain goods and close cooperation with trusted allies can support national security and public safety;

Whereas the global COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the globally interconnected supply chain of medical products and has heightened the need for supply chain security of a variety of critical materials and products; and

Whereas, regarding the manufacturing of critical medical supplies and products essential to national security, national stockpiles and a healthy domestic industrial base would help handle any future surge in need for these supplies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the policy of the United States Government to "Buy American" products for public use when fiscally and reasonably possible, in accordance with the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) the Senate supports American manufacturing and strengthening our American manufacturing base.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, here we are, the 21st of December, 4 days till Christmas, and Congress is finally getting around to doing its duty on COVID-19 relief, as well as the Omnibus appropriations bill, which will keep the government open and keep the lights on through the end of the fiscal year next September.

I have to editorialize here that I think this is a terrible process. It is a terrible process. I just saw one of the Texas delegation House Members saying: I am expected to review thousands of pages of an appropriations bill and COVID-19 relief bill in the next couple of hours and then vote on it this evening?

Well, we will be in the same posture. As terrible as this process is, it was intentionally created. I am sure that the Appropriations chairman, RICHARD SHELBY, and Leader MCCONNELL would have loved to have had a regular appropriations process to vote out each of the subcommittee appropriations and pass them using regular order, giving the Members of the Congress a chance to offer amendments and maybe improve the bill, but we weren't provided that opportunity because, essentially, the Democratic leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives understand that this kind of broken process empowers them to the detriment of individual Members of the Congress and to the detriment of the people we represent. It empowers them, not the rank-and-file Members.

So, I believe this is a—and the same thing is true on COVID-19, of course. We passed the CARES Act in March. We tried to come back and replenish some of those funds. We were successful in doing so, for example, in the Paycheck Protection Program, but it was obvious there was more need, and on at least three occasions—maybe four, but at least three—we offered another half trillion dollars in relief, only to be blocked by Democrats here in the Senate.

Speaker PELOSI was candid. She basically said: Well, this is about politics. We don't want President Trump to get credit for Congress stepping up in a bipartisan way to provide relief to the American people in the runup to the election.

So this is where we are. We know what we have to do. We have to prevent the government from shutting down. We know that there is genuine need across the country for more COVID-19 relief, so we need to do that. But I would also point out, we are going to do roughly \$900 billion of an additional COVID-19 relief bill when Speaker

PELOSI and the Democratic leader in the Senate, Senator SCHUMER, turned down a \$1.8 trillion offer from Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin. So, rather than accept twice as much earlier because it didn't fit their political playbook, now they are accepting half when they realized they have run out of runway.

Well, the monthslong stalemate has finally broken. Yesterday evening, the so-called "four corners"—the Speaker, the Republican leader in the House, the Democratic minority leader here in the Senate, and Senator MCCONNELL—they reached agreement on a bipartisan package of bills to support the American people through the continued fight against COVID-19. And despite my comments about the process and what brings us here with so little time and ability to affect some of the content, I hope this legislation will pass and reach the President's desk in a matter of hours.

I think we could all agree that this bill could not have come soon enough. Since this summer, Republicans and Democrats have been miles apart on the size and shape of the next COVID-19 bill. Democrats, as I indicated, wanted a \$3 trillion bill they called the Heroes Act, while we supported a more targeted approach. That is when Speaker PELOSI uttered those now famous words: Nothing is better than something.

Well, I have always believed that something is better than nothing. But the big-picture disagreements prevented any progress from being made, even though we, by and large, agreed on about 80 percent of what needed to be done, and that is included in the bill that we will vote on here in the next few hours.

Well, after the election, the Speaker and Democratic leader here in the Senate, I guess, decided that they no longer needed to hold the American people hostage because the election had now come and gone. So there were bipartisan negotiations that broke out, which have led to targeted package bills—to a targeted package that could earn the support of both parties and the signature of President Trump. It is safe to say there could not be a more urgent need for action from Congress.

The last several days have proven that we are, indeed, at an inflection point—turning point—in our ongoing fight against the virus. One successful vaccine has already been administered to thousands of healthcare workers across the country. In my State alone, the Governor estimates that a million people will be vaccinated by the end of this month. That is something we should all be thankful for and applaud.

On Friday evening, the FDA authorized a second safe and effective vaccine made by Moderna, meaning that millions more doses will be reaching Americans—in particular, our frontline heroes—in the coming days. These are developments that we have been waiting, hoping, investing, and praying for,

but it is not a silver bullet. We are still battling this pandemic, and it is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. But the good news is, people who are particularly vulnerable because of their age or underlying chronic illnesses will likely be able to get the vaccine no later than March. Dr. Fauci said that by June, anybody in America who wants the vaccine can get it.

This next phase of our fight will determine how quickly we are able to defeat COVID-19 and regrow our economy. This legislation will clearly help us get there.

First, it will provide the needed support for vaccine distribution. Not only has there been a modern-day medical miracle in developing these safe and effective vaccines, but now the logistics of getting it to 330 million people in America are completely daunting, but it is happening. Millions of doses have already been delivered to hospitals across the country, and in the coming months, tens of millions more will be distributed as we launch this massive vaccination campaign.

While the cost of the vaccine has already been covered, the range of associated expenses that come with it has not been. For everything from transportation infrastructure to deliver the vaccines to ultra-low temperature freezers to store them, to personal protective equipment for our healthcare heroes to safely administer them, those costs have added up and need to be provided for in this legislation. This legislation will, in fact, provide billions of dollars to help cover these kinds of costs and to ensure the race to distribute these vaccines is as successful as the race to develop them.

Part of that is through relief for airlines, which will transport the vaccines to communities across the country. This assistance will enable our airlines to carry out their important role in the vaccine relay race, all while keeping their employees on payroll and preparing for a strong postpandemic recovery.

These two successful vaccines so far are moving us closer and closer to the end of this crisis, but we still have a ways to go, and the American people need and deserve our support in getting there.

Millions of workers have no way to earn a paycheck. Food banks are experiencing Depression-era lines each week. Farmers and ranchers have lost their traditional markets. Small businesses are sinking, and parents and teachers are still worried about a safe return to in-person learning for our students.

This targeted relief package will send desperately needed support to each of these groups for each of those causes. The workers who had the rug pulled out from them earlier this year will continue to receive the federally enhanced unemployment benefits under the CARES Act that would otherwise expire the day after Christmas. And State unemployment benefits will be

bolstered, as I said, by \$300 a week in Federal benefits through March 14 of next year.

We will also provide a second, more targeted direct payment to the hardest hit Americans, with up to \$600 per individual. That means that a family of four making up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400 in the coming days. This bill will ensure that the basic needs of low-income households, schoolchildren, and those in long lines at food banks will be met.

It also provides \$13 billion for a time-limited Federal nutrition benefit increase, as well as at least \$1.9 billion for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program at food banks.

Our farmers and ranchers and producers who have lost significant or all the value of their crops will also receive \$13 billion in agricultural assistance to strengthen the farm safety net which benefits us all.

This has been a difficult year for millions of families in Texas and across the country as parents have worried about how to pay bills and buy groceries, let alone Christmas gifts under their tree for their children.

I know this will not erase all of the financial uncertainty, but it will go a long way to provide some help to those whose livelihoods have been thrown into chaos, and I hope it will also provide reassurance for the parents and teachers who have worried about a safe return to in-person learning.

This legislation provides \$82 billion for education and will help our K-12 students, colleges, and universities get their education programs back on track.

This relief bill will also extend additional support to Texas small businesses. Our small businesses continue to struggle with the arrival of winter weather. That has been especially true for restaurants and other businesses that have relied on outdoor seating.

Many of these businesses utilized the Paycheck Protection Program to help them cover payroll and other expenses earlier this year, but the program expired in August, and our hardest hit small businesses are in dire need of more support.

This legislation will provide another \$284 billion in the Paycheck Protection Program. This has been an enormously successful program in my State, with 414,000 loans that are convertible into grants under some circumstances worth some \$41 billion. This has been a lifesaver for many of our small businesses and the workers they employ. The hardest hit businesses will be able to take a second draw of the PPP and provide for stability for their businesses and their employee until this crisis ends.

I am glad this bill also includes language from a bill I introduced to clarify tax deductibility for business expenses paid with a forgiven PPP loan. The average PPP loan in Texas was \$99,000, and without this change, those businesses that received that PPP loan

and grant would face a \$36,000 tax liability.

That would start to show up in January with the estimated taxes being paid by many small businesses that pay on a quarterly basis. That sort of unexpected tax liability would be a slap in the face for those businesses that saw this life ring and decided to grab a hold of it. This change will ensure loan recipients aren't saddled with an unexpected tax liability that could absolutely sink their struggling businesses that have been hanging on by a thread.

I appreciate Chairman GRASSLEY of the Finance Committee, Ranking Member WYDEN, and their staffs for fighting to include this change, which will clarify that these expenses should have been tax deductible all along. That is what Congress intended in March when we passed the CARES Act.

I am also glad the Omnibus that is paired with this package includes other legislation that I introduced with our friend AMY KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota, called the Save Our Stages Act, designed to help our small independent entertainment venues across the country from closing their doors for good.

These Main Street businesses were excluded from the original Paycheck Protection Program, even though they were among some of the hardest hit small businesses. Event venues were the first to close when COVID-19 hit, and they are likely to be the last to open once it is gone. This funding will help them stay afloat until that long-awaited day finally arrives.

I thank Senator KLOBUCHAR, who has been my partner in this bipartisan effort, as well as Senator RUBIO, who has been a champion for these venues during the final critical stages of negotiations.

The government funding legislation includes a number of other bipartisan bills which have had nearly unanimous support in both the House and the Senate, including a bill I introduced with our colleague BOB MENENDEZ from New Jersey.

This legislation will finally, after 25 years or more, establish a National Museum of the American Latino, which will improve Latino representation within the Smithsonian Institution. This museum will honor the contributions of Latinos throughout our Nation's history and give their stories a brick-and-mortar home here in our Nation's Capital. I am thrilled that generations of Americans will be able to get a more accurate view of our Nation's history when they visit this new Smithsonian museum, and I can't wait to be among its first visitors.

There is no question that there are additional measures I would have liked to have seen included in the coronavirus relief legislation, and I am sure that is true for every Member. But this targeted package includes critical funding and support for Texans and Americans at this watershed moment,

and it will break the stalemate which has paralyzed Congress for months now.

The American people are suffering. It is not time for politics as usual. It is a time to come together to compromise and to make good on our commitment to support them.

I appreciate the work of our colleagues who fought for a deal that will give our country added strength during this next critical phase of our fight, and I look forward to voting for this legislation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BUILDING UP INDEPENDENT LIVES AND DREAMS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 371 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 371) to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Fischer substitute at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2729) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act" or the "BUILD Act".

SEC. 2. MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTION DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) TILA AMENDMENT.—Section 105 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest with only bonafide and reasonable fees and that is primarily for charitable purposes by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code, forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) shall, collectively, be an appropriate model form for purposes of subsection (b) of this section.”.

(b) RESPA AMENDMENT.—Section 4 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest with only bona fide and reasonable fees and that is primarily for charitable purposes, an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code may use forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations), collectively, in lieu of the disclosure published under subsection (a) of this section.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 371), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESTORING RESILIENT REEFS ACT OF 2019

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 2429 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2429) to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio amendment at the desk be agreed to, and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 2730), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2429), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

JULIUS ROSENWALD AND THE ROSENWALD SCHOOLS ACT OF 2020

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3250, which was received from the House.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3250) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3250) was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

JIMMY CARTER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5472, which was received from the House.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5472) to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park”.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 5472) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIRECT ENHANCEMENT OF SNAPPER CONSERVATION AND THE ECONOMY THROUGH NOVEL DEVICES ACT OF 2020

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5126 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5126) to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5126) was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THANKING STAFF

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, so much of the Senate's work happens behind the scenes and out of the spotlight. Over the past few weeks, there are scores of Senate staffers—probably more than scores; hundreds, I would say—who have spent many late nights and some sleepless ones putting this emergency relief and omnibus bill together, so I wanted to come back to the floor today and acknowledge all of the hard-working Senate Democratic staff.

To create a law, there are staffs from committees and Senators' offices who are truly experts. They make sure what we Senators want to achieve is written properly. They have years—some, decades—of experience in their

subject area. They are libraries of information of how programs work. They are also creative thinkers and masters of accomplishing what Senators might think is easy—turning a few lines of our direction into legislative text—under tremendous time pressure and, lately, during the pandemic.

These are the names of some of the Senate's unsung heroes to whom we all owe an amazing debt of gratitude:

From the Committee on Appropriations: Charles "Chuck" Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Hannah Chauvin, Dianne Nellor, Jean Toal Eisen, Erik Raven, Doug Clapp, Ellen Murray, Scott Nance, Rachael Taylor, Alex Keenan, Jessica Berry, Michelle Dominguez, Tim Rieser, and Dabney Hegg.

From the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Beth Cooper, Megan Cheney, Homer Carlisle, Elisha Tuku, Corey Frayer, Jan Singelmann, Jeremy Hekhuis, Colin McGinnis, Phil Rudd, and Laura Swanson.

From the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: David Strickland, Melissa Porter, Ronce Almond, David Marten, Doug Anderson, Laurence Wildgoose, Kara Fischer, Michael Davisson, John Branscome, Shawn Bone, Alicia Brown, Mary Guenther, Jared Bomberg, Narda Jones, John Beezer, Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, Nikky Teutschel, and Chris Day.

From the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Lena Chang, Annika Christensen, Alexa Noruk, Yelena Tsilker, and David Weinberg.

From the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Evan Schatz, John Righter, Nick Bath, Andi Fristedt, Kara Marchione, Amanda Beaumont, Nikki McKinney, Joe Shantz, Kendra Isaacson, Colin Goldfinch, Manuel Contreras, Bryce McKibben, Mary Barry, Garrett Devenney, Leila Schochet, and Katlin Backfield.

From the Select Committee on Intelligence: Brett Freedman, Jon Rosenwasser, and Mike Casey.

From the Committee on Foreign Relations: Andrew Keller, Ruchi Gill, Heather Flynn, Sarah Arkin, and Shelby Boxenbaum.

From the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Joe Shultz, Jacquelyn Schneider, Mary Beth Schultz, Susan Keith, Kyle Varner, Katie Naessens, Claire Borzner, Sean Babington, and Adam Tarr.

From the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Renae Black, Sam Fowler, Brie Van Cleve, Rory Stanley, Luke Bassett, Elliot Howard, Zahava Urecki, Nicole Buell, Armando Avila, Adam Berry, Bryan Petit, Melanie Thornton, and Rod Beresford.

From the Committee on Environment and Public Works: John Kane, Annie D'Amato, Mark Mendenhall, Andrew Rogers, Mary Frances Repko, Laura Gillam, Michal Freedhoff, and Lucy Xiao.

From the Committee on Finance: Bobby Andres, Chris Arneson, Adam

Carasso, Drew Crouch, Elizabeth Dervan, Anne Dwyer, Mike Evans, Jonathan Goldman, Taylor Harvey, Elizabeth Jurinka, Rachael Kauss, Tom Klouda, Sally Laing, Virginia Lenahan, Kristen Lunde, Greta Peisch, Sarah Schaefer, Ashley Schapitl, Joshua Sheinkman, Tiffany Smith, Kelly Szafara, Beth Vrabel, Jayme White, Arielle Woronoff, and Marisa Morin.

From the Special Committee on Aging: Stacy Sanders, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Samantha Koehler, Rashaga Green, Keith Miller, and Josh Kramer.

From the Committee on Indian Affairs: Kim Moxley, Josh Mahan, Anthony Sedillo, and Jennifer Romero.

I am sure this is very hard on our stenographers, but thank you very much.

From the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Sean Moore, Ron Storhaug, Kevin Wheeler, Jacob Press, and Therese Meers.

From the Committee on Rules and Administration: Dusty Brandenburg and Lindsey Kerr.

So to all of those great people and many more—and I apologize if there are some we have left out—thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone on the committees.

I also want, for a moment, to thank my staff. Everyone believes they have the best staff on the Hill. I am certainly no exception. I would never ever, ever be able to do what I do without them. I know over the past several days many of them have tested the limits of exhaustion, hardly sleeping at all, but I want them to know that all their energy, ingenuity, and brilliance will have made the lives of their fellow citizens better in New York and across the country.

I have told them that they can look back at any age and know they have kept businesses going, kept people employed, kept people fed, kept people from getting sick, and even kept people from dying, kept people alive. That is the great work my staff and the other staffs have done.

So to my staff, whom I am so deeply, deeply grateful to, thank you, thank you. Thank you to my chief, Mike Lynch; my deputy chief, Erin Sager Vaughn; my policy director, Gerry Petrella, and my legislative director and his wife, Meghan Taira; my State director, Martin Brennan; deputy State director, Steve Mann; Steve Barton; Mike Ianelli; and all the regional directors from across the State.

The executive team in my office is a tremendous asset to me and to the Democratic caucus: Michelle Mittler, Megan Murphy Vlasto, Emily Sweda, Raisa Shah, and Sophia Coutavas.

The press team supports both me and the entire Democratic caucus day in and day out: Justin Goodman, Alex Nguyen, Monica Lee, Ken Meyer, Angelo Roefaro, Allison Biasotti, Paige Tepke, Alice Nam, and everyone at the Senate Democratic Media Center.

Jasmine Harris, Oriana Pina, and Dan Yoken and his amazing team of re-

searchers: Andrew Ogden, Leela Najafi, and Hanna Talley.

The whole team is supported by the great budding talent of our press assistants: Alexandra Robinson, Alexa Sledge, and Cyre Velez.

Cietta Kiandoli, Sol Ortega, and Julietta Lopez do fantastic engagement with many groups of people affected by the legislation we pass.

Josh Molofsky and Tony Rivera are my speechwriters and every day bring poetry and organization to my thoughts.

A special, special thanks to the Schumer "Legislative Team." These staffers are so incredibly hard-working and are always striving to find the best solution for our country and New York: Anna Taylor and Marisa Hawley; Jon Cardinal, Leeann Sinpatanasakul, and Rob Hickman; Mike Kuiken, Reza Zomorrodian, and Yazeed Abdelhaq; Matt Fuentes, Dili Sundaramoorthy, and Juan Negrete; Christina Henderson, who just won for city council in Washington, DC, and is leaving us; Ramon Carranza; Catalina Tam; Lane Bodian and Rodney Kazibwe; Veronica Watters; Zack Rosenblum, Ryan Eagan and Jasmin Aleman; Adrian Deveny, Tim Ryder; Sean Byrne, Annie Daly and Vandan Patel; Reggie Babin, Lucy Panza, Mark Patterson, Didier Barjon; Helena Contes; Charlie Ellsworth, Kai Vogel; Jim Secreto, Patricio Gonzalez, and Josh Gutmaker.

And, of course, I have to thank the brilliant floor staff led by Gary Myrick. What a blessing.

A special thank-you from me and the caucus and the entire staff to Tricia Engle, Dan Tinsley, Brad Watt, Stephanie Paone, Liza Patterson, Nate Oursler, and Rachel Jackson.

Thank you and also farewell to Reema Dodin, Senator DURBIN's tremendous floor staffer who for years has looked after the caucus and the floor. She is heading to the White House to help the President-elect, and we couldn't be happier and prouder to have a Senate denizen at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

There are so many more incredible staffers who deserve recognition and thanks for making this institution come to life. My entire staff helped with the efforts this year, and as I conclude today, they are still helping. I would like to include all of their names in the RECORD.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following names:

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

Yazeed Abdelhaq; Kathleen Achibair; Jasmin Aleman; Garrett Armwood; Reggie Babin; Robert Banez; Didier Barjon; Steve Barton; Sharon Battle; Jackie Benavides; Allison Biasotti; Tinae Bluiitt; Lane Bodian; Quinn Bowman; Martin Brennan; Caroline Burns; Sean Byrne; Jon Cardinal; Ramon Carranza; Joyce Chang Prepis.

Kristen Charlery; Emily Cole; Helena Contes; Andrew Cook; Dave Cooke; Sophie Coutavas; Annie Daly; Tushar Dayal; Adrian

Deveny; Jeff Dickson; Lindsay Dirienzo; Ryan Eagan; Charlie Ellsworth; Marissa Emanuel; Tricia Engle; Kelly Fado; Sam Flood; Matt Fuentes; Joel Geertsma; Megan Glander; Patricio Gonzalez; Justin Goodman; Hayley Gray-Hoehn; Joshua Gutmaker.

Gunnar Haberl; Jasmine Harris; Marisa Hawley; Christina Henderson; Rob Hickman; Jon Housley; Amber Huus; Mike Iannelli; Steven Heka; Rachel Jackson; Jessica Jamaica; Rodney Kazibwe; Cietta Kiandoli; Mike Kuiken; Monica Lee; Julietta Lopez; Mike Lynch; Grace Magaletta; Steve Mann; Amy Mannering; Anneliese Marcojohn; Jordan Marshall; Ryan Martin; Hemen Mehta.

Ken Meyer; Michelle Mittler; Josh Molofsky; Catey Moore; Michelle Moreno-Silva; Rachel Morgan; Megan Murphy Vlasto; Gary Myrick; Leela Najafi; Alice Nam; Juan Negrete; Joe Nehme; Alex Nguyen; Jordan Nicholson; Diana Nunez; Andrew Odgren; Lorenzo Olvera; Suzan Orlove; Sol Ortega; Rebecca Osmolski; Nate Oursler; Lucy Panza; Stephanie Paone.

Vandan Patel; Liza Patterson; Mark Patterson; Gerry Petrella; Oriana Pina; William Reese; Tony Rivera; Alexandra Robinson; Scott Rodman; Angelo Roefaro; Zack Rosenblum; Tim Ryder; Jim Secreto; Nelson Seijas; Raisa Shah; Tyson Sharbaugh; Leeann Sinpatanasakul; Amanda Skapnit; Alexa Sledge; Hannah Smith; Bre Sonnier-Thompson; Amanda Spellicy; Dili Sundaranoorthy.

Emily Sweda; Hanna Talley; Meghan Taira; Catalina Tarn; Anna Taylor; Taylor Terri; Paige Tepke; Kirnarah Timothy; Dan Tinsley; Erin Sager Vaughn; Cyre Velez; Nicole Vorgona; Kai Vogel; Karine Vorperian-Grillo; Brad Watt; Veronica Watters; Emma Weir; Dan Yoken; Maxwell Young; Nora Younklin; Chris Zeltrann; Reza Zomorroddian.

Mr. SCHUMER. It is a lot of names. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ANDERSON

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I would like to recognize a critical member of my staff, Mike Anderson—he is known as “Big Mike”—who left my office in August to pursue a legal career in his hometown of Anchorage, AK—something he has aspired to do since a young age.

Mike was my communications director, but it was much more of an appropriate title for Mike because he directed so many things in my office, so much of our communication both internally and externally. You would often find Mike going from staff member to staff member, asking them questions, relaying information from one team to the next.

In our office, if you had a question about what anybody was up to, what anybody was doing in Alaska, here in our DC office, in our Alaskan offices, you would ask Mike. That is a special quality. He is an incredibly hard worker, incredibly gifted young man, and we are going to miss that talent in Mike very much.

Mike is no stranger to Alaska political offices. Fresh out of college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he took a job with Congressman YOUNG and then worked for Senator MURKOWSKI.

In 2014, he was looking for a little more adventure on the calm side. I was looking for someone to help with my communications on my campaign. It was my first run for office. I was running against an incumbent with big name recognition in our State. Mike came on board and took a chance on me. It is something I will never forget—loyal, great worker.

He had been taking a lot of classes at night at Catholic University of America for the past few years, working in my office, and balancing it all. He was on the clock around the clock and did it with grace, humor, hard work, and excellence.

As I mentioned, he was our office communicator, but he was also the office friend, the person you would go to for advice on things big and small, the person you would call on for an assist if you needed to move. It helped that he lived up to his name—6 feet, 8 inches. He is a big guy. Mike always showed up, working together—as we called in our office one team, one fight. We got big things done for our State.

Speaking of one team, one fight, my office has a pretty good hoops team. Mike, as you can imagine—UAF varsity basketball player back in Alaska—was the critical member of that team. We have won a lot of games, particularly against the Cruz Texans. In fact, Senator CRUZ once gave Mike the nickname “Denali” for his size and how he dominates the middle of the key on the hoops court.

Mike is going to make a great lawyer in Alaska. As a State, we have so much potential—the biggest fisheries in the country, the largest energy fields, huge military complexes, and fascinating, important Alaskan Native legal issues. More than anything, Alaska needs good leaders with integrity, brilliant lawyers, hard-working people like Mike who love their State and give it all back to their State, and that is what he is going to do.

We haven’t seen the last of Mike. He has always been part of our team, and I am sure that is what he will do, working continually in the great State of Alaska to make sure our State thrives.

Mike, great job. Good luck to you. You are going to be missed. Best wishes on a bright future ahead.

CHINA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, despite what you might be reading in the press, there are a lot of recent, important, bipartisan achievements happening right here in the Senate. We are going to vote soon on another major COVID relief bill, which is really important. That will be our fourth major COVID relief bill this year—much needed, of course, for the health of Americans and for our economy. I think that when the history of this very challenging year is written, that is what is going to be remembered—four major, bipartisan, important pieces of legislation, not the rancor in

the Senate, which has been part of our history, part of the Republic since the founding of the Republic.

A number of other major bipartisan accomplishments have also occurred just in the past few months—the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed with over 80 Senators; the Great American Outdoors Act, probably the biggest conservation act in over 50 years; and the Save Our Seas 2.0, a bill I was proud to author, the most comprehensive ocean cleanup legislation ever to come out of the Congress. This is just to name a few.

Let me name another important bipartisan accomplishment that is starting to occur in the Congress, and that is dealing with China, the important issue of China and China policy. I know people might be saying: Wait, are you crazy? China? There is bipartisan agreement on what is happening with regard to this relationship, the United States and China?

The answer is, yes, we have made significant progress on this issue, too, and it is important. I want to explain that a little bit because I think it is a topic that we need to be focusing on more and more in the U.S. Senate.

Like the Presiding Officer, I am honored to be completing my first term as a U.S. Senator and honored, like the Presiding Officer, to have been re-elected to continue my service.

Six years ago when I started my time here in the U.S. Senate, I started a series of speeches that focused on the U.S.-China relationship and the importance of it. We all have been focused post-9/11 certainly on al-Qaida, ISIS, the big issue of violent extremist organizations, which has been the appropriate focus. But as I started my career here 6 years ago, I started to give a series of speeches where I said the biggest challenge that we face long term from a geostrategic standpoint for the United States for decades to come is going to be our relationship with the rising power of China.

What I was saying 4 years ago, 5 years ago in this body is that nobody is talking about it. It is really important, and we are not focused on it. You can’t say that anymore. Now everybody is talking about China. There has been an American awakening about China. And that is good. That is important. That is progress. And it has been bipartisan.

I want to thank President Trump and his team because I think they deserve a lot of the credit.

They laid out their national security strategy, their national defense strategy. These are very well-written strategies that, in essence, said that in the United States of America, post 9/11, it was appropriate to focus on al-Qaida, ISIS, violent extremist organizations, getting weapons of mass destruction. That was clearly the main focus of our national security.

But what their strategies have been saying is that, yes, we need to continue to focus on that, but now we need to prioritize the great power competition

that is upon us with China as the pacing threat.

As you know, most Senators—Democrats and Republicans—particularly the ones who focus on national security and foreign policy issues, particularly those on the Armed Services Committee—they agree with us. They agree with this reorientation. Again, this is important. This is progress, bipartisan progress, on what is really going to be one of the most—what is the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

What we need to start doing—and I say “we,” this body, the Congress, the executive branch—is we need to start putting details and principles into a long-term strategy, a bipartisan strategy that will be enduring to address this challenge, to address the challenge that is the challenge for the next decade—the rise of China and how we, as the United States of America, need to deal with it. As I mentioned, I believe this is going to be the defining national security issue for our Nation for the next 50 to 100 years.

What I want to do today is lay out a couple of key principles on what I see are some of the ways in which we can bring a bipartisan approach to addressing this challenge. Last year, I was honored to be invited by the heritage center—the Heritage Foundation—as part of their lead lecture series on the Asia-Pacific to talk about this issue. I gave remarks, an address that I called “Winning the New Cold War with China and How America Should Respond.”

Some of the principles that I laid out in that address from some of my experiences in the U.S. relationship with China over the last quarter century are what I would like to talk about. Those experiences for me have kind of run the gamut as a U.S. marine; as a National Security Council staffer and Assistant Secretary of State under the exceptional leader, Condoleezza Rice, when she was National Security Advisor and then Secretary of State; as the State of Alaska cabinet official in charge of energy and natural resources—which are so important to my State but also to Asian markets—and as a U.S. Senator.

First things first: I believe, as I mentioned, there has been an awakening about the challenge posed by China. As I mentioned, 6 years ago in this body, not a lot of Senators were talking about it. Now everybody is, and that is important. I also think that there is a recognition—whatever you want to call the tensions that have arisen—that the U.S. and China have entered into a much more strategic competition era—phase—with tensions that I have referred to as a “new Cold War” with each other. This state of relations has only been exacerbated by the pandemic, which, of course, started in China and was covered up by the Chinese Communist Party.

When I talk about this issue of a new Cold War with China, I want to be clear on one thing. This is not a challenge—or tensions—of our choosing. It is the

result of a conscious decision by the Communist Party leadership of China to overturn key elements of the U.S.-led, rules-based international order, despite that order enabling China to emerge prosperous and strong from its so-called century of humiliation. This new Cold War is not an inevitable consequence of China’s rise or our status as an established power. Rather, I believe, it stems from China’s rejection of becoming a “responsible stakeholder” in the international system that the United States has led since the end of World War II—a system from which China probably, more than any other country in the world, has benefited from.

But recognizing that we have this new tension, that we have a new Cold War with China, does not mean that the nature of the global challenge is identical to that posed by the Soviet Union or that our response should be the same. However, it does mean that the United States and our allies need to recognize this challenge, address it, counter it in ways that avoid major conflict but in ways that also avoid compromising our core values and interests and principles in liberty.

Let me talk a little bit about what I call America’s awakening.

Since President Nixon initiated the opening of relationships with China, many hoped that the country’s political and economic system would open as the country developed and joined this broader, Western-led international system. Others believed that even if the Chinese Communist Party remained in control, its external behavior and relationship with the United States would not be affected. When the United States supported Chinese entry into the World Trade Organization, President Bill Clinton remarked that American workers and consumers would be the greatest beneficiaries—American workers. Ultimately, this has proven not to be true.

Equally misguided was the hope that as China grew economically, it would liberalize politically. The expectation was that China would lower its trade barriers and follow WTO practices, respecting intellectual property rights, promoting basic safety standards for exports, curbing subsidies of its main industries, and not subjecting imports—our imports—to illegal, non-tariff barriers. None of that has turned out to be true. China did not meet most of its commitments under the WTO and still hasn’t. Rather, it has employed its new access to Western markets—American markets—to pursue large-scale theft of technology, exploiting the openness of the American economy without allowing American companies reciprocal access to its markets as it is required to do.

Let me give one example of this that I have seen in my experience. In 2003, over 17 years ago, I was in an Oval Office meeting as a National Security Council staffer with President George W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice, and the

Vice Premier of China, Madam Wu Yi, at the time. The President, President Bush, strongly believed in the protection of intellectual property rights, and he raised this issue with Madam Wu Yi right there in the office—very aggressively, leaning over in his chair. Madam Wu Yi looked at the President of the United States and said: Mr. President, I am in charge of this. We are going to fix this. We are working on it. You have my commitment, Mr. President. That was in the Oval Office, 17 years ago.

Where are we on intellectual property theft from China? It is worse today than when Madam Wu Yi made that commitment in the Oval Office. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Trade Representative Office estimates that Chinese theft of American intellectual property costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$600 billion annually, not to mention the thousands of jobs lost. President Obama also tried to stem these blatantly unfair, nonreciprocal practices, but Beijing did not honor the common understanding reached by President Obama and Xi Jinping in 2015, curbing cyber hacking of government and corporate data for economic gain. Such theft continues unabated today.

These episodes raise an even bigger problem between the United States and China. It is the problem that I call “promise fatigue” with China. Think about it. Broken promises extend well beyond the economic sphere, like intellectual property.

Here is another example. Standing next to President Obama in the Rose Garden in 2015, President Xi Jinping promised the President of the United States not to militarize the South China Sea. The commitment was broken within months, when China took a very aggressive policy of militarizing many of the islands and built up islands in the South China Sea to the consternation of every single country in the region. After enduring this promise fatigue with the Chinese for decades, we, the Congress, the executive branch of the U.S. Government, are finally getting wise. Everybody thinks trade should be a win-win, but Chinese leaders appear to view it much more as a zero-sum game.

Ironically, this promise fatigue and China’s predatory, nonreciprocal trade practices have brought about—and did bring about—the new, much tougher, and, in my view, much needed approach from the Trump administration that we had prior to the pandemic.

We have this situation where we are not trusting our relationship with China with promises that have been made but have not been kept across a whole host of spheres, where the tensions in the South China Sea are growing. But this current state of affairs was not preordained.

In 2005, then Deputy Secretary of State and future World Bank President Robert Zoellick encouraged China in a very well-regarded speech to become a

“responsible stakeholder” in the international system, which had done so much to enable China’s rise in prosperity. Zoellick’s speech challenged China to change its behavior, to support and promote and, certainly, not undermine the U.S.-led economic order that had brought peace and prosperity to China and so many other countries in the Indo-Pacific.

For a time, it appeared that China’s leadership was contemplating this American offer to be a responsible stakeholder in this global system—the one that we had set up after World War II. In my trips as an Assistant Secretary of State to China, I heard China’s leadership in many meetings—including in meetings with Hu Jintao, the President, and other senior leaders—where they talked about being a responsible stakeholder, where this invitation on working through the system we had developed was clearly something they were contemplating. But over time, it has become increasingly clear that the Chinese Communist Party has rejected this concept, this idea to be a partner with us in bolstering the international order that has benefited China so significantly.

In fact, the opposite has happened. China is now working to systemically build an illiberal sphere of influence that threatens to exclude America and erode our alliances in the region that have kept the peace in the region for decades. The challenge we face today is rooted in the attempt by the Communist Party of China to popularize its authoritarian model abroad to ensure China’s rise as a great power under the Communist Party’s leadership. President Xi made this clear at the 19th Party Congress, where he championed China’s model as a new option for other countries and nations that want to speed up their development. We must always remember, the Chinese Communist Party’s primary goal in domestic and foreign policy is to ensure the survival and preeminence of the party.

The key driver of U.S.-China competition and tension today is China’s ambition to project its authoritarian model abroad. China’s development under a Leninist political model serves as an inspiration for many illiberal actors and aspiring autocrats around the world. It uses its economic influence as a means of exerting political pressure. Additionally, Chinese companies and state-owned and state-subsidized industries are not bound by the anti-corruption laws that American and Western companies must adhere to.

Chinese indifference to establishing standards of transparency, which we have certainly seen now with the pandemic, and project implementation through its Belt and Road Initiative result in elite deals that concede corruption abroad, weaken prospects for long-term prosperity, and undermine the sovereignty of weaker nations.

China is seeking to undermine democracy and human rights and the rule of law and international institutions—

from pushing its norms for controlling cyber space to silencing critics of its human rights record, including critics in the United States, to pushing for the enforcement of the Belt and Road Initiative at the United Nations. China is using its growing voice on the global stage to legitimize an approach at home and abroad that undermines American interests.

A recent Hoover Institution study argues that China is looking to gain influence in the United States to shape attitudes and, ultimately, American policy toward China. And although we have not experienced the same level of political interference as, say, some of our allies, like Australia, where politicians and donors linked to the Chinese Communist Party try to sway the country’s policies on sensitive issues, China is clearly engaged in what the National Endowment for Democracy calls a significant, sharp-powered campaign to influence American policy here at home. This recent spy scandal with a Congressman from California is just a recent example of this.

Fortunately, the Trump administration and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have awakened to the long-term challenge that China poses to America’s national security and economic security interests. As I noted, the Trump administration’s more realistic approach on China, laid out in its national security strategy and national defense strategy, offers a clear-eyed view of Chinese ambitions and our need to counter them. At a time when there is not enough bipartisan agreement—although, I think there is more than, certainly, we get credit for—there is broad, bipartisan focus and support within the U.S. Government and, I believe, in the U.S. Senate on the strategic challenges posed by China.

So we have had an important American awakening and a good beginning with the recent U.S. national security and national defense strategies, and I believe it is strongly in America’s interest for the incoming Biden-Harris administration to continue these strategies that have strong bipartisan support here. In fact, in my recent meeting with Secretary of Defense nominee GEN Lloyd Austin, I encouraged such an approach on national security issues, particularly as it related to China.

Yet these strategic documents that we are talking about need more meat on the bones. What are more details and principles that we can add to the national security strategy of our Nation that can ensure bipartisan support for a longer term U.S.-China strategy? Let me recommend five core elements that, I think, should be key in moving forward with regard to our relationship with China.

First, we need to demand reciprocity in all major spheres of the U.S.-China relationship. Second, we need to reinvigorate American competitiveness so we can outcompete and outinnovate China. Third, we need to continue to

rebuild our military’s strength and capability. Fourth, we need to deepen and expand our global network of alliances. Finally, we need to remember that employing our democratic values is a huge, critical, comparative advantage in countering China’s global authoritarian influence around the world. So let me briefly touch on each of these.

First, we need to demand reciprocity. The United States must insist that the relationship with China be defined by reciprocity and fairness. For too long, the United States has ignored the promise fatigue—that I have talked about—with China and accepted unfulfilled Chinese promises across so many spheres of the bilateral relationship. You have seen it. When you raise the issue of reciprocity with senior Chinese officials, whether that be in Beijing or with the Ambassador, and they finally acknowledge that, yes, the relationship isn’t reciprocal, they say it is because “China is still a developing country.”

I would respectfully tell senior Chinese officials: Don’t use that argument anymore. It is an insult to the intelligence of American officials. We need a reciprocal relationship because every American understands and agrees with this—that it is about fairness, basic fairness.

I posed an important question of reciprocity to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing a couple of years ago, and he acknowledged that, to have an important, sustainable, great-power relationship between two of the most important countries in the world, reciprocity was critical. The citizens of our country need to feel that the relationship is fair and that a general policy of reciprocity is important and critical in that regard, but we all know it hasn’t been that way.

The Trump administration has made significant progress on pressing for more reciprocal relationships in our trading relationships, which is very important, but we all know that the reciprocal relationship doesn’t exist. Chinese companies and government-backed investment funds can come to the United States and buy companies, but we would have no opportunity to do the same. Yet it needs to go much further than economics. Let me give you an example. We need reciprocity in the free exchange of ideas. American journalists are not allowed to travel freely in China, and if they are not, then, why should Chinese journalists be allowed to travel freely in the United States?

Similarly—and this body is focused on this—there are over 100 Confucius Institutes, established by the Chinese Communist Party, at American universities. When I was in Beijing a couple of years ago and met with senior Chinese officials, I mentioned this.

I said: I was recently with the Ambassador, and he said that just to go on the campus of Beijing University you need to be accompanied by a Chinese

official. So if there were real reciprocity in the relationship, if you can have Confucius Institutes at American universities, how about we get James Madison Institutes of freedom and liberty at Chinese universities?

Of course, the Chinese wouldn't accept that.

They said: Well, Senator, Confucius Institutes only teach culture and language, and a James Madison Institute of freedom and liberty and democracy in China would be teaching propaganda.

That is what they said.

This is just one of many examples wherein we must have a reciprocal relationship between the United States and China going forward.

Second, we must reinvigorate American competitiveness. The United States is no stranger to global military and economic cooperation, as we have known throughout the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Our comparative advantages globally remain significant, but we can and should do more to bolster other areas at home. We should bolster STEM education, double down on basic research, and support Federal agencies like the National Science Foundation.

We need to be able to outcompete and outinnovate China, and, importantly, better understand China, its culture, its language, its history, and its strategy with the new generations of Americans who are focused on these issues, just as Russian and Soviet studies were emphasized during the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Many of our most significant challenges—our national debt, infrastructure projects that take years to permit, an education system that leaves too many Americans behind, a dysfunctional immigration system—are all self-inflicted wounds.

I believe that the real challenges posed by China, as they become more broadly apparent throughout our country, will start to spur the bipartisan motivation that will be needed to address these significant but solvable American challenges in order to make us stronger.

Third, we must continue to rebuild our military. From 2010 to 2016, the Department of Defense's budget was slashed by 25 percent. Readiness plummeted, and at the same time, the Chinese undertook a massive building of its military and the modernization of its forces while it also made concrete moves to militarize the South China Sea. History shows, particularly with regard to America's authoritarian rival, that American military weakness encourages authoritarian provocations globally. We must make sure that, as we continue to engage China, a strong U.S. military provides a hedge against Beijing's contemplating risky and destabilizing military actions as its military strength and capabilities continue to grow. China has a long history of using its military to achieve strategic ends when countries are not ready, and we must be ready.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I have mentioned that, gosh, almost 25 years ago, I was a young marine infantry officer who was deployed as part of an amphibious task force to the Taiwan Strait, which included two carrier battle groups as part of the U.S. response to Chinese provocations on the eve of the Presidential elections in Taiwan. It was a long time ago, but it was certainly an example of the American commitment and resolve of one of our allies during a period of heightened tensions in the Taiwan Strait that we need to remember and be able to react to with a strong military.

Fourth, we need to expand and deepen our alliances. The recalibration of our relationship with China should be done in partnership with our allies. The cultivation and nurturing of these relationships must be a foundational pillar of any American strategy as it deals with China.

Our greatest strategic advantage in dealing with China is this: We are now a rich nation with longstanding historical ties that have been reinforced by decades of diplomatic, military, and economic cooperation based on shared values with our friends and allies in the region. By contrast, China is an ally-poor nation, with North Korea as its closest friend and ally. The unity of the West and our Asian allies is essential to maintaining high global standards and transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, a peaceful resolution of conflict, and the importance of international law, particularly in the global areas of sea, space, and cyber space.

Finally, we must employ America's democratic values as a critical comparative advantage. We should never forget that our democratic values were critical in our successful victory over the Soviet Union during the last Cold War. In President Reagan's famous Westminster speech before the British Parliament in 1982, in which he launched the National Endowment for Democracy, he argued that America would win the Cold War not through hard power alone but through the power of our ideals.

As he reminded our audience and our close allies in Britain, "Any system is inherently unstable that has no peaceful means of legitimizing its leaders." China's unelected leaders, like all authoritarians, ultimately fear their own people. Our leaders do not.

It is fear that has driven China to develop an Orwellian social credit score to rank its people, while detaining as many as 1 million Chinese workers in concentration camps. Why else does the Chinese Communist Party invest so heavily in facial and gait recognition technology to monitor their own citizens? Why comprehensively censor the internet to preclude even the most glancing criticism of the Communist Party and its leaders? Why do China's internal security services employ more people than the People's Liberation Army, the world's largest military?

The answer lies in fear, and the goal, above all else, to make sure the Communist Party remains in power.

President Reagan saw the power and promise of our democratic ideals as a potent critical instrument to challenge America's global rival, then the Soviet Union, because the aspiration of freedom is universal and remains the core commonality that underpins the strongest partnerships of the United States with other nations. The belief that liberty, democracy, and free markets reflect and strengthen the size of our alliance system is something that is fundamental to the United States and our allies during the Cold War with the Soviet Union and now during our challenges with China. Helping countries protect their sovereignty so they can be responsive to their citizens and effective partners of our Nation is imperative at a time when Chinese influence risks pulling nations into a new "Sinosphere" hostile to American interests and our democratic ideals.

Let me conclude by predicting that the new challenges I describe with China are going to be with us for decades. We must face this fact with confidence and strategic resolve and bipartisan work in the U.S. Senate.

America has extraordinary advantages relative to China: our global network of alliances, our military power and economic leadership, our innovative society, our abundant energy supplies—we are now the No. 1 producer of oil, natural gas, and renewables in the world—our world-class universities, the world's most productive workforce, and a democratic value system that makes countries far more comfortable as American partners than subservient members of a new "Middle Kingdom" led by China.

As a result of the long twilight struggle with the Soviet Union, we also know what works—maintaining peace through strength, promoting free markets and free people at home, and having the confidence in George Kennan's insight that the Chinese Communist Party, like the Soviet Communist Party, likely bears within it the seeds of its own decay.

While democracies are resilient, adaptive, and self-renewing, there are many vulnerabilities embedded in China's perceived strengths.

One-man rule creates acute political risks. Historical grievance can breed violent nationalism. State-directed economic growth can produce massive overcapacity and mountains of debt. The gradual snuffing out of freedom in places like Hong Kong creates spontaneous protests of tens of thousands and huge global backlashes across the world. China's budding military power and historical view of itself as a nation and culture superior to others is beginning to alarm neighboring states, inspiring them to step up security cooperation with our Nation. Nearly half of all wealthy Chinese want to emigrate—and these are the winners from China's four decades of heady economic growth.

As we have in the past, Americans can prevail in this geopolitical and ideological contest, but doing so will require a new level of strategic initiative, organization, and confidence in who we are and what we stand for. This also means that we must redouble our efforts in making this strategic case to others around the world, particularly our allies, and we must continue to work on bipartisan solutions that have enduring support in this body for decades to come as it relates to our challenges with China.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The Senator from Alaska.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this is the time of year when we all look forward to wrapping things up, as they say.

Many around the country, when they think about wrapping things up, think about presents that they are going to put under the tree for their family. We think about it as closing up business for the balance of the year, and that is really where we are.

Hopefully, in a couple hours here, the House will proceed in taking up the omnibus bill, along with the COVID relief package, along with a host of other matters that the Congress has been working to address in this past year.

I would like to speak this evening for a few moments on the significance of where we are, but I want to start with just a story that I just now received from one of my staff people back in Alaska, and she got a video from the medical staff at the Sub-Regional Clinic there at St. Mary's. St. Mary's is a small community up on the Yukon River, and probably, I would say, 500 people, maybe more, in St. Mary's. But it is just a reminder to me that, regardless of where you are, hope is coming with the vaccine.

The comment that she shared is this video, a pictorial of the health aides, the PA—the physician's assistant—and personnel getting their COVID shots.

It was 13 degrees out. And the mobile office where the vaccine was administered was inside a chartered Cessna 208 Caravan sitting on the airport tarmac there in St. Mary's. After the shot, she and her staff hung out in their heated trucks for about a half an hour to see if they had any allergic reactions. When none showed signs, the Caravan took off to the next village airport.

It is just an example that no matter where you are, how remote you may be, the logistics that may be required to provide for this hope that comes by way of the vaccine.

People around the country are hopeful. Our job now, as we wrap up, is to make sure that we deliver this relief quickly.

I mention the COVID relief. I have been fortunate to be teaming with a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers for the past 5 or 6 weeks to see

if we couldn't come up with a proposal that could kick-start the COVID talks.

We have had an opportunity for many of us to come to the floor to speak to not only how that came to be but the ultimate result, which was a multihundred-page document, legislation, that totaled \$908 billion. But it addressed everything from vaccine development and distribution to what we are going to do to assist our small businesses with additional rounds of PPP, to extensions to unemployment insurance, to what we can do with food assistance, nutrition assistance, and what more might be done to help with rental assistance. It was truly responsive to the need.

Where we are today is having moved that conversation and that debate forward, I think, in a constructive, in a positive way. We are here with a proposal that looks different than what we had produced, but that is the nature of what happens in a body where you have to come together to sort out the issues.

And what we will have is legislation that, again, like the CARES Act, is likely going to be proven imperfect, but we have to respond to the situation on the ground, whether it is in Alaska or whether it is in Arkansas, and we cannot do it too soon. So this is going to be key, and it is going to be critical.

I am very pleased that legislation that I had introduced that would extend the coronavirus relief funding—the opportunity for States and localities and Tribal governments to be able to spend those funds down. Running up against the deadline here of the end of this year was a real concern for so many, and so that has been included as part of this bigger package, in addition to so much that is good.

The carrier for all of this is the Omnibus appropriations bill. I have been really pleased to be a member of the Appropriations Committee. For some years now, I have been chairing the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee. This is significant, certainly, for our State, with oversight of our public lands, and also of Native affairs, including the EPA. It is a pretty broad portfolio.

We have been working on this dutifully as a subcommittee all year—all year. I certainly wish that I had had the opportunity to be able to bring my bill—our bill—to the floor for full debate by all Members, and then we could move to the Ag bill, to the T-HUD bill, to the Defense bill—do them all separately.

But for a host of different reasons—most of them all come back to politics—unfortunately, we have not been able to do that. That is something that I regret. That is something that I would hope that we, as Members of the Senate, can say: We can do better.

We pledge to do it better every year. We put our colleagues in a heck of a spot. Not all of us are on the Appropriations Committee. Not all of us have the privilege to be a chairman or a ranking member and know the guts

and the insides of each aspect of these bills.

But we come here with a process like this at a late hour, and we say: This is one where you need to know that we have been working it hard. We have taken into account all the priorities and considerations on both sides. We worked it back and forth. We worked it with the House, and here we are. But this is not a good process. We can and we must do better with that.

Now, having said that, I am very proud of the Interior bill that we have built. I am proud of my staff. We were a little bit leaner this year in terms of our staffing, but with good leadership, led by Emy Lesofski and Nona, as well as Lucas on the team, we were able to do the work that we needed to do and in a way that I am proud of and proud of their efforts.

There is so much that is wrapped up in this bigger, broader bill, and I think it is going to almost be gaspworthy when you see the 5,000-some-odd pages I am told that we will have.

It is not only the appropriations. It is the COVID bills. It is the water resources development bill, the WRDA bill—very, very significant. There are good bills from the Indian Affairs Committee that I have participated in, water bills that we have been working on.

But the one that I want to speak to a little more in detail this evening—and I was hoping that my ranking member, Senator MANCHIN, might be here on the floor, but not yet—but I wanted to speak about title Z in the omnibus bill.

Z, I just imagine that they put it at the end because they figured it was the best or maybe because they knew that the process that the Energy Act had gone through had probably been more rigorous and lengthy than just about anything out there. But Z we are at.

I begin my comments with regard to this Energy Act that is contained in this bill by acknowledging that I am probably speaking on the floor for the last time as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee because I have hit my limit, if you will. I have had the honor and the privilege to be both the chairman and the ranking member on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee now for a total of 12 years, which is pretty good.

It is pretty good to be in a position to be able to advance legislative policy. I have been very, very fortunate to work with great members. Senator Bingaman was the chairman when I was his ranking and, of course, I was with Senator WYDEN as the ranking member when he was chairman. I have had the great privilege to work with Senator CANTWELL when I was the chairman and now Senator MANCHIN. I think about these past 2 years and what we have been able to accomplish and just kind of the recap of where we have been and how productive we have been as a panel.

We started this Congress with passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This is a bipartisan package of more than 120 different measures focused on public lands, natural resources, and water.

We had worked on a lands package throughout the last several months of 2018. I want to give former Ranking Member CANTWELL a real big shout-out here because her leadership was very key in that process. We weren't able to get it across the finish line at the end of the last Congress, but we reintroduced it in January of 2019. We passed it through the Senate in February, and the President signed it into law in March. That was a pretty good start—120 bipartisan bills.

These were bills, when you think about it, that related to national parks, to forests, to sportsmen's access. We delivered on the Federal Government's promises to Alaska Natives who served during the Vietnam war. We permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and we provided new authorities to help protect from natural hazards such as volcanic eruptions. I will note that the Kilauea just erupted on the Big Island of Hawaii. I believe it was yesterday or the day before. So it is important to be addressing our natural hazards.

We did that at the beginning of the Congress. Then Senator MANCHIN and I set our sights on something that hadn't been done in a long time, and that was modernization of our Nation's energy policies to make real reforms and bring them in line with our current challenges and our opportunities. So we started with some very broad—very broad-based—hearings and then took a very specific and deep dive into some of the issues and the technologies.

Then we started moving bills. We were negotiating and we were reporting dozens of bills as part of our regular order committee process. Knowing how things work around here, we knew we weren't going to be able to move them each individually as stand-alone bills, so we wrapped them up into a broader bill. We called it the American Energy Innovation Act.

We brought that bill to the floor in February. We were going just great. We were working through, and it was kind of nice, again, to be the first bill on the floor when we began our legislative business. And we stalled out. We were interrupted. We were taken off the track by an unrelated dispute over a measure that is jurisdictional to another committee, and this was just at the start of the global coronavirus pandemic.

But I said: We are not done. We are not stopping just because we hit a roadblock here. We are going to keep working.

We kept working. We kept working, and we kept looking for a way to pass the first major Energy bill since 2007—and 2007 is a long time that we hadn't updated and reworked our energy pol-

icy, so it was worth working on. I kept saying: Don't count us out. Don't write us off.

Over the past few months, we found that opening. We worked with really good partners over on the House side over at Energy and Commerce and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and we wrote what we have called simply the Energy Act of 2020—pretty simple, pretty beautiful, in my opinion.

But our Energy Act is included now as division Z in the year-end omnibus. It provides for reforms and new authorities related to a range of emerging technologies, including advanced nuclear; carbon capture, utilization, and storage; carbon removal; renewables; and energy storage. It reauthorizes programs that many of us are supportive of and want to advance: Weatherization Assistance and ARPA-E. It features the bulk of my language related to critical minerals and materials to help us rebuild our domestic supply chains, which we know are so critical. It reflects our strong commitment to cleaner energy to help us address climate change without raising the cost of energy or imposing divisive mandates.

So I would suggest to the Presiding Officer that this Energy bill is just the perfect bookend for this Congress. What started as a major lands package is now going to end with a major energy package. Again, as I mentioned, it has been since 2007. It is the first Energy bill—the energy side of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—the first Energy bill in almost 13 years. It was President George W. Bush who signed the last one on December 19, 2007.

So I want to thank Ranking Member MANCHIN for his leadership on the energy package, as well as all of the committee members who contributed to it. We had great help within our committee. We had great help within this body. At last count we were looking at input and contributions from some 70 different Members.

I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the staffs. I had the opportunity to give a tribute to my staff director, Brian Hughes, who is leaving after many years on the committee. He did a fabulous job of advancing this, as did Spencer Nelson, Pat McCormick, Annie Hoefler, Lucy Murfitt. There were so many others. That team was extraordinary.

But they were joined by an extraordinary team that Senator MANCHIN had, led by his staff director, Renae Black, and other individuals there who really helped us advance this—Sam Fowler and so many. We can't thank them enough.

I also want to really give sincere thanks to our House partners because they were this “six corner” working group here: FRANK PALLONE, the chairman at Energy and Commerce and the ranking member, GREG WALDEN; the Science chairwoman, BERNICE JOHNSON,

and the ranking member, FRANK LUCAS. We could not have reached an agreement without their leadership and their willingness to work together.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Leader MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER for agreeing to work with us and help us secure this opening and this commitment.

I can't remember how many times Leader MCCONNELL had said: You know, LISA, you are probably going to figure out a way to pull a rabbit out of the hat here. And I don't know if this is a rabbit out of the hat, but I think persistence certainly has paid off. So I want to thank the teams who really helped to make this happen.

In addition to a good energy bill, the year-end omnibus also includes the bipartisan water package featuring nine provisions that are important to Western States, such as Colorado, Montana, and Arizona. Lane Dickson on my Energy Committee staff was fabulous there. We added a few more lands bills into the final package. Lucy and Annie helped us on that. We really have worked to advance so much out of the committee.

All of these accomplishments—our lands package, our energy package, our water package, the lands bills that we tried to add to everything that moved and occasionally passed by UC, and measures I haven't spoken to, including the Great American Outdoors Act—these are all the hallmarks of a highly productive Congress and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am pleased to have been able to shepherd these measures into law.

But what I am proud of—more than any piece of legislation, more than anything out there in the time that I have been able to lead this committee, what I am most proud of is the bipartisan way in which this committee has operated. Our commitment to bipartisanship has produced continually good results for our country.

What I found as ranking member and now as chairman is that there is simply no substitute for working together and across party lines to find agreement wherever it is possible.

So I thank Senator MANCHIN for following that same approach, to our committee colleagues for their own bipartisanship and collegiality, to our House colleagues who have helped us with that.

I see that my friend from the great State of Washington and Pacific Northwest is here, and I want Senator CANTWELL to know that as I have spoken of the accomplishments of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am very thankful and appreciative of her leadership and what she has provided over the years. Working together with her team, we have accomplished good things for the right reasons.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if I can just congratulate my colleague

from Alaska and the ranking member, Senator MANCHIN, for their great work of getting these energy provisions that have been—I don't know how many Members, but I am sure just about every Member in our body has had something to do with it and a lot of actual individual legislation. So this was a long effort by our colleague, the chair of the committee, and I thank her for her diligence on this. She has had many of us up to Alaska to look at hydropower and alternative resources and how their grid needs better connectivity and products that can withstand and provide energy in sub-zero weather and all sorts of challenges that they face.

But, clearly, these tools that will be in this legislation will move us forward. So thank you and thanks to Senator MANCHIN for working so diligently to get this finally over the goal line. It is a big moment. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—46		
Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Enzi	Loeffler	Perdue
Harris	Manchin	Rounds

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote for which cloture was not invoked on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Enzi	Loeffler	Perdue
Harris	Manchin	Rounds

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Rick Scott, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, Cory Gardner, Ron Johnson, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Pat Roberts.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Cantwell	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Booker	Carper	Duckworth

Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich
Hirono
Jones
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Leahy

Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen

Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Reed
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Enzi
Harris
Kaine

Loeffler
Manchin
Perdue

Rounds
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 44.

Upon reconsideration, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1964

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise and in a moment I will ask unanimous consent to right a wrong that has lingered for over a century and to call up and pass H.R. 1964, the Lumbee Recognition Act. Prior to that, I want to say that I am honored, with my colleague Senator TILLIS, to represent the Lumbee people.

The Lumbee are the largest Native American Tribe east of the Mississippi River, with a membership of over 60,000. They have called the present-day counties of Robeson, Scotland, Hoke, and Cumberland their home in North Carolina. They have been a cohesive part of the community in North Carolina for centuries, and they have developed unique Tribal instructions that have served their membership well in the face of extraordinary adversity.

They have been teachers, farmers, doctors, small business owners, sheriffs, clerks of court, State legislators, and judges. Many have protected our Nation by serving in the Armed Forces. Their contribution to their community, to the State of North Carolina, and to the country is innumerable.

Their commitment to education is unparalleled. In the 1800s, the State authorized the Tribe to run the State's school district for Lumbee children. The State also authorized the opening of a specially advanced Indian school known as the Normal School to train teachers to teach in Lumbee Indian schools. Although the State provided no money for construction for the facilities, the Lumbees pulled together and constructed an Indian Normal School of their own. Since then, the Indian school has been in operation continuously. Today it is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The State of North Carolina recognized the Lumbee Tribe in 1885. Three years later, the Tribe began its quest for full recognition. Over the next 50 years, they repeatedly petitioned the Federal Government for assistance but to no avail.

Then, during the height of the shameful termination era, Congress passed the Lumbee Act of 1956. This partial recognition designated the Lumbees residing in Robeson and adjoining counties of North Carolina as the "Lumbee Indians of North Caro-

lina," while simultaneously blocking the Lumbees from accessing Federal services and benefits available to other federally recognized Tribes. It is nothing short of discrimination.

To put this in context, four other Tribes were terminated by Congress in 1956, like the Lumbees. All have had their Federal recognition status restored. Only the Lumbees have yet to receive the full Federal recognition they deserve. As a matter of fact, in 2018, this Senate recognized Indian Tribes. In 2019, seven Tribes in Virginia were recognized by this Congress and this Senate.

It is unfortunate while the Lumbee Tribe is incredibly resilient, decades of discrimination have caused severe economic consequences for the people. Robeson is one of the poorest counties in the United States. The 1956 law has put them on an unequal footing compared to other federally recognized Tribes and has prevented them from obtaining access to critical services through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. This is simply unjust and it is immoral.

To correct this injustice, since 1987, members of North Carolina's congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle have repeatedly come together to introduce the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would grant full Federal recognition to the Tribe.

Over the past 11 years, I have been proud to be the lead sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, and it has always been a bipartisan effort.

This year, the bill was led by a Democratic Member of the House of Representatives, G. K. BUTTERFIELD, and supported by Congressman HUDSON and Congressman BISHOP, both Republicans. Last month, the House passed the Lumbee Recognition bill by voice vote unanimously. Let me say that again—by voice vote unanimously.

You would think that this great deliberative body could process and understand the—really the discrimination that is going on here to these folks. People claim that the Lumbees are not a Tribe. Yet read the statistics—it is the largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River. I think they finally educated the House. But despite the overwhelming support for doing the right thing, Congress has yet to actually do it.

The time for excuses is over. The time for action is now. It is time to finally do what should have been done 130 years ago. It is time for the Federal Government to recognize the Lumbees for the Tribe they are.

I have had a great partner in Senator TILLIS, and I would yield to him for any comments he would like to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I thank Senator BURR for his leadership and leaning into this for many years before I even joined the Senate.

I thank Senator Dole for filing this bill that actually even had Senator MCCONNELL's cosponsorship many, many years ago.

I thank the Lumbee people for their patience, but, quite honestly, when you are talking about the ninth largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River—I am sorry—the ninth largest in the Nation and the largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River, a Tribe that has been seeking recognition since 1888—they were recognized as Indian by the State of North Carolina in 1885. In 1956, they were partially recognized.

We heard a unanimous vote coming out of the House. They were prepared to provide recognition. In November, we heard President Trump and Vice President Biden both say they support recognition. So we are so close.

There is a compelling case. It is a century in the making. And the fact that we couldn't get this through today when it passed unanimously out of the House just a month ago I think is a shame.

I appreciate Senator BURR for his patience and his tenacity. We are not going to let this go. Hopefully, it gets done tonight, but we have to recognize that the Lumbee people deserve recognition, they deserve respect. They have been fighting for it for a century, and I am going to fight for it as long as I am in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, and I reiterate that if for some reason there is an objection—and I think there will be tonight—either before we swear in a new Congress or after we swear in a new Congress, I promise my colleagues that this place will come to a grinding halt, and we will take up through regular order the Lumbee Recognition Act. We will debate it for as long as people want to, and we will make the case as to why this discrimination is despicable.

So, at this time, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1964 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their time tonight, and I urge all of our colleagues to prepare. This will be back up.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I appreciate the recognition. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN1938, PN2024, PN2101, PN2030, and PN2025; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, let me say to my dear friend from New Jersey, I fully agree with the five nominees he has put in front of the Senate. Indeed, we had good confirmation hearings on all five of those, and none of these five—other than the one I am going to the talk about in a second—are political appointments. These are career people who have had long and distinguished service with the Secretary of State, and they are all very legitimate appointees to the places they are appointed to, which I am going to reiterate here in just a minute.

In any event, one was left off the list. I know Senator BOOKER had some issues with that, but I think, in the spirit of cooperation and in the spirit of bipartisanship, he offers five, and I will offer a compromise of one more. I think that is absolutely fair—five for one.

But I object, and indeed I would ask unanimous consent that we do as suggested by Senator BOOKER, and that is discharge from the committee and approve the following six nominations: PN1938, Mr. Kevin Blackstone, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; PN2024, Ms. Cynthia Kierscht, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; PN2101, Mr. Brian D. McFeeters, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to Malaysia; PN2025, the Honorable Geeta Pasi, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; PN2030, the Honorable David Reimer, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone; and finally, William E. Todd, PN1598, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

As I said, none of these are political. They have all had long and distinguished careers with the State Department. They all have great backgrounds to be Ambassadors, and I appreciate Senator BOOKER helping me move all six of these forward.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that all six of those be discharged and be considered and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify?

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I just want to say I appreciate my friend and my colleague, and truly, when he invoked the spirit of cooperation and the spirit of bipartisanship, I felt lucky that he didn't invoke the spirit of Christmas as well.

Mr. RISCH. I would like to amend.

Mr. BOOKER. But I do want to let him know that, indeed, the five people are nonpolitical individuals with the State Department. I wish we could just move them and get confirmed. But I do have an objection to the sixth that he would seek to add, so I will not modify my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. RISCH. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, it is good to see you in that seat, sir. The post of Ambassador to Pakistan is one that is highly relevant to American national securities, as I think all 100 of us understand. The person selected to implement the U.S. foreign policy and engage diplomatically with the Pakistani Government must be someone who understands that American-Pakistani relationship and the complex and evolving challenges to regional stability in South Asia. That person must also be someone who can be trusted by the American people and by their colleagues at the State Department to carry out U.S. foreign policy decisions.

Unfortunately, there is a disturbing and documented pattern of behavior from Mr. Todd that I believe makes him unqualified to serve as our Ambassador to Pakistan.

From 2017 to 2019, Mr. Todd served in a variety of management positions at the State Department, including as Acting Director General and Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and as Acting Under Secretary for Management.

During that time, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened investigations into allegations that senior State Department officials, including Mr. Todd, were engaging in prohibited personnel practices against other members of the State Department's career workforce.

As a result of these investigations, multiple State Department officials told the committees that the administration wanted to punish career officials at the State Department often for doing their jobs, for following procedures and protocols, and also punish them for just raising concerns about policies that they believed sincerely would be dangerous or deleterious to American interests.

Mr. Todd was one of the people political appointees turned to to help carry out a lot of those actions. When asked about those allegations in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, it was reported clearly that he was unreasonably agitated, even raising his voice

when asked about just these routine issues.

The incoming administration has an enormous task. We know the challenges in that region. In the entire State Department, there have been challenges as well. We should give that new administration a chance and not promote someone for what is a really critical ambassadorship in a very complex and challenging region. We need to make sure that we have someone prominent in the role who can command the confidence of State Department officials, and that, in many ways, gives the incoming administration a chance to deal with that vacancy, which has been, I will note, vacant for 2 years without a nomination.

He clearly does not have the temperament or the track record of standing up for his own employees or for the institution of the State Department.

We should be doing everything in our power to restore credibility to American leadership, not just overall in the world stage, which I know we all agree on, but also in that region, and work to repair a lot of the harm that this individual may have been involved in creating that hurt morale so much.

I have a lot of confidence in the chairman's leadership. We have a committee that often works in a bipartisan manner, and I am grateful for that. It is one of the pleasures I have in serving in the Senate. This role is critical to the country—the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador Hale left the post in September of 2018, and it was a year before the administration nominated someone to the post. So, again, I just find it, on top of my previous remarks, odd that the chairman and others are now saying that we need this Ambassador now. I believe that is not the case, and I believe that there hasn't been an urgency from the administration to fill this ambassadorship until today.

So it is for these reasons that I oppose Mr. Todd's nomination, and I hope that my colleague will move the other five. They are deserving Foreign Service officers and should be confirmed. They should not be held up because of objections to the nominee we have been discussing.

So we agree on these five nominees. I truly urge my colleague that we should not obstruct them because of our differences over one. There is a true urgency, I believe, in this season to get what we can agree on done, and disagreement rooted as substantially as I believe this one is should not hold up the other ones. That is why I think the nominees to Ethiopia, Mauritania, Malaysia, and Sierra Leone—I do really believe they should be confirmed today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I thank Senator BOOKER for his kind words about the committee. I want to commit that we will continue to work in a

bipartisan fashion. On the other hand, we have a disagreement here regarding this particular person. He is a well-qualified career State Department nominee. He has been nominated, of course, to be Ambassador of Pakistan. Ambassador Todd is a career member of senior executive service. He is well qualified to serve as the Ambassador. He is currently serving as the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Management. He has a wealth of experience, having previously served as Ambassador twice, to Cambodia and Brunei.

His qualifications notwithstanding, now is really not the time to leave the ambassadorship and the mission in Islamabad vacant.

The others we have are also good. I don't think that it is unfair to ask that we have a trade of five for one.

In any event, we respectfully disagree at this point. I have no doubt, as we move forward, we will have other things we do agree on, but at this time, I am going to continue to object to the five.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss critical parts of today's funding bill that is before us this week. These are the result of bipartisan work that we have done. And the Presiding Officer is a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, a valued member who has contributed significantly to the legislation before us.

As chairman of that committee, I am so grateful for your participation because I am going to talk about some things that we have been able to do on the Environment and Public Works Committee together and in a bipartisan way. You have done such a remarkable job with the Save Our Seas legislation, and we continue to support that.

Now I am going to talk about a couple of additional things that are part of this end-of-the-year legislation that we will be voting on later this evening.

The first is historic, bipartisan climate innovation legislation. The second is comprehensive legislation to upgrade America's water infrastructure. So I want to talk about two different things: One is the climate innovation legislation and then what is commonly known as the WRDA bill, the Water Resources Development Act. Both of these measures passed the committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

The Republicans and Democrats on this committee have worked together to reduce emissions and to do it through innovation—not taxation, not regulation, but do it through innovation—free market innovation, not punishing government regulations. I believe that is the best way to go as we address the challenges of our environment and our climate.

We have reached a historic agreement in the committee, and we will on the floor tonight in the Senate, to in-

clude environmental innovation provisions in this government funding bill.

The environmental innovation agreements include three specific bills that will significantly reduce greenhouse gases. I have had the privilege of working closely with my friend, the committee ranking member, TOM CARPER from Delaware, on each of these three.

The first is called the USE IT Act. This legislation ensures that Washington is a willing partner in the research and the development of carbon capture technologies and projects. Carbon capture holds the key to significant carbon emission reductions. These captured emissions can be used to create building materials, medical supplies, even clothing. They can also be used to extract more natural resources to provide more energy for all of us.

The USE IT Act is going to expedite permitting so that important carbon capture projects can get moving. It supports the research and the use of carbon capture. It includes direct air capture—actually, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere—that will take carbon emissions straight out of the air. It is very innovative.

This kind of research is now already happening in my home State of Wyoming, in Gillette, WY, at the Integrated Test Center, which is associated with the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources.

I have worked closely with Senators WHITEHOUSE and CAPITO and CARPER on the USE IT Act in having it passed, first, through our committee, then through the full Senate, and tonight, in a bill that will be ultimately sent to the President of the United States for his signature.

The second measure, part of this innovative work, is a bill sponsored by Ranking Member CARPER to reauthorize the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

This program has already significantly reduced the amount of black carbon in our air by replacing older engines in buses—school buses and trucks and other vehicles. This is working well. These replacement engines make diesel equipment cleaner and more efficient.

The legislation that we will reauthorize this evening sees that this important program will then continue all the way through the end of 2024.

The last element of our bipartisan agreement will phase down the use of chemicals known as HFCs. These chemicals are in every home in America, from cars to refrigerators to air conditioners.

This agreement is going to authorize a 15-year phasedown on the production of these chemicals. Innovative breakthroughs in chemistry have led to the development of cleaner replacement chemicals. This legislation tonight will help protect our air while keeping costs down for the American people.

Importantly, the agreement, the bipartisan agreement we have come up with, safeguards the essential use of

HFC chemicals when substitute chemicals are less effective. Some examples including bear spray. We use it in Wyoming. I know they use it in Alaska. It protects hikers. It is also used in fire suppression systems on planes that protect travelers. And we need it.

I know in my hometown of Casper, the defense spray manufacturer, the Safariland Group, employs about 75 people. They use HFC chemicals to make defense sprays. It is a critically important part of their business.

If they were forced to use replacement chemicals, those sprays would be far less effective. Well, if you are around a bear, you want to make sure you have the most effective spray available. So with the changes we have negotiated into this important bill, companies like the Safariland Group will be able to continue making high-quality products that people want and people need and that can save their lives.

We also made sure that the manufacturers using these chemicals have a clear set of rules to go by—one clear set of rules to go by. So our agreement preempts State and local laws to ensure that the specific essentials that are being used are protected.

Now the manufacturers won't have to deal with different sets of rules in different States, which has been a real problem. This clears that up. The end result is clean air and clear rules. We need both of those.

I really want to thank Ranking Member CARPER, Senator JOHN KENNEDY of Louisiana for working with me to reach an agreement that will reduce the use of HFC chemicals while protecting consumers and manufacturers alike.

All of these three measures support market innovation. All three will reduce greenhouse gases, and they will do it in ways that will not harm the economy.

The government funding bill that we are going to be addressing a little later this evening also includes bipartisan water infrastructure legislation. I know in the Presiding Officer's home State of Alaska and in my home State of Wyoming, water is critical, as it is across the entire country. But you and I have focused specifically on this.

Certainly, in Wyoming, dams, levees, ports, reservoirs, and water systems are important to every community all across the country. The infrastructure is critical. People say the word is "infrastructure," but when we think about it, what it really means is dams, ports, reservoirs, levees, and water systems. That really, I think, shows more what we are talking about than just this overall word "infrastructure."

It protects all of us from dangerous floods and storms, while also providing water for our families and our farms.

The government spending bill tonight includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. It is the result of months of negotiations between committee leaders from the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The bipartisan legislation is fiscally responsible. It helps grow the economy; it cuts redtape; and it makes our communities safer. It will spur economic growth by creating jobs and by authorizing vital projects.

In my home State of Wyoming and across the Rocky Mountain West, access to consistent water supply is essential for ranchers and farmers. The water that we need in our home States to grow crops and raise cattle has to be delivered on time.

In several communities, the water reservoirs that serve farmers and ranchers happen to be old. These aging reservoirs and irrigation systems need maintenance or full rebuilding. This bill makes these projects a significant priority.

The legislation will also establish a new Army Corps of Engineers program for construction of new, small water storage projects or the expansion of existing ones. It will also authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out sediment removal projects in water reservoirs. This improves water quality, and it increases water quantity.

The bill authorizes projects to maintain shipping lanes, to deepen ports, to upgrade aging dams, and to increase water storage across the West. Maintained shipping lanes ensure that American-made goods are shipped from the heartland to the coasts and around the world. Deepened ports result in increased commerce. If our major ports are dredged and deep, then more ships can use them to export more goods.

These projects that we are getting ready to adopt tonight will all create jobs and expand commerce in America's cities and the heartland. To ensure these important projects get moving, the bill cuts redtape to speed up the Army Corps of Engineers' process.

The Water Resources Development Act is going to expedite the permitting, the construction, the repair, and the maintenance of many Army Corps projects. Communities can't afford to wait years and years for flood management or water storage projects to be completed. They need them now.

Finally, this legislation will make communities safer. The critical infrastructure projects included here will help prevent damaging floods by maintaining dams and levees. Floods can take a terrible toll in property damage and on human life.

The legislation allows the Army Corps of Engineers to focus efforts on fixing aging flood management infrastructure. It prioritizes the dams and levees most at risk.

I would like to really thank the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, PETER DEFAZIO, and the ranking member, SAM GRAVES, for working with us to get this legislation to the finish line.

I want to thank Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair CAPITO and Ranking Member CARDIN for their work as well.

I say to the Presiding Officer, as I wrap this up and thank you for your in-

volvement, I want to thank every member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and specifically the ranking member, TOM CARPER—whose staff has worked so closely with mine—for working with me on this bill. I am so grateful for his partnership as we have worked together over the last 4 years as I served as chair and he served as ranking member. We have not always agreed on every issue, but we have respected the positions of each of us. We have worked and found common ground, found solutions, and I believe made a real difference for the economy and, most importantly here, the environment.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to express concern over a monumental breach to the Nation's national security infrastructure.

Last week, the Washington Post, among other publications, reported hacks of several government agencies by way of the SolarWinds platform over several months.

The New York Times, on the 17th of this month, had a headline that included these words: "Officials Warn of 'Grave Risk.'" But in that report, the New York Times indicated that at least 40 companies, government agencies, and think tanks had been infiltrated. The infiltrated agencies include the Departments of Defense, State, Homeland Security, Treasury, Commerce, Energy, and Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the National Institutes of Health. That is about seven different entities, if you include the Department of Energy as one entity, in the hacking of different parts of the Department, and there could be more.

All the reporting indicates that the hackers are affiliated with Russian intelligence. Russia has proven itself both capable and willing to invade and exploit our digital infrastructure for its own ends.

While Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed that Russia was behind this damaging breach of our systems, President Trump is casting doubt—and that might be an understatement.

Even in the waning days of his administration, our national security continues to suffer at the hands of the President's deference to Vladimir Putin.

I have to say for the record, I hope this number changes, but only about 10 Republican Senators have expressed concerns. I hope that number grows exponentially in the next couple of days.

I have to ask: What if this breach occurred under a Democratic President—

President Obama, for example? Would there be more than 10 statements or 11 or 12? This should be categorically, roundly condemned by every U.S. Senator of either party.

These hacks renew the urgency for additional resources for defensive cyber security across our government. This need is not a new one. In fact, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, C-I-S-A, was stood up within the Department of Homeland Security in 2018 precisely to shore up the U.S. Government's defenses against such hacks, such intrusions.

However, as we all know, just days after the 2020 Presidential election, President Trump fired CISA's Director, Chris Krebs, for contradicting the President's own false claims regarding the election.

The President has failed to take this hack, this attack on our security, this attack on our government seriously. This hack raises serious questions about the nature of cyber espionage and what constitutes hostile acts by another country.

These are questions I look forward to exploring as we learn more about the scope and nature of this latest breach. While both of our countries certainly engage in espionage, we must be vigilant in the protection of our own data and technology from foreign interference, and we need to hear more from Senators on both sides of the aisle about this attack.

The second and related issue is the reporting just in the last day or so, reports that the President may be seeking to invoke the Insurrection Act to impose martial law and refuse to step down from the Presidency next month. The reporting indicates that these discussions took place in the Oval Office.

I would argue—I think most Americans would argue—that even the mere discussion of martial law, the mere mention of it, the mere invocation of the whole notion of martial law is both harmful and dangerous.

Republican Senators, so far, have not condemned these actions that blatantly violate democratic norms. Maybe one, maybe two—I hope that number grows as well—but the silence from the majority party in the Senate on this report is deafening. I would hope that every Senator would roundly condemn the mere mention of martial law.

Attempting to seize election machines—that would be the effect of the invocation of martial law if it were operationalized—election machines in a number of States seized by the government of the United States.

I have got to ask the question: In America? In the United States of America? Is that what the White House is really discussing?

All that America expects—and it is not much—is that Senators of both parties would condemn, in the strongest possible terms, even the discussion of martial law.

The Army Secretary and the Army Chief of Staff released a joint statement clarifying, based on these dangerous actions proposed by the President's team, that "there is no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of an American election."

It is hard to believe that those officials in our government who help defend our country would even have to say that based upon what the reporting indicates.

So I hope that, even in this holiday season, it is made very clear by every Member of the U.S. Senate that this will not be tolerated and has to be condemned. We can't just say: Oh, well, it is another outrage, another insult. It should be condemned, just like the actions of the Russian Government should be condemned as well.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I just want to make a couple of brief comments about the legislation we are going to be voting on, we hope, tonight.

I will talk about, for purposes of time, not the spending bill or the spending portion, the so-called omnibus. I will talk about the COVID-19 relief provisions. I won't go through all of them, obviously, but there is a lot of good news for many Americans in this legislation.

The consensus on unemployment benefits will help a lot of Americans: \$300 per week for all Americans receiving unemployment benefits through March 14. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program is extended to help self-employed individuals, gig workers, and others in nontraditional employment.

The economic impact payments for Americans across the country: \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 a year and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$600 payment for each dependent child. That means a family of four would receive \$2,400 in direct payments.

The Paycheck Protection Program, so-called PPP: \$284 billion for the first and second PPP forgivable loans.

There is more money for transportation, more money for health, and, in particular, money for the procurement of vaccines and therapeutics, as well as money for vaccine distribution.

Education is funded for more than \$80 billion; emergency rental assistance, \$25 billion; the Postal Service, \$10 billion; childcare, \$10 billion—both very important.

The ones I am especially grateful for, even though on a lot of these I would vote for higher numbers—a lot of us would—are the nutrition provisions: \$26 billion in agriculture and nutrition funding. Half of that will be used for direct payments to farmers who have suffered losses due to the impact of the pandemic. The remaining 13, the other half of the 26—\$13 billion will be used to combat food insecurity, which is on

the rise due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

There is a lot in here that is positive for American families, for workers, for small businesses, and for so many other needs. It took way too long. This is months overdue. There are gaps in it.

I think this is a 3-month bill to help folks get through January, February, and March. I think we will need another bill after that. And, obviously, I am very disappointed we don't have dollars in here to help nursing homes, which I fought very hard for. We will keep up that fight.

It doesn't have the direct help to State and local governments, even though there are provisions that will help States but not nearly enough.

So it is far, far from perfect, but I think it is important that we pass it to provide direct help to people who have challenges, whether it is with employment or running a small business or supporting their families.

The last point I will make on this is that we gather here today—and we hope the vote will be tonight before midnight, but we don't know. But it is just ironic that today is the 21st of December, the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year.

I was noting this weekend Elizabeth Dias wrote an op-ed, a very thoughtful op-ed, in the New York Times about winter and all of the ways different cultures have dealt with the darkness and the severity of winter. But here is what she says, and I hope it provides a context for what we are about to pass and what we must do in the months ahead when the virus is still raging and the death number keeps climbing. Here is what Elizabeth Dias says:

The great irony of winter is that the moment darkness is greatest is also the moment light is about to return. Each year the winter solstice comes with the promise that the next day will be brighter.

In this season of hope and this holiday season, we hope and we pray that this legislation will bring some light to people's lives, that it will give them a sense, in addition to having a vaccine available now, that brighter days are ahead.

We can't underestimate the darkness that has engulfed so many families, but we hope tonight that we provide at least a measure of light to all the darkness that so many families have faced.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my friend and colleague from the State of Delaware, TOM CARPER.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have just recently been talking about a number of pieces of legislation that

have come through the Environment and Public Works Committee: the water resources act, the USE IT Act, the act called DERA to eliminate and reduce emissions from diesels, as well as additional legislation on HFCs.

My partner in all of those is here on the floor now, and I would just like to ask him if he would—since he has been such a great partner for the last 4 years that I have chaired the committee—talk about this as an accomplishment for the environment, for the committee, and for the Senate and for the country.

So I am just kind of curious, from his standpoint, where he sees things as a sign of success.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, if my colleague will yield.

As Senator CASEY leaves, I thought his point about longest night and every day that follows will be brighter, and some of the provisions that Senator BARRASSO and I, along with JOHN NEELY KENNEDY, have included in the Nation's major budget piece of legislation ensure that it will be brighter.

One of the pieces of legislation, as Senator BARRASSO knows, deals with the phasedown of HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons. They are 1,000 times worse for climate change than carbon dioxide. Under the legislation that we have offered, it will phase down their utilization over the next 15 years by 85 percent. What is that worth? It is worth a half a degree Celsius—just this one thing, just this one provision.

A lot of people on this planet think the biggest challenge that we face on this planet right now, an existential threat, is the fact that our planet is getting warmer and that we need to do something about it. In this legislation, we do take a big bite out of it.

And my hope is what it will be is that it will serve as a source of encouragement for other Democrats and Republicans, maybe an Independent or two, to take other steps as we come back into the new year with the new administration and make further progress.

One of the great things that I love about our HFC legislation—thanks, colleague.

One of the great things, Mr. Chairman, that I love about our HFC legislation is that it shows that you can do good things for our planet and create jobs. That is what I said: do good things for our planet in the battle against climate change and create jobs. How many jobs? Tens of thousands of jobs—in this country, in this country; billions of dollars' worth of economic growth—in this country—and at the same time doing good things with respect to climate change.

Interestingly, it is not every day you find legislation supported by the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, most major environmental groups, and co-sponsored by, gosh, two-thirds of the Senate—Democrats and Republicans alike.

In that case, we have done it. We threaded the needle. I just want to thank the chairman for his leadership and for his patience and the staff in working with us. And our thanks to Rich Russell, your staff leader on the majority side; Mary Frances Repko, the staff leader on our side; and everybody who worked with her.

But more than a decade ago, I remember standing next to my colleague JOHN BARRASSO—I remember standing right over close to where he is standing tonight, and a guy named George Voinovich came up to me—from Ohio. He and I had been Governors together for a number of years. Love the guy.

He said: I am looking for a Democratic cosponsor for a bill. He said: Do you want to think about it? I said: Well, what is it? He said: It is a proposal that fosters collaboration between businesses, folks who have buses with diesel engines, trains with diesel engines, boats with diesel engines, trucks with diesel engines; and it uses some Federal money, some government money, in order to use technology that is available to reduce the emissions from those diesel engines by more than 80 percent.

I said: Tell me more. And he told me more, and about a day or two later we signed on and introduced the legislation. He was kind enough to let me be his Democratic lead.

One month later, it was enacted. I have been here 20 years; I have never seen legislation with that kind of effect go through just like that. It was pretty amazing. Every so often, we reauthorize it; we increase the authorization. We have done it again with respect to reauthorizing the Diesel Emission Reduction Act.

One of the things I love about it is that it gets a lot of different stakeholders involved, and for a limited amount of Federal dollars, we can have a multiplier effect that can be, for every Federal dollar, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8 that have come in from the private sector. That is the way we ought to do it.

The last one is USE IT. Not many people think Delaware is a farm State, but we raise a ton of chickens. I think for every person in my State, there are like 300 chickens or more. Those chickens eat corn and soybeans. We raise corn and soybeans. Our farmers have land that is close to the beach. We have five-star beaches in Delaware: Rehoboth, Bethany, Dewey, and others. There is always pressure for development and encroachment on our farms, and developers are trying to buy out the farmers and pave paradise and put up a parking lot. What we have figured out how to do is—and it is not just—we haven't figured out through this legislation, the so-called USE IT Act, but what we do is—the idea is to take carbon out of the air and to use it for a better purpose.

One of those better purposes is to replenish the soil in my State, in Wyoming, in Montana, and other places so that our farmers will be less inclined to

leave the land. They will stay on the land. They will be able to make money, support themselves and their families. It creates a virtuous cycle. That is a wonderful thing.

I don't think we are going to be joined here yet—I called him just to give him a heads-up, but I don't think he is able to get here that quickly, but JOHN NEELY KENNEDY from Louisiana was a big part of the work we did on HFCs. I just want to say, in his absence, a real big thank-you to him. I want to thank—gosh, I think 70-plus Senators—Democrats and Republicans alike—who cosponsored our HFC bill. I want to thank our leadership, especially on our side but on both sides, for pushing to make sure these three bills would be included in the final compromise.

In addition to all the other things that were accomplished—and Senator CASEY and others talked about that—we have actually done some good things for our planet. Senator BARRASSO is going to move over and be the senior Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee come January. I will remain on Environment and Public Works, be the senior Democrat. I want to say that this has been a wonderful partnership, just a wonderful partnership—fun, funny, serious when we had to be, collegial, and really focused on getting things done for Wyoming, for Delaware, for the other 48 States as well.

So you are not going to be too far, and I will still be around. We will have a chance to work on other things. It has been a real joy to work with you on these three items, and hopefully in the future we will have many, many more.

Mr. BARRASSO. I thank Senator CARPER. I appreciate it.

You know, it is interesting: Senator ALEXANDER recently gave his speech, his farewell address, and he said that sometimes politics is like a split-screen television set. On the one half, you see all the fighting and contention and the dysfunctional side. And on the other side of the screen, you see the functioning side. But not many people look at that functioning side.

What we have been able to do as a partnership on the Environment and Public Works Committee was functional—in a bipartisan way, coming up with solutions. As you mentioned, there were over 70 cosponsors on the one piece of legislation. All of them, I think, got through the committee unanimously. That is something that made no news because there wasn't a fight. There was cooperation for the betterment—to make sure we protected the economy and, at the same time, preserved the environment. That is what we need do: Continue to make sure that we can protect both and continue with economic development as well as environmental stewardship for our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor tonight to talk about many provisions that are currently moving their way through the House of Representatives and on our way to us. Obviously, our colleagues here are, I think, relieved that we have been able to give relief to the American people; that is, that we have been able to extend unemployment benefits and add bonuses to those unemployment benefits in the amount of 300 extra dollars per week, and we have been able to expand the COBRA tax credit programs to help people who have been unemployed and not been able to continue their insurance be able to continue health insurance. This is very important for laid-off workers in the State of Washington, like the aerospace workers.

We are very glad that we were able to give a stimulus check of \$600 per individual and \$1,200 for married couples; that we were able to get the PPP program that helps small businesses so that they can continue to try to make ends meet as we continue to work our way through this pandemic; and that we have been able to give \$9 billion to healthcare workers who are stretched so thin on these battle lines, who need every support that we can give them.

I want to talk about the rental assistance. We are at a point where, if we didn't act tonight, if we didn't act before we left here, many more people were going to be without homes. It is so important for us to have these provisions and programs like SNAP, the additional money for broadband, for healthcare, and for other things that are essential in helping to communicate during this pandemic for both healthcare and for education.

I also wanted to mention work that was done in tandem with this legislation, specifically on the affordable housing tax credit. The affordable housing tax credit was always important. Affordable housing was always important, but in a pandemic, in a COVID crisis, it becomes even more important. The affordable housing tax credit is something that Senator YOUNG and I worked on with Senator WYDEN and Senator Isakson, and we wanted to say that we needed to do more than what our current Tax Code could do in helping build more affordable housing.

The affordable housing tax credit has provisions that have been in law since 1986, but, actually, using the tax credits and how they worked have been a fluctuating rate, so the consequence is that the historic rate of what people could get to use the tax credit has changed, and this legislation will put a floor of 4 percent in to give investors a

bigger idea of what this investment can do for the market.

We believe that it will add, in the State of Washington, more housing that is needed immediately, more housing that is needed on the national basis, and help us stabilize things in the near term so that we can work on affordable housing and how we can put more incentives for people to build affordable housing.

People know affordable housing doesn't just get built. People don't just go out and say: I am going to build housing at this low rate.

The tax credit is a tax credit that helps people do it by giving those borrowers the ability to work with the tax credit. But the American people have been greatly impacted by so many trends—baby boomers reaching retirement age, not being able to save, people being pushed out of the last economic crisis into a rate of unaffordability. It really has been a dramatic increase.

According to the Hudson Institute, 60 percent of our affordable and low-cost housing was lost from the housing stock between 1985 and 2013. That is the housing that we had that was affordable. Basically, the time period ends, and they end up being swallowed up, like so many places in Puget Sound, into market-based rates. Literally, people are pushed out of their housing, and then there is no other affordable housing in the region.

These tax credits can help us build more affordable housing for the long run. Over the next decade, nearly 500,000 low-income housing tax credit unions and 655 other subsidized units will reach the end of their affordability period. Just like I was saying, they are going to get to a point where they are no longer in a protection of affordable housing, and the consequence is that growth and demand are pushing us even higher.

For example, seniors—10,000 baby boomers retire each day. That means that those low-income seniors, those woefully inadequate to pay for increasing housing costs, are going to be growing every single day and putting more demand on the system.

For veterans, nearly 2.5 million older veteran households—almost a quarter of men and women who helped protect our country—are cost-burdened. That means they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. The lack of affordable housing in our country has been a longstanding crisis, but the COVID crisis has made it much worse. One in five renters is behind on their rent, and the eviction moratorium expires in less than 2 weeks.

As I said, I am pleased that we are voting tonight, hopefully, on this legislation that includes a 1-month eviction moratorium and \$25 billion for rental assistance and that we will continue to work on these issues. And I am glad that we are working on the passage of not just the low-income housing tax credit fix of a 4-percent floor but also

that we will continue to work across the aisle on this legislation moving forward.

At a minimum, the 4 percent could increase affordable housing production by at least 130,000 affordable homes over the next decade. That is critically important—130,000 more affordable homes over the next decade. It could generate and help us with job growth—162,000 jobs and about \$18 billion in wages and impacts to the economy.

Building more affordable housing helps us solve lots of problems. We have an increase in demand, as I just articulated, and a COVID crisis. Investing in affordable housing is very good for us in helping our economy grow and putting a roof over people's heads.

I would also like to mention as part of the small business package, the Paycheck Protection package, a provision that was supported by so many of our colleagues to help make sure that we continue to get local news and information out to the public. People understand that local news has been threatened ever since the transition to an information age and has certainly been challenged by what I think are unfair practices by tech companies and the compensation for material and proper reimbursement on advertising.

The issue for us is that COVID has created an environment where we absolutely need to get the news, and we absolutely need to get the local news. It is imperative that we do what we can in this legislation to help small newspapers, small broadcasters, small radio stations that didn't previously get helped in the last COVID package so they can continue to communicate important local news to people throughout the United States.

I want to thank Senators SCHUMER, CARDIN, and, obviously, I want to thank specifically Senator BOOZMAN for working so hard on this legislation with me and introducing legislation. I want to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR, ERNST, and many of our other colleagues who signed on to that legislation, as well as our House colleagues, Representatives VELÁZQUEZ and CICILLINE and SENSENBRENNER, who also worked hard on getting this provision in, and Senators RUBIO and MCCONNELL for helping us in this process.

These provisions are important to help make sure that large public institutions, like the University of Washington and others, continue to also get information out to the public.

This news information and local information isn't going to go away with the help and support of this bill, but it may be a lifeline in helping us continue to make sure we have critical public health information available to the public at all times, and, hopefully, we will then go on to really understand what has happened to local news and information and do something in the future Congress to help fix the inequities that are existing today.

If I could, I also just mention quickly the issue about broadband. This legis-

lation that we are going to be voting on includes \$7 billion for more broadband priorities, \$1 billion for connectivity issues for Tribal country. I know, as the Presiding Officer knows, that Indian Country needs a lot of connectivity. So getting more broadband into those communities will be very helpful.

The COVID package also contains money, additional funding, that I know Senator WICKER and others worked on for telehealth. Telehealth is a critical path during the COVID crisis to make sure communities have the ability to get expert advice into our homes, into our communities, to connect people with information.

This telehealth grant is a very important program in the State of Washington. I think we probably got something like \$8 million previously from telehealth, and this will help us continue.

I am disappointed that we did not include priorities in here for the E-rate program to help close the homework gap. This is something Senator MARKEY and others worked on very hard, and it is very disappointing that we can't come to an agreement on something as important as E-rate. This legislation provides the ability for hotspots for people who may be going to college and not going to classes, but are in or around a university.

I think that is a good idea, but we were prohibited from doing the same thing for students at the K-12 level. One thing the pandemic has shown us is that students are at home and need to be able to connect to stay connected to their education schedule, to do their homework, and to be part of the education system. I hope that we will address this inequity in the bill in the future.

I am pleased that, working with Senator WICKER, we were able to include language that gives the Federal Trade Commission new authority to seek civil penalties for scams and deceptive practices related to the COVID pandemic. You probably think this is already something that was on the books, but in reality, the way the Federal Trade Commission has operated, they had to give a warning first, almost like a cease and desist. The next thing you know, the same practice would pop up over here, with somebody making a claim about how safe their product was or how this would stop COVID or something of that nature.

In my home State alone, the FTC reports that consumers have been scammed out of nearly \$5 million since the pandemic and the number is over \$200 million nationwide. These scams can range in everything from straightforward identity theft to making all sorts of accusations on people during the quarantine period.

I want to thank Senator WICKER for working with us on this important legislation. Now the FTC will be able to go after and find these people on first-

time offenses. I think this is so important to do to make sure that we are policing an environment where public health is so important.

I also want to thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for leading this effort on the other side of the Capitol.

I also want to talk about very important aviation legislation that we were able to include as part of the larger omnibus package that is moving through the House, as I said, tonight.

It is so important that we make safety a No. 1 priority in the United States. If we want to be No. 1 in aviation, we have to be No. 1 in aviation safety. Chairman WICKER and I worked with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to produce important legislation that improves the safety reforms needed at the FAA—the safety reforms of oversight of manufacturing and the certification process, and reforms that will help us here in Congress better stay on top of the information as far as the certification process.

This is so critical after the crash of the Lion Air 610 and Ethiopian Flight 302, both involving Boeing 737 Max aircrafts and the loss of 346 lives.

I can never say how painful this incident has been for those families. I can never say how much they have suffered in this horrific tragedy that has befallen them, but I know that these reforms are what are needed, and their help and support in passing this legislation has been critical.

I want to thank all of the families who helped us in communicating why the safety reforms are important, but I want to thank, particularly, Michael Stumo and his wife, Nadia Milleron, who lost their daughter Samya Stumo in the Ethiopian air crash, and to let them know that, even though we are putting a big down payment on safety reforms in the U.S. Congress by passing this legislation, this process does not stop with the passage of this legislation.

We need to continue to do more to improve aviation safety and to continue to act, even on a global basis, to be leaders—the United States leading the way on what aviation safety needs to be.

I also want to thank our staff: Doug Anderson, Ronce Almond, David Martin, Laurence Wildgoose, Jonathan Hale, Melissa Porter, and David Strickland for their work. And on the other side of the aisle: Mike Reynolds, James Mazol, Simone Perez, MaryAsa England, and John Keyes.

Many Members participated in the formation of this legislation. I want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH for her work with us on the NTSB recommendations and flight deck alert system, which were part of this package of bills to reform the FAA and the FAA process.

I want to thank Senator MORAN for his focus on helping us build those standards that we are talking about as far as the FAA going to ICAO and saying: These are the continued standards for improvement in aviation safety.

I want to thank Senator BLUNT for his leadership on the Air Grants Program, a very important program that we think will help build up the expertise and knowledge of very, very technical subject certification for people here throughout the process of oversight and legislating and the executive branch.

I want to thank Senators CRUZ and BLUMENTHAL for working on such critical elements in the legislation as to how the certification process itself works and what we needed to do to continue to bolster it.

Tonight, we are sitting one step closer to reforms that really will be meaningful. It will return the FAA to being in charge of what are the oversight members of manufacturers who are doing the work of the certification process. It is clear that the individuals who are part of this unit report to the FAA. They are supervised by the FAA. You can no longer have incentives at the FAA for expediting work. You, basically, now have a new whistleblower protection, thanks to my colleague Senator WICKER and his incredible work on this legislation. You have better accountability on misconduct. You create new safety reporting standards for the FAA employees.

We repeal authorities that would permit a certification by industry. That industry could continue to make recommendations about the certification process is something, in specific provisions, that are repealed here.

We also prohibit interference with FAA designees. That is, no one can try to influence a manager or someone directly involved in the certification of the process. We also tried to make sure the process itself worked better. And, again, many of my colleagues played critical roles in this.

On required safety system analysis on any plane coming through the process—whether it was new or a derivative—you still have to do a safety system analysis. You have to have regulations that are the most up-to-date as it relates to making sure you comply, as we said in this legislation, with the NTSB recommendations on flight crew alert systems and to mandate a safety management system for manufacturers. This is something that is long overdue. And in some instances, people said: Oh, the OMB and executive branch don't think we need to do these things. Oh, these things are cost prohibitive. These are regulations we don't need to put in place.

Trust me, having a safety management system is essential, and we should make sure that this is in place as this legislation requires within the next few years.

This legislation also requires disclosure of safety critical information. This was something, as I said, our colleagues, Senators BLUMENTHAL and CRUZ and many others, worked on as part of this legislation.

It also provides expert teams of panels. At the beginning of any kind of

certification process, the FAA will be assisted by the best experts in aviation, whether they come from NASA or the Air Force or outside individuals who understand the latest and greatest technology. Why do we have that? Because we know that we are in an era of unbelievable technological change in which now the human interface with technology is so critical. Whether you are going to be in driverless cars or whether you are in Amtrak with positive train control or you are in the flight deck of an airplane and the software that is working with it, we need to understand how people are going to respond to human factors.

We all get frustrated with our own computers and our own software, but we need to put safety first when it comes to a pilot interacting with that software in the cockpit of an airplane.

It also helps us make sure that the process for the certification appeals are strengthened and that we tighten the process. We need to listen to the engineers on the ground. The engineers are telling us what we need to do, and we need to listen to them. I hope that the leaders, both within manufacturing and the FAA, will do that.

As I mentioned, this legislation establishes a National Air Grant Program. Some of you can think of it here on Capitol Hill as similar to the Sea Grant Program, a program that was long-established to give us technical expertise on OSHA and maritime issues here in Congress. We want the same thing for aviation to exist.

It is too important of a sector and safety is too important to not have a technical skill set here that can stay on top and replace individuals as retirements happen throughout the aviation system.

It requires disclosures to Congress of post-crash assessments. If the FAA goes and investigates a crash, you have to notify Congress of that information. Why? We want to stay more on top of that information. It requires an identification of safety trends. I have no doubt that we are going to hear—when it comes back as these annual reports for the next several years—that this issue of human interaction in a technology cockpit is going to continue to be the largest safety trend issue, just as it is going to be in the automotive area and just as it is going to be in transportation.

Those are just some of the highlights of a very comprehensive safety reform legislation.

I want to thank my colleague Senator WICKER for his help, his leadership, his most recent report on whistleblower activity, and helping us get this legislation over the goal line.

I also, as I said, want to thank, again, those families. Our hearts and sympathies are still every day with you as you continue to face moving forward. We are not going to forget. We are going to continue to put safety as the biggest priority for us here in the U.S. Congress and continue to move

forward on a process that puts the individual engineers on the line responsible for safety to make sure everyone continues to listen to their directives and their recommendations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

REMEMBERING ALLAN WEBER

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise out of respect and in memory of Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber, who served his community faithfully over the last two decades.

Allan was born and raised on his family's farm near Park, KS, and he went on to marry Connie, his high school sweetheart. The couple has three children—Andrea, Brandon, and Cory. To those who know Allan, it was always clear that his family meant everything to him. His many grandchildren were his pride and joy.

In 1996, he ran for Gove County sheriff and served his community faithfully for over two decades since first elected. Gove County is out in Western Kansas. It is flat. It is the prairie. It is windy. It is hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It is farmers and ranchers. It is often a struggle to earn a living in Gove County. I know the county well. Despite those challenges, it is made up of people who work hard, care for each other, and try to make good lives for themselves and their families.

In rural areas like Gove County, the sheriff oftentimes wears multiple hats, and Sheriff Weber was no different. In addition to serving as sheriff, he was also the public information officer and the emergency operations center community liaison.

Kansans also never fail to step up to help their neighbors in hard times, and Allan did the same. After the tragic death of a neighboring county's sheriff, he stepped up to serve as the interim sheriff in Sheridan County, making him the first person ever to serve two counties as sheriff at the same time—a first in Kansas's history. He saw his brothers and sisters in blue as an extended part of his family, and he held them in the highest regard.

His colleague in law enforcement, Sheriff Tim Morse of Jackson County, which is on the other side of the State, wrote this:

Kansas has lost a great sheriff. Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber has spent the last couple of months fighting COVID-19 in a Denver hospital. Today, Sheriff Weber was escorted back to Gove County by Colorado and Kansas Highway Patrols along with countless Kansas Sheriffs and law enforcement officers for one last time . . . Sheriff Weber was an honorable man who was respected by all. He will be greatly missed.

He respected those in blue, and those in blue respected him.

He was a dedicated public servant both in his home community and at the State level. He served the Kansas Sheriffs' Association on its board and as its president. I talked to the Kansas Sheriffs' Association today, and they wanted me to recognize Sheriff Weber's

professionalism and his dedication and that he served as president of the Association for two consecutive terms, which is a rare circumstance and speaks to his effectiveness in the role and the admiration that his colleagues held for him.

His community also loved and respected him. They came together to welcome him home one last time with an honor parade down Highway 212, in Quinter, this past Saturday night, with hundreds of cars and people lined up to recognize his service and sacrifice over a lifetime.

Connie, his wife, said:

It was such a beautiful homecoming. I know he was bursting with pride and love. After the November election, when he woke up in the intensive care unit, I told him he was sheriff for the next 4 years, and he gave me a small smile and nodded his head. He loved the Gove County community's mind and was always ready to give the ultimate sacrifice if he had to. There were times that his heart broke doing his job, but he did what was right. He lived life day-to-day and enjoyed it and everyone. He worked hard and loved gently. He will be missed by many.

The outpouring of love, support, and shared memories on their Quinter Community Facebook page has been constant and speaks to the interconnectedness of a small community.

I should tell you that the population of Gove County is about 2,612, and the county seat of Gove has a population of 70. It is in places like Quinter, like Gove, and like Gove County where the sheriff is known by everyone, and the sheriff is interwoven into the life of the community and the county.

So many of his friends and family have remarked on Allan's contagious smile, how ornery he was, but, most importantly, as to the selfless way he served people. Those of us in public service ought to look to Allan as a role model in that selfless service of others. Sheriff Allan Weber embodied so many values in Kansas—faith, family, fellowship, service, and good old-fashioned hard work. He will be missed by many.

Robba and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family—both his loved ones, which includes one of my staff members, Chelsey Ladd, his cousin, and his brothers and sisters in blue.

May God bless Allan Weber. May we praise him for the life he lived, and may we look to him as a role model to try to do what he has done.

I offer my condolences and respect, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, to the family of Sheriff Allan Weber.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The Senator from Maine.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, later tonight, the Senate will vote on comprehensive legislation to fund the government throughout the remainder of fiscal year 2021 and to provide additional, long-overdue funding to address the ongoing emergency needs of our country during the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

I am proud to have helped lead a bipartisan, bicameral coalition that lit-

erally worked night and day to develop a commonsense plan that provided the foundation for this final agreement.

There are many important components of the package before us, including assistance for struggling families; additional funding for testing, vaccine distribution, and healthcare providers; resources to help our schools operate safely in a COVID environment; and aid for the Postal Service and for airlines, airports, mass transit, and motor coach companies that keep our country moving.

I come to the floor tonight, however, to focus on one aspect of the agreement, and that is the extension and expansion of the Paycheck Protection Program, better known as PPP.

As the Presiding Officer well knows, the PPP has been a critical lifeline for more than 5 million small employers, at one point helping to sustain the jobs of upwards of 50 million Americans. It was one of the most successful programs in the CARES Act. It was so successful that it went through the initial allotment of money in just 13 days, and then we had to pass additional legislation replenishing it.

In the State of Maine, the PPP has provided nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans to 28,000 small businesses—that is 3 out of 4 of the small businesses in my State—and has helped sustain more than 250,000 jobs.

In its original form, the program provided one-time loans sufficient to support 8 weeks of payroll, plus a limited amount to help cover certain overhead expenses. All of this was completely forgivable as long as the borrowers retained and paid their employees and kept within the other parameters of the program. Our whole purpose was to help our small businesses save jobs and pay their workers, keeping the employer-employee relationship alive so that they could reopen and Americans could quickly return to work when the pandemic subsided.

When Chairman MARCO RUBIO and I, together with Senators BEN CARDIN and JEANNE SHAHEEN, put the PPP together at the onset of the national emergency, none of us could have imagined that the pandemic would still be forcing shutdowns and curtailing operations and that extreme mitigation measures would be necessary these many months later. Yet, sadly, the virus is still spreading, and many of the steps taken to fight it, although they may be necessary to protect public health, threaten catastrophic damage to many of our small businesses and their employees—small businesses that have now spent their PPP loan funds but are still unable to return to normal operations.

I talked with a restaurant owner in Bangor, ME, where I live, who told me that he, because of the size of his restaurant and to comply with the public health spacing and social distancing guidelines, can only have four tables a night. Because the Governor of Maine has imposed a 9 p.m. curfew, he can't turn over those tables to compensate

for the reduced number of people he can serve at one time. It is so tough, and I could hear the pain in his voice when he talked about having to lay off some of his longstanding staff in order to just stay alive.

That is why the \$284.5 billion provided in this bill to extend and expand the PPP is so vital. The program improvements in this bill are the result of months of work on the part of Chairman RUBIO, Ranking Member CARDIN, Senator SHAHEEN, and myself. I am pleased to see that so much of the Continuing the Paycheck Protection Program Act that Chairman RUBIO and I introduced this fall is reflected in this final bill.

The final bill also reflects the very hard work that our bipartisan, bicameral coalition put into assistance to small business. Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN and I had countless meetings, Zooms, and phone calls to work out the details in conjunction with the rest of the members of our group.

I would like to take a moment to outline a few of the key features that are included in this package.

First, the bill will allow the hardest hit small businesses to receive a second forgivable PPP loan. To ensure that assistance is targeted to those most in need, eligibility for these second loans is generally limited to small businesses with 300 or fewer employees that have seen their gross revenues drop by 25 percent in some quarter this year compared to an identical quarter in 2019.

Second, recognizing the severe impact that the COVID-19 mitigation measures have had on our restaurants and hotels, the bill maintains the general terms for the loans for these entities but with an important enhancement. The maximum forgivable loan size for hotels and restaurants is increased to 3.5 times their average monthly payroll costs compared to 2.5 times for other borrowers. This increase in the loan amount will be so critical to the very survival of businesses like Simones' Hot Dog Stand and Restaurant in Lewiston, ME, and the Angler's Family Seafood Restaurant, which has locations in Hampden, Searsport, and Newport. These small businesses all received forgivable PPP loans during the first round, but, faced with continuing dining restrictions and a long, cold winter, they are really worried about their survival and about being able to retain and pay their valued employees.

Third, forgivable expenses under the program are expanded in very commonsense ways. Supplier costs and investments in facility modifications and personal protective equipment needed to operate safely during the pandemic will now be part of the forgivable overhead expenses. This is especially important to restaurants struggling to adapt dining restrictions or to get a high-quality food supply because, through no fault of their own, they have fallen behind on their bills.

Fourth, the bill extends the PPP to small 501(c)(6) organizations that are

not lobbying groups and that have 300 or fewer employees, such as local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.

Fifth—and I want to give credit to our colleague Senator CRAMER for this concept—the bill greatly simplifies the loan forgiveness process for small borrowers with loans of no more than \$150,000 and directs the Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department to develop a simplified loan forgiveness form for these borrowers. I remember when the first form came out and it was 14 pages long and so complicated that you would need an advanced degree in economics or a CPA to help you figure it out, even if you had a very small loan.

The bill, to guard against fraud and abuse, also provides the SBA with \$50 million in additional audit funding.

Finally, the bill sets aside funding for smaller businesses and borrowers in underserved communities to ensure that they get the help they need through, for example, CDFIs and minority business associations and depository institutions. It also includes \$25 million for the Minority Business Development Agency.

Mr. President, the Paycheck Protection Program is the result of a bipartisan commitment to support our small businesses and their employees, to keep them afloat, the businesses afloat, and the employees paid during this pandemic. It has been by any measure a tremendous success, but many of these hardest hit small businesses require more help now in order to survive, and this bill aims to provide that help.

Before I close, I want to talk briefly about another provision of the bill, and that is the grant assistance provided for live venues, museums, and movie theaters. Let me make clear that I support funding for our community-based live venues. I know they have really been hurt. They have had to cancel their seasons. They have lost all their ticket revenues. They are in real danger.

I have enjoyed these throughout Maine, like the Ogunquit Playhouse and the Center Theater for the Performing Arts in Dover-Foxcroft. They are the heart and soul of our smaller communities.

I was disappointed to see that the final bill had stripped provisions from our bipartisan, bicameral group that we included in our package to try to keep the focus of these grants on these smaller entities. Specifically, our proposal would have limited the grant amounts that related entities could receive to no more than \$10 million and excluded museums with endowments larger than \$75 million—commonsense safeguards. Now, I do appreciate that the legislation sets aside \$2 billion for entities with 50 employees or fewer, but I am concerned that, as drafted, many venues and museums with significant endowments and other resources could be the largest bene-

ficiaries of this section because of the safeguards that were stripped out by the negotiators.

For example, a museum in New York City, say, with a billion-dollar endowment could receive an outright grant as long as the museum has an auditorium and meets the other eligibility requirements. That surely does not seem like an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars to me and was clearly designed to help large city venues that will survive without our help.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to support this package. This COVID relief is vitally needed for our struggling families, for our hard-hit small businesses, for our challenged schools, for our stressed healthcare system, to promote the distribution of the vaccine and more testing, and to help our overwhelmed Postal Service. I urge support for the package.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

YEAR-END ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, with the Senate poised to complete some major business for the country and wrap up a most unusual year, I want to express some gratitude to the men and women behind the scenes who make our work possible.

Passing a historic rescue package and a full-year funding bill would be a serious undertaking even in ordinary circumstances. And, of course, this pandemic year has brought anything but ordinary circumstances to the Senate, just like everywhere else.

For about 10 months and counting, COVID-19 has imposed new challenges on hundreds of people who are already plenty busy enough.

After much of the Senate worked remotely in April, we came back to work in early May—like the essential institution that we are. Month after month, we have taken smart and careful precautions and remained an exemplary safe workplace. All along, we have not just continued to govern but completed landmark confirmations and historic legislation for the American people. None of this would have been possible without many people beyond the 100 of us with our names on these desks.

I want to thank the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, led by Julie Adams and Mary Suit Jones. This team encompasses everyone from the talented professionals who sit on the dais to the Official Reporters of Debate, to Disbursing and many other offices.

Thanks to our Parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough, who faithfully calls the balls and strikes. She won the admiration of our temporary presider, Chief Justice Roberts, before we reclaimed her as the Senate's own.

Thanks also to Senate Sergeant At Arms—Mike Stenger and Jennifer

Hemingway and their whole team, from the doorkeepers to the IT team that stood up enormous telework capabilities almost overnight, to the workers who clean offices, move furniture, and keep this place running in hundreds of ways.

Our Architect of the Capitol, Brett Blanton, assumed his role just before the pandemic hit. He never missed a beat. His team tackled cleaning in a way that exceeded industry standards, reconceived the food services, and, again, physically kept the Capitol functioning.

Of course, very special thanks are due to our Attending Physician, Dr. Brian Monahan, and the entire team he leads. Believe me, they already had a full-time job caring for Members of Congress and the Supreme Court. We have leaned on Dr. Monahan in countless ways all year long. His expertise and wise counsel have been a credit to the Senate throughout the pandemic.

Here in the Chamber, I want to thank our cloakroom teams, led by Gary Myrick on the Democratic side and Robert Duncan on ours. Duncan had only just stepped into his current role when the crisis began to unfold. He navigated about 10 years' worth of big challenges in his first 10 months in the top job. Thanks to him and his capable deputy, Chris Tuck.

Another key group these past months has been our Rules Committee, led by Chairman BLUNT and his staff director, Fitzhugh Elder. The committee has run point on coordinating many of the changes and adaptations that have helped keep this body safe. They have done an outstanding job without enough recognition or thanks.

We are grateful to the men and women of the Capitol Police, led by Chief Steven Sund, who have stood their posts even when most of the rest of us have worked remotely. They have stood strong during this pandemic, during protests both peaceful and otherwise, and during the other daily operations that they handle with courage and professionalism.

Across the board, I want to thank all of our Senate staff. Both the smaller footprint who have continued physically working at the Capitol and those who kept up their hard work remotely have confronted all kinds of novel challenges. Our institution and our country are grateful to you all.

Last but not least, I want to thank my own team. My personal office, led by departing chief of staff Phil Maxson, has fought every day for Kentuckians' needs and priorities throughout this crisis. Our State offices, steered by Terry Carmack, kept us connected to our constituents in new ways. My communications director, Robert, Steurer, and all their colleagues who staff these operations are invaluable to me and to Kentucky.

Here in the Capitol, my leadership staff has given an incredible amount of themselves to me, to our team, and to the Senate the entire year.

Remember, this is somehow still the same calendar year that began with an impeachment trial, continued through the CARES Act, other major legislation over the summer, a Supreme Court vacancy and confirmation this fall, and finally the all-out legislative sprint since Thanksgiving.

First, my two deputy chiefs of staff. Stef Muchow runs our operations in an incredibly historically complex time to handle operations. She has worn about 10 different hats all year long—as usual. Scott Raab handles policy. He has led his colleagues through a legislative year like no other, from mammoth negotiations and historic rescue packages to our most particular priorities and everything in between. We have all leaned on Scott heavily, and he has been indispensable.

Beneath them, within our operation, are a lot of talented folks I am lucky to have. I want to name them very briefly.

My chief counsel, Andrew Ferguson, offers brilliant advice, from impeachment to policy to the judiciary.

Robert Kareem, my defense policy expert, has brought critical institutional leadership as 2020 tested everything from national security to continuity of government.

Jane Lee handles her massive portfolio—and more besides—with incredible effectiveness and calm under fire, and she sings the best Christmas carols in the office.

Terry Van Doren is a policy master who delivers for Kentucky and the country every time.

Erica Suarez and Jim Neill are expert liaisons and advisers who keep me connected inside the Senate and beyond.

Steve Donaldson has been my point man for all things election law during this election year.

John Chapuis is a seasoned Senate veteran who picked quite the time to join our team and cover economic policy.

Jody Wright fights to get good people in good positions with good cheer.

Andy Quinn is a master of words and ideas.

David Popp heads my press team. He, Doug Andres, Scott Sloofman, and their whole operation keep my message and the Republican conference's message front and center.

Sarah Steinberg manages my days, and Alex Jenkins manages my office—both with great humor and even greater professionalism.

Moon Sulfab keeps our technology systems running and our spirits high.

I have to mention our healthcare expert Jen Kuskowski, who worked remotely this spring while expecting her baby boy and has been cheering us on while on maternity leave. We can't wait to get her back.

Thanks to Grace Graham and Peter Oppenheim, whom Senator ALEXANDER generously shared from his HELP Committee staff to help us in Jen's absence.

Rounding out our leadership team are crack researchers Robert Utsey and

David Hauptmann; skilled communicators Dylan Vorbach, Valerie Chicola, Suzanne Youngblood, Emily Hauck, and Katherine Grayson.

Our frontline troops, the jacks-of-all-trades who keep everybody in line, are Victoria Mason, Elise Stebick, and Spencer Abraham.

Finally, at the head of this entire team is our fearless leader, our chief of staff, Sharon Soderstrom. Everybody on Capitol Hill and everybody in Washington knows that Sharon is one of the smartest, most dedicated, and most effective staff leaders working at any level in any branch of government. She is my first call and my last call on every subject. She was in the leader's office before I was. She supported both Trent Lott and Bill Frist. So I count my blessings on a daily basis that I am lucky No. 3. Sharon bears the weight of the world on her shoulders and not only delivers but somehow prioritizes lightening everybody else's load while she is at it—a walking master class in leadership.

I am proud of all that we have accomplished for the country in this challenging year, and I couldn't be gladder to be heading into 2021 with these talented professionals at my side. So I thank them, Mr. President. I thank them, one and all.

VOTE ON SOSKIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Soskin nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoehn	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Booker	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Casey

Coons	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Shaheen
Duckworth	Manchin	Sinema
Durbin	Markey	Smith
Feinstein	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Tester
Hassan	Murphy	Udall
Heinrich	Murray	Van Hollen
Hirono	Peters	Warner
Jones	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Rosen	Whitehouse
Kelly	Sanders	Wyden
King	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—5

Enzi	Loeffler	Rounds
Harris	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message from the House:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 133) entitled "An Act to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico," with an amendment to the Senate amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that there be 60 minutes of debate, equally divided between the leaders or their designees; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to concur without further motions or amendments in order and that 60 affirmative votes be required to adopt the motion to concur.

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

The Senator from North Dakota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. HOEVEN. North Dakota is an energy powerhouse, and our late-night producers work around the clock to ensure homes and businesses in the Midwest have affordable and reliable access to power when it is needed most. But the PTC, the wind production tax credit, is creating artificially low prices in markets for power generation.

Qualified wind projects are receiving up to 2½ cents per kilowatt hour from the taxpayer. These subsidies distort the market and are forcing out the critical coal-fired baseload generation we need to keep the lights on.

Since Congress established a wind production tax credit in 1992, wind power has been able to transition from an emerging technology to a multibillion-dollar industry that is clearly commercially viable. That is why we worked on a bipartisan agreement in 2015 to phase down and sunset the wind tax credit at the end of 2019.

We had an agreement to do the phaseout, and the wind industry agreed to it. I worked with Senator THUNE and AWEA, the American Wind Energy Association, and others to do it. And they agreed. We had an agreement. That is why we are opposed to extending the PTC and offer an amendment to strike it.

We saw what happened in California over the summer, and we can't afford to have blackouts and brownouts during the coldest of winter weather months. We, instead, must strengthen grid resiliency and reliability by keeping diverse sources of generation available at all times, including when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining. That means baseload.

Instead of extending the production tax credit, we should be working on making technologies like carbon capture and sequestration commercially viable.

The American Wind Energy Association states on its website that "growth in the wind industry is expected to remain strong when the PTC is fully phased out." Why, then, are we considering another extension of this credit when the leading trade association expects to see strong growth for the wind industry without the credit?

We need to bring back a level playing field for competition in our electricity markets and reverse the trend of taxpayers continuing to subsidize a mature, multibillion-dollar wind industry.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and ensure that the wind production tax credit sunsets.

With that, I would like to ask for some words from my cosponsor on the amendment, Senator CRAMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague Senator HOEVEN in offering this amendment and urging our colleagues to support the amendment to strip the wind protection tax credit from this massive bill.

I feel like I am living in an episode of the "Twilight Zone," and I wish I could say that I am surprised. But I am not, because here we go again. Despite numerous requests and appeals and deals with the leader and the chairman of the Finance Committee to not jam this body with a 13th extension of the wind protection tax credit, here we are with another one in front of us.

Since the credit's inception in 1992—and for a lot of those years I was a util-

ity regulator—it has always been promised that it would be temporary and would expire. Last year, we got jammed at the last minute with another extension, and, rightfully, the people back home are really, really upset with us. And it didn't sit very well with me either.

That is why, in April of this year, I led a letter to Leader MCCONNELL with colleagues from West Virginia, Wyoming, and Georgia saying it was time to finally level the playing field and get rid of this market-distorting atrocity.

In July, I led another letter to Chairman GRASSLEY with even more colleagues—from West Virginia, Wyoming, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania—with the same message: Let this credit expire.

Yet here we are again. The requests have fallen on deaf ears, and we have simply been given another pill to swallow with the extension today.

Some in this town have pointed to an extension in carbon sequestration credits like 45Q and 48A, as if they were an equal trade. They are not. Despite years of pleading, the Treasury Department—yes, this Treasury Department—still has not finalized regulations. So an extension of 45Q is moot if there is no way to actually monetize the credit.

Of equal importance, financial investors have said if renewable credits are extended, they will absorb whatever tax appetite exists because they are predictable, and those deals have been done many times.

Just to reiterate, they can't even utilize 45Q because Treasury hasn't finished the regulations 3 years after Congress expanded the credit.

More to the point, while there are some great proposed carbon sequestration projects planned in North Dakota, their benefit is targeted, while in contrast, hundreds of miners and the local communities they have built are being hurt by the extension of the production tax credit. I strongly support carbon sequester projects, but to assume that the potential benefits of 45Q or 48A are equal to the unilateral harm of the wind credit is disingenuous at best.

I have heard from utilities who actually use the wind PTC, but they said they don't need it because the market is so awash with wind credits, they can't even monetize them. It is completely upside down. In fact, the PTC credits are actually taking money away from other clean energy projects like nuclear clean coal, taking emissions-free energy right off the grid.

Just a few days ago, POLITICO said this: The simplest option for tax extenders would be to let all 33 that are scheduled to expire at the end of the year to be renewed.

I have a simpler plan. Let them all expire. K Street wouldn't like it, but it would be one less section in this giant package.

One final point, in all of my time in Congress—and that has been 8 years

now—the wind production tax credit has never been extended through regular order or an open discussion or even hearings. Despite our objections or promises from the wind industry that it should expire, in the 11th hour with the government shutdown looming, it gets dropped into the Members' laps. That alone should be a red flag that the only time it has enough chance to pass is when it rides the coattails of our national defense and the government operations. It is shameful.

I support the amendment from Senator HOEVEN, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well. Let the wind PTC expire.

I yield my time.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague Senator CRAMER and turn to my colleague Senator LANKFORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I will be brief. I did what many of us did today. We spent the day digging through a 5,600-page bill, trying to find out what is in it. We broke it up into hundreds of pages of chunks and separated it among our staff and just started reading through it as quickly as we could, trying to be able to pull out the details.

We found a lot of things that we really like. We found a few surprises as well. So help us, we found, right in the middle of the document on tax policy, a zombie—the wind production tax credit. Something that we had heard had died—in fact, something that we had heard died 2 years ago; in fact, something that we had heard died 6 years ago when all of us agreed it should die. In fact, the plan was to take it down a little bit each and every year until it finally got to zero. The problem was, when it got to zero, some lobbyist helped somebody get it back in last year, and it suddenly, after going to zero, reappeared. And then, so help me, it reappeared again.

So this temporary credit that distorts the market, that literally changes the prices in all of our energy—whether that be oil or gas or coal or solar or hydroelectric or nuclear—gives a special perk to one, and all of the rest of them get furious. But for whatever reason, this simple credit can't seem to go away.

When we agree to something, we should probably stick to it, and we agreed years ago to phase this out. But yet this zombie keeps reappearing and walking the halls of the Senate.

Our simple challenge is this. Let's put this zombie in the daylight. Let's have the real argument over it and determine: Is this distorting the energy market for everybody else, including all of our renewables? Is it something we need to keep?

I live in Oklahoma, and if you know our song, you know "the wind comes sweeping down the plains." We have been called the Saudi Arabia of wind power. I promise, you can't drive very

far in Oklahoma without seeing a field of windmills. We have lots of wind power, and we think it is a great energy source. But it is a mature energy source, and it does not need the wind production tax credit. So let's sunset it.

With that, I yield.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague Senator LANKFORD. Also, we would like to thank Senator ALEXANDER, Senator BARRASSO, and others who support this legislation.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that our motion to concur with the amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, I will be brief. I want to give the Senate a sense of where we are with respect to this issue. In front of us right now is a bipartisan agreement to extend a variety of provisions to promote clean energy and reduce carbon emissions.

When I talk to colleagues on both sides of the aisle, there is enormous support for the effort to reduce carbon emissions. Now, I can look around this Chamber and point out colleagues who have worked with me on the renewable energy provisions that are part of this bipartisan agreement, which includes not just the credit for wind but also solar and other renewable energy. I would submit this is the best approach we have today, which is to make sure that we don't miss out on critical investments right now.

For the future, I have a plan to move to a technology-neutral system that would avoid picking winners and losers, take this mess of a Tax Code, with more than 40 separate energy provisions, throw it in the trash, and say we are going to focus on one thing—reducing carbon emissions. We aren't there today. What is here today is climate change. That is why it is so important that we pass this bill and reject this amendment.

With that, I want to thank my colleagues from North Dakota. I remember enjoying going to North Dakota with the sponsor of this amendment. I will tell you, if you are over 6 feet tall, make sure to exercise before you go to North Dakota because you will be in the smallest airline seat in the history of aviation.

JOHN HOEVEN is a very good and caring man. I am looking forward to working with him on these issues in the future.

And with that, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would ask my colleague from Oregon—and I did have

him in North Dakota. We had a great time, and I appreciate his coming out to see the energy we produce in our great State.

I would ask the gentleman for his help on carbon capture technologies. We put funding in place to advance those carbon capture technologies, and I ask for his help and his colleagues' help in that endeavor.

Mr. WYDEN. I would say to my colleague, I am always interested in working with him in the future. After we pass this bill, with these important provisions to meet our immediate needs, let's set as our lodestar reducing carbon emissions.

When you and I served on the Energy Committee together, that was an approach that brought together Republicans and Democrats.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank my cosponsors on this amendment and our efforts will continue.

I yield the floor.

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

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

PURPLE BOOK CONTINUITY ACT OF 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 1520.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of Senate to the bill (H.R. 1520) entitled "An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment to the Senate amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment, and I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1520

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 128, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 128) directing the clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 128) was agreed to.

UNITED STATES—MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT—Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague, Finance Committee Ranking Member WYDEN, to discuss a tax provision included in the omnibus appropriations bill currently before the Senate. The tax title in this bill contains important clarifications to, and expansions of, the Employee Retention Tax Credit established under section 2301 of the CARES Act. This credit has provided vital payroll support to struggling businesses in Iowa and across the country. The enhancements included in this bill are necessary to help more employers access the credit. Importantly, the bill clarifies that businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans, or PPP, are still eligible for the credit based on other wages and benefits paid. Does Member WYDEN agree that our intent is to allow struggling small businesses to access the retention credit, even if they have received a PPP loan?

Mr. WYDEN. That is correct. COVID-19 has shuttered small businesses across the Country. This is especially true in Oregon, where small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Ensuring businesses can access relief from both the Paycheck Protection Program and the Employee Retention Tax Credit is critical. The legislation before us today would allow businesses who took out a PPP loan to access the retention credit in two instances. First, those businesses that have had or will have their loan forgiven can claim the credit for any wages that were not paid for

with PPP loan proceeds. Second, a business that does not have its PPP loan forgiven can claim the credit for any wages. As this change will be retroactive, does the Chairman agree that it is equally as critical that these small businesses are able to quickly and easily claim these past credits they will now be eligible for?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes. That is why we are allowing these businesses, both those with forgiven loans and those without, to claim credits for wages paid in previous quarters that this bill makes eligible for the credit on their fourth quarter 2020 payroll tax filings. This will prevent small businesses from having to amend their previously filed payroll tax returns, easing the paperwork burden for both taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service. I know Ranking Member WYDEN will join me in urging the IRS to do all they can to simplify and expedite the process for eligible businesses retroactively claiming the retention credit. The last thing these businesses need right now is additional, complex payroll tax filings.

I thank the ranking member for engaging in this colloquy to discuss this important issue and the clarification included in the pending appropriations bill.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to enter remarks regarding the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which I will refer to as the 2021 Approps Act.

Specifically, my remarks are about sections 1001 through 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act. I was the sponsor and principal drafter of these sections. I also negotiated the final legislative text of these sections with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, including Democratic Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER.

These sections relate to the Federal Reserve's temporary emergency lending facilities under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act that are creatures of the CARES Act P.L. 116-136. These facilities were established in response to the extreme turmoil in the credit markets caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. They were made possible by \$500 billion in funding and authority provided by the CARES Act. As a result, these facilities are often referred to as the CARES Act facilities, which is how I will refer to them.

The CARES Act facilities are the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility, the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility, the Municipal Liquidity Facility, the Main Street Lending Program, and the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF). The CARES Act required and Congress intended the CARES Act facilities to cease operations by December 31, 2020.

I was one of the two Republican Senators involved in drafting the CARES Act provisions that provided the funding and authority for the CAREES Act facilities. During the last 2 days—December 19, 2020 and December 20, 2020—

I have spoken at length on the Senate floor about the creation, intended purpose, and success of these facilities, as well as the impact of sections 1001 through 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act on these facilities and the reasons for enacting these sections. As a result, I will not repeat those remarks now.

Today, I would like to focus on the impact of one particular section of the 2021 Approps Act: section 1005. But let me first remind my colleagues of what sections 1001 through 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act do. Collectively, these sections rescind more than \$429 billion of unused money out of the CARES Act facilities and use that money for other important purposes; definitively end the CARES Act facilities by December 31, 2020, as Congress intended and the CARES Act requires; forbid the CARES Act facilities from being restarted; and prevent the CARES Act facilities from being replicated without congressional approval.

Specifically, section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act prevents the creation of any Federal Reserve emergency lending facility established under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act that is "the same as" any CARES Act facility. Because an earlier version of TALF was established in 2008 prior to the CARES Act, section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act specifically allows TALF—but only TALF—to be replicated in the future without congressional approval. Under section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act, all of the other CARES Act facilities—the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility, the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility, the Municipal Liquidity Facility, and the Main Street Lending Program—cannot be replicated in the future without congressional approval.

So what does it mean for a new facility to be "the same as" a CARES Act facility? That question can easily be answered by looking at the purpose of the CARES Act facilities. The purpose of each CARES Act facility is identified in its term sheet.

Let's walk through them. The purpose of the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility was to lend directly to corporations by purchasing bonds or syndicated loans from them at issuance. The purpose of the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility was to purchase corporate bonds and corporate bond Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in the secondary market. The purpose of the Municipal Liquidity Facility was to lend directly to states and municipalities by purchasing their municipal bonds from them at issuance. The purpose of the Main Street Lending Program was to extend credit directly to small or medium sized businesses, including nonprofit organizations.

These purposes are clear and are what define each of the CARES Act facilities. A future lending facility that had the same purpose as a CARES Act facility would be the "same as" as CARES Act facility and therefore could

not be created without congressional approval. The Treasury and the Federal Reserve would need to come to Congress for approval, just as they did at the time of the creation of the CARES Act facilities.

Unfortunately, I have seen some uninformed reporters and outside commentators incorrectly assert that section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act only prevents the creation of new lending facilities if the facilities are “identical to” or “exactly the same as” the CARES Act facilities. That is manifestly not true. Section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act does not say that, nor was that the intent of Congress. I should know because unlike these reporters and commentators I drafted and negotiated the final text of section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act with my Democratic colleagues, including Minority Leader SCHUMER.

During the course of our negotiations, Democrats actually proposed that we use the phrase “identical to” in section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act. I specifically rejected this proposal because “identical to” is far too limited in scope. If section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act had used the word “identical to” than that would mean only a new facility that is identical to a CARES Act facility in every way would be prohibited. That would defeat the entire purpose of section 1005.

It would have allowed the Treasury and the Federal Reserve to essentially restart the CARES Act facilities, which section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act separately prohibits them from restarting, by simply tinkering with their terms and launching them under a new name. For example, the terms of the Municipal Liquidity Facility only allow it to purchase bonds directly from and state and municipal issuers that have a maturity of up to 3 years. If a new facility was the same in every way as the Municipal Liquidity Facility with the exception that it could purchase bonds with maturities up to 10 years, rather than up to 3 years, than it would not be “identical to” the Municipal Liquidity Facility and therefore could be created. However, such a facility would be the same as the current Municipal Liquidity Facility because it is lending directly to States and municipalities.

My Republican colleagues and I did not want to permit for such a loophole in the law. That is why I specifically rejected my Democratic colleagues’ proposal that we use the phrase “identical to” any CARES Act facility. In our negotiations, I told him that we did not want the Treasury and Federal Reserve to replicate the CARES Act facilities by tinkering with their terms and then launching them under different names. Ultimately, my Democratic colleagues conceded on this point and agreed to compromise by using the broader phrase “the same as” instead.

So where does that leave us? Section 1005 of the 2021 Approps Act prevents a

new Federal Reserve emergency lending facility from being established under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act without congressional approval, if the facility has the same purpose as a CARES Act facility. The CARES Act facilities were unprecedented facilities that the Treasury, with the support of the Federal Reserve, requested that Congress make possible. Congress did so through the CARES Act. These facilities required legislation in March 2020 and the same types of facilities would require legislation in the future if the Treasury and the Federal Reserve believed they needed to engage in such bond purchasing and direct lending again.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Virginia, the vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, for his work on the Intelligence Authorization Act, which is now part of the omnibus appropriations bill. I wish to address a few provisions that have been removed or modified.

First, the IAA, as reported by the Senate Intelligence Committee in June, included a provision requiring the DNI to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees on the implementation of Presidential Policy Directive 28. That report covers the classified annex referenced in section 3 of PPD-28.

This report is extremely important. It will allow the committees to conduct oversight of signals intelligence collection conducted pursuant to Executive Order 12333. It will also provide the committee the ability to understand how the government interprets and implements PPD-28, which has broad legal, policy, and diplomatic implications. In response to the outrage from our European allies regarding U.S. signals intelligence operations revealed by Edward Snowden, President Obama issued PPD-28 in January 2014. PPD-28 covers topics that are directly relevant to both Americans and foreigners, such as bulk collection. The directive, and its classified annex in particular, is designed to evaluate the benefits and risks of signals intelligence operations. It was intended to reassure our allies about the scope of U.S. signals intelligence collection and to serve as a cornerstone for data-sharing agreements, which are still ongoing. Unlike FISA collection, however, there is no judicial oversight of collection conducted pursuant to EO 12333 and governed by PPD-28. For all these reasons, therefore, it is absolutely critical that there be serious congressional oversight of PPD-28.

The PPD-28 reporting requirement was not merely part of the IAA reported by the committee. It was in the version of the IAA that was attached to the National Defense Authorization Act that passed the full Senate in July. That version was never passed into law, however, because the IAA fell off the NDAA, which is why the IAA is now part of the omnibus appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, during the negotiations leading up to this bill, the House Intelligence Committee minority insisted that this bipartisan, Senate-passed provision be modified so that the portion of the report on the classified annex of PPD-28 is submitted to the chairmen and ranking minority members of the congressional intelligence committee. To the extent this language could be misinterpreted to limit access by the full committees, it is unacceptable and unprecedented. Congress should not be in the position of passing legislation that could be seen as limiting its ability to fulfill its own oversight responsibilities.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator from Oregon. I agree that the report required by the IAA on PPD-28 is critically important and central to the committee’s oversight responsibilities. I share the Senator’s dismay that this provision was modified in this way and through what I consider to be an unfortunate conference process that should not be repeated. More generally, I oppose legislation that would purport to restrict full committee access and impede the critical oversight provided by the full committee.

This provision, as modified, states that the DNI will submit the report to the chairman and vice chairman. It does not, however, preclude its provision to the other members of the committee. As vice chairman of the committee, it is my intent to push for the full committee to get this report. It is also my intent to seek to amend this language so that it is not misinterpreted to limit full committee access.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank the Senator from Virginia. On another topic, the vice chairman and I worked together to include in the IAA a number of critically important provisions protecting whistleblowers. Again, at the insistence of the House Intelligence Committee minority, those provisions were taken out. The latest was the removal of a provision that would help whistleblowers whose security clearances have been revoked as a form of reprisal. Those provisions need to be passed into law.

Mr. WARNER. I agree. I strongly supported each of the five whistleblower protection provisions in the IAA. It is my intent to keep fighting for them so that they are on next year’s IAA and are passed into law.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my friends from Oregon and Virginia for their hard work on the Senate Intelligence Committee. I agree with them that oversight by the full Senate Intelligence Committee on these and other intelligence matters is at the core of the Senate’s constitutional responsibilities. I, too, agree that the language should not be interpreted to limit that full committee oversight. I also strongly agree with the Senators’ views on the critical importance of protecting whistleblowers. The abuses of the outgoing administration have illustrated the urgent need for these legislative protections.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, Senator CARPER, ranking member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator JOHN KENNEDY, and I, as chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, are the principal Senate authors of section 103 in Division S of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021—the American Innovation and Manufacturing, “AIM”, Act of 2020, hereinafter “section 103”. This bipartisan legislation will phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs, which are potent greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. As authors, we submit these comments to provide the Senate with additional information regarding the development of section 103.

Section 103 establishes a new, national program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to phase down the production and consumption of certain HFC substances. Section 103 vests EPA with authority to phase down the production and consumption of these substances in a comprehensive manner. It is designed to provide regulatory certainty. Specifically, section 103 requires EPA to implement an 85 percent phase down of the production and consumption of regulated HFC substances, so those levels reach approximately 15 percent of their 2011–2013 average annual levels by 2036. Importantly, this section includes provisions to safeguard consumers and American manufacturers from cost increases during the phase down while still adhering to the phase down timetable in subsection (e)(2)(C).

The text of section 103 reflects bipartisan, necessary improvements to the original, introduced text in the Senate. On March 4, 2020, Senator KENNEDY filed amendment No. 1504 to S. 2657, which was identical to stand-alone legislation, S. 2754, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2019. Ranking Member CARPER of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Committee, EPW, cosponsored amendment No. 1504 and S. 2754. EPW Chairman BARRASSO opposed amendment No. 1504 and S. 2754 as introduced, hereinafter “introduced legislation”.

On March 25, 2020, Chairman BARRASSO and Ranking Member CARPER began an electronic information-gathering process on S. 2754 by EPW to solicit the views of stakeholders. This process allowed EPW to hear safely from many stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The extensive information-gathering process generated filings from a range of industries, States, interest groups, and individuals.

We relied on the valuable information gained through that process to improve the introduced legislation and to reach collective agreement on amended text. This agreement was filed as amendment No. 2655 to S. 2657 on September 10, 2020. Section 103 closely resembles the text of amendment No. 2655.

Our agreed-upon changes to the introduced legislation have focused in a few key areas identified by Chairman BARRASSO. The first key area is “essential uses” of regulated HFC substances. The introduced legislation offered immediate relief for some special circumstances, including feedstocks and process agents. For example, in a provision that has been present in all versions of the legislation, subsection (e)(4)(A) assures there are no regulatory requirements for “a regulated substance that is used and entirely consumed (except for trace quantities) in the manufacture of another chemical.” Where trace quantities of an HFC regulated substance, including impurities or unreacted feedstock chemical, remain through transformation of a regulated HFC substance into another product, that activity is covered by the exemption as soon as the Act is enacted into law.

The introduced legislation did not provide immediate protection for essential uses. Subsection (e)(4)(B) now provides that relief for essential uses. Congress has identified six essential uses in subsection (e)(4)(B)(iv) that are designated by law as essential uses upon enactment: No. 1, propellant in metered dose inhalers; No. 2, defense sprays; No. 3, structural composite preformed polyurethane foam for marine use and trailer use; No. 4, the etching of semiconductor material or wafers and the cleaning of chemical vapor deposition chambers within the semiconductor manufacturing sector; No. 5, mission-critical military end uses, such as armored vehicle engine and shipboard fire suppression systems and systems used in deployable and expeditionary applications; and No. 6, on-board aerospace fire suppression.

In implementing this legislation, EPA must allocate, by rule, the full quantity of allowances needed by each of these six congressionally designated uses for at least 5 years. This rule-making only determines the quantities of mandatory allowances that are allocated to each of the six uses above.

Under subsection (e)(4)(B)(i)–(iii), EPA may, by rule, designate other uses as essential uses and allocate any such use a quantity of allowances, provided certain criteria are met and subject to the applicable phasedown timelines and regulations for the production and consumption of HFCs under (e)(2)–(3). The Administrator is required to review each essential use application every 5 years and shall continue to make available essential use allowances if the Administrator determines, subject to notice and opportunity for public comment, that statutory criteria are met under subsection (e)(4)(B)(v).

The second key area of change from the introduced legislation is express preemption of certain State and local laws, reflected in subsection (k)(2). With respect to an exclusive use for which a mandatory allocation of allowances is provided under subsection

(e)(4)(B)(iv)(I), subsection (k)(2)(A) preempts any enforcement of a statute or administrative action by a State or political subdivision of a State for 5 years from the date of enactment. Preemption is potentially extendable for up to—but not more than—10 years, as provided in subsection (k)(2)(B).

The third key area of change from the introduced legislation is the protection of consumers and businesses from cost increases. Of particular note, under subsection (f)(2)(B), EPA cannot accelerate the 15-year regulatory timeline faster than HFC consumption levels that the market is already achieving. However, EPA must ensure any level set under this subsection is at least as stringent as the production and consumption levels of regulated substances required under subsection (e)(2)(C) for a given year, as provided in subsection (f)(6). Language to protect consumers and businesses, particularly residential and small business consumers, has also been added to regulatory provisions throughout the bill, including essential uses (subsection (e)(4)–(5)), accelerated schedule (subsection (f)), and technology transitions (subsection (i)).

Together we support section 103. We thank our House colleagues for working together with us to improve further our Senate agreement reached in September 2020. Through negotiations with leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, we agreed to additional changes to improve legislative clarity, including language to help protect affordability for residential and small business consumers while also protecting the environment.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, section 201(f) of the unemployment extension provisions of the bill we are considering this evening contains language limiting retroactive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance compensation for applicants that had not applied by the date of enactment of this bill.

It is my understanding that this provision is intended to cover individuals who have known for months of their eligibility for benefits but failed to apply in a timely manner. However, it is also my understanding that this provision is not intended to apply in cases where the individuals have only recently learned they would be eligible for PUA and a State unemployment office had previously advised those individuals not to apply for benefits. This is the case, for instance, for secondary schools students in Minnesota, who were advised by the State that they were not eligible for PUA, but a court recently determined that the students were indeed eligible earlier this month.

It is also my understanding that this provision is not intended to apply to individuals who have filed a regular State unemployment insurance claim that remains in adjudication, who later find out that they are ineligible for regular unemployment compensation and must apply for PUA instead.

Senator WYDEN was the lead Democratic negotiator on the unemployment provisions of this bill. Does he share the same understanding of the intent of this provision?

Mr. WYDEN. Yes. That language was not intended to limit retroactive compensation for individuals who were previously advised by a State, that they were ineligible for PUA, nor was it intended to limit retroactive compensation for individuals who have a regular unemployment insurance claim in adjudication and later find out they need to apply for PUA.

Ms. SMITH. Thank you for the clarification and for your work in drafting the unemployment compensation language in this bill.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the inclusion of critical protections for renters in the bill before us today. These include \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance and an extension of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's nationwide eviction moratorium through January 31, 2021.

This bill does not include all that I have been calling for since this crisis began, nor is it the bill I would have written on my own, but it is a long overdue and essential start on the help families urgently need to stay or become safely and stably housed right now. And it is arriving as millions of renters across the country are on the precipice of an entirely preventable eviction crisis.

One in five renters are behind on rent right now. For renters in households with children, this number is one in four, and for Black renters, the rate is nearly one in three. Economist Mark Zandi estimates that renters are \$70 billion behind on rent, with average back rent of nearly \$6,000. With millions of families potentially facing eviction or displacement, without this bill, the current CDC eviction moratorium would have expired on December 31, making for a very unhappy new year for many renters across the country.

A wave of evictions in the middle of this pandemic will set back millions of families, interrupt jobs and educations, and exacerbate inequality in this country. It will also make it harder to keep people healthy and get the virus under control.

I have heard from Ohioans how badly people need housing assistance. A group of Ohio's homeless services organizations told me recently about the tremendous surge in family homelessness they are seeing during the pandemic. One reported that 80 percent of their shelter requests have been families with kids. These are families with nowhere to go and trying to balance work and school. How many of them could have stayed in their homes, and not disrupted their lives—and their kids' lives—if the Federal Government had just stepped in with rental assistance?

In Columbus, there are over 100 eviction trials every day, even with the

current CDC moratorium in place. An advocate I spoke with told me that he expected there to be a "massive flood" of eviction cases in January after the CDC moratorium expires.

We did not have to be here. Since the passage of the CARES Act in March, I have been calling for more help for renters and homeowners to withstand the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects. In May, I introduced S. 3865, the Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act of 2020, to provide these resources throughout the country. The House passed this bill as part of the Heroes Act in May. Unfortunately, Senate Leader MCCONNELL did not see the urgency to act on COVID relief for families, and we are just coming to the floor with a bill to help address the COVID-19 crisis 7 months later.

Today's bill, while not going far enough, takes action to help renters remain or become stably housed and keep their utilities running. The \$25 billion in rental assistance and extension of the eviction moratorium will work together to protect renters from evictions in the midst of the pandemic in the middle of winter. The eviction moratorium extension helps prevent evictions while families await assistance. Rental assistance will ensure that families can pay their bills and remain in their homes during and after the pandemic without being forced to make impossible choices between rent and food or medicine.

Given how badly these resources are needed in the community today, the Department of Treasury must do all that it can to implement this rental assistance program quickly and successfully.

This means ensuring that States and communities can quickly provide funds to those who need them and minimize artificial paperwork and documentation barriers for applicants trying to access the funds Congress intended them to have. Treasury should avoid establishing requirements that are burdensome for both renters and grantees administering emergency rental assistance programs and that will slow down dollars going to keep the heat on and pay landlords.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had broad impacts on individuals, families, businesses, availability of government services and supports, and throughout our economy. It has changed where and how many people work. It has made it more difficult not just to keep a job, but also to find a new job, to get enough hours, and to find child care or someone to care for a sick loved one. All of these challenges brought on by the pandemic have made it more difficult for families to make ends meet. These effects are likely to exist for months and years to come. As Congress has stated in this bill, given the enormous documentation challenges facing families as businesses close and service jobs reduce in hours, an applicant's written attestation should be the only

documentation required to demonstrate a connection to the pandemic.

In addition to financial assistance for rent, utilities, and other housing costs, the bill permits grantees to fund housing stability services. This will allow grantees to offer households services they may need to remain or become stably housed, including case management, landlord-tenant mediation, legal services, eviction prevention services, rehousing services, services to connect eligible households to other public supports, and referrals to other services for behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues, domestic violence, child welfare, employment, and substance abuse treatment.

Finally, the emergency rental assistance fund in this bill provides non-taxable assistance for renter households that does not count toward income for calculating eligibility for other programs. Emergency assistance is just that—emergency assistance for an extraordinary event—and it should not be used to penalize families further. If there is any confusion about the taxability of this assistance, the Department of Treasury, in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service, should provide guidance to clarify this for grantees and participants.

I will continue to fight for the housing resources and protections our renters and homeowners need to stay in their homes. I also look forward to working to successfully deploy the historic resources and protections provided in this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

(Mr. SASSE assumed the Chair.)

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

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Boozman	Carper
Baldwin	Braun	Casey
Barrasso	Brown	Cassidy
Bennet	Burr	Collins
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coons
Blunt	Capito	Cornyn
Booker	Cardin	Cortez Masto

Cotton	Kennedy	Sanders
Cramer	King	Sasse
Crapo	Klobuchar	Schatz
Daines	Lankford	Schumer
Duckworth	Leahy	Scott (SC)
Durbin	Loeffler	Shaheen
Ernst	Manchin	Shelby
Feinstein	Markey	Sinema
Fischer	McConnell	Smith
Gardner	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Sullivan
Graham	Moran	Tester
Grassley	Murkowski	Thune
Harris	Murphy	Tillis
Hassan	Murray	Toomey
Hawley	Perdue	Udall
Heinrich	Peters	Van Hollen
Hirono	Portman	Warner
Hoeben	Reed	Warren
Hyde-Smith	Risch	Whitehouse
Inhofe	Roberts	Wicker
Jones	Romney	Wyden
Kaine	Rosen	Young
Kelly	Rubio	

NAYS—6

Blackburn	Johnson	Paul
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—2

Enzi	Rounds
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 6.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the motion to concur is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from South Dakota, the senior Senator from Kansas, and the senior Senator from Missouri be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions from December 21, 2020, to January 3, 2021.

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

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

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

HONORING THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ON THE OCCASION OF BEING AWARDED THE 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 774.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 774) honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the Boozman amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2733) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

On page 2, lines 10 and 11, strike “staff worldwide;” and insert “staff, who work tirelessly, and often at great personal risk, to combat hunger and save lives around the world;”.

On page 3, line 3, strike “nutrition” and insert “nutrition, including”.

The resolution (S. Res. 774), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2734) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Beginning in the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “Whereas the WFP” and all that follows through the semicolon in the fifth whereas clause and insert the following:

Whereas the WFP is the largest international humanitarian organization that addresses hunger, promotes food security, and saves lives, including in response to many of the most dangerous and complex crises in the world;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 135,000,000 people around the world suffered from acute hunger and the WFP provided nutrition assistance to nearly 100,000,000 people in 88 countries;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a significant increase in hunger around the world, and the WFP has surged its capacity in order to meet that compounded need;

Whereas the United States played an integral role in the founding of the WFP, remains its strongest supporter, and provides, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 40 percent of its annual resources;

In the seventh whereas clause of the preamble, strike “Price” and insert “Prize”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 774

Whereas, on October 9, 2020, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020 has been awarded to the United Nations World Food Programme (referred to in this preamble as the “WFP”) “for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”;

Whereas the WFP is the largest international humanitarian organization that addresses hunger, promotes food security, and saves lives, including in response to many of the most dangerous and complex crises in the world;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 135,000,000 people around the world suffered from acute hunger and the WFP provided nutrition assistance to nearly 100,000,000 people in 88 countries;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a significant increase in hunger around the world, and the WFP has surged its capacity in order to meet that compounded need;

Whereas the United States played an integral role in the founding of the WFP, remains its strongest supporter, and provides, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 40 percent of its annual resources;

Whereas the WFP has stated, “Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos”; and

Whereas the Norwegian Nobel Committee, in announcing the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020, stated, “The work of the World Food Programme to the benefit of humankind is an endeavour that all the nations of the world should be able to endorse and support”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) joins the other countries of the world in—

(A) affirming the mission of the United Nations World Food Programme (referred to in this resolution as the “WFP”) on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize; and

(B) supporting the leadership of the WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, and the contributions of the more than 17,000 WFP staff, who work tirelessly, and often at great personal risk, to combat hunger and save lives around the world; and

(2) remains committed to the goal of the international community to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition, including through the work of the WFP.

RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE PORT OF BEIRUT ON AUGUST 4, 2020

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 682 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 682) recognizing the devastating explosion that rocked the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, and expressing solidarity with the Lebanese people.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 682) was agreed to.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I further ask that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 13, 2020, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

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

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

EXPANDING FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL OPIOID RESEARCH AND TREATMENT ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 510, H.R. 3153.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3153) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act” or the “EFFORT Act”.

(b) *FINDINGS.*—The Congress finds that—

(1) research gaps currently exist in the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction;

(2) the National Science Foundation’s research on opioid addiction has increased understanding of the neuroscience of addiction, substance abuse intervention, the role of illicit supply networks, the secondary effects on families, the use of technology to address the opioid epidemic, and options for alternative, non-addictive therapeutics for pain; and

(3) the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have recognized that fundamental questions in basic, clinical, and translational research would benefit greatly from multidisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

SEC. 2. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON OPIOID ADDICTION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively-awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be withdrawn, the Wicker substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 2732) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act” or the “EFFORT Act”.

(b) *FINDINGS.*—The Congress finds that—

(1) research gaps currently exist in the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction;

(2) the National Science Foundation’s research on opioid addiction has increased understanding of the neuroscience of addiction, substance abuse intervention, the role of illicit supply networks, the secondary effects on families, the use of technology to address the opioid epidemic, and options for alternative, non-addictive therapeutics for pain; and

(3) the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have recognized that fundamental questions in basic, clinical, and translational research would benefit greatly from multidisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

SEC. 2. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON OPIOID ADDICTION.

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3153), as amended, was passed.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS PROJECTS ACT OF 2019

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2502 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2502) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require certain prospectuses for public buildings to be made publicly available, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2502) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMPETITIVE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2020

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1418 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1418) to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1418) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 432, H.R. 1492.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1492) to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1492) was passed.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 133

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 127, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133.

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

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 127) was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, here is where we are on the status of the Defense authorization bill.

The Senate has passed this annual bill to support our servicemembers and our national security every year for the last 59 years. As I indicated when I filed cloture on the NDAA conference report after Thanksgiving, my intention was and is to ensure the Senate continues fulfilling our obligation to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I hope the President will not veto this bill, which redoubles our commitment to modernization, advances cutting-edge capabilities, and equips our military with the tools and resources they need to compete with our great power adversaries on land, on sea, in the air, and in cyberspace. These are the steps we need to take to continue to compete with Russia and China.

In the event that President Trump does elect to veto this bipartisan bill, it appears the House may choose to return after the holidays to set up a vote to consider the veto. The Democratic leader and I have agreed to a unanimous consent request as follows: The Senate will meet for pro forma sessions only until December 29, when we will return to session.

In the event that the President has vetoed the bill and the House has voted to override the veto, the Senate would have the opportunity to process the veto override at that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Committee on Foreign Relations be

discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN1938, PN2024, PN2101, PN2030, and PN2025.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of C. Kevin Blackstone, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; Cynthia Kierscht, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Brian D. McFeeters, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia; David Reimer, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone; Geeta Pasi, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 1301 of title XIII of the FY21 consolidated appropriations act delays implementation of reforms to the U.S. Agency for Global Media outlined in section 1299Q of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Author-

ization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. While the FY2021 NDAA has not yet been enacted and may be enacted following the enactment of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Chairman RISC and I believe it is Congress's intent that these two provisions be understood concurrently and that the reforms outlined in section 1299Q be delayed for 90 days following enactment of the FY2021 NDAA.

CASE Act

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, after many years of work to ensure small creators have a voice, I am glad to share the Copyright Alternatives in Small-Claims Enforcement Act, also known as CASE Act, passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the President's signature. This bipartisan and bicameral legislation is critical for protecting the creative middle class in Louisiana and across America who rely upon commercializing their creative works for their livelihood.

Photographers, visual artists, independent movie directors, musicians, authors, and other creators who make up the creative middle class rely on copyright to protect their works from unauthorized reproduction. However, under current law, copyright owners with small infringement claims cannot obtain relief because district court litigation costs are higher than the damages sought. That is where CASE Act comes in. This legislation creates the Copyright Claims Board within the U.S. Copyright Office to provide a simple, quick, and less expensive forum for small copyright owners to enforce their rights.

The creation of this bill began more than 7 years ago. In 2013, after a comprehensive study, the U.S. Copyright Office made several legislative recommendations to help independent creators in enforcing their constitutionally protected copyrights. Since then, Congress has worked in lock-step with the U.S. Copyright Office to create a framework to accomplish this goal. That framework culminated in CASE Act.

In response to concerns raised by the library community, the bill now includes a blanket opt-out provision for libraries and archives. This opt-out is expressly limited to activities covered by section 108 of the Copyright Act. It does not apply to activities that fall outside that section, such as websites making and offering unlicensed copies of works. A library or archive must remain in full compliance with section 108 at all times to be eligible for the blanket opt-out privilege and would lose its eligibility for the blanket opt-out if, at any time, it is found to have violated any of the conditions throughout section 108.

I want to extend my gratitude to the photographers, musicians, artists, authors, and many other creators who have helped make the passage of CASE Act a success. There are so many individuals who have been instrumental in

creating and passing this legislation that I cannot possibly name them all here, but a few groups that deserve special recognition are Copyright Alliance, Professional Photographers of America, Professional Photographers of Louisiana, American Bar Association, American Intellectual Property Law Association, American Society of Media Photographers, Association of American Publishers, Authors Guild, Graphic Artists Guild, Recording Academy, Songwriters Guild of America, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I also want to thank my staff, who worked tireless hours wading through copyright law to ensure we ended up with the best bill possible. And thank you to my colleagues in the House and Senate, particularly Senator DICK DURBIN and our original cosponsors, for supporting this legislation and agreeing to its passage.

PROTECTING LAWFUL STREAMING ACT

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I want to say a word about the need to revise title 18 so that criminal commercial enterprises that stream pirated content to users are subject to the same felony penalties as criminal commercial enterprises that distribute to users or reproduce pirated content. The provisions of the Protecting Lawful Streaming Act target clearly criminal conduct committed with criminal intent. Lawful internet and streaming services, licensees, other mainstream businesses, and users engaged in ordinary activities do not risk prosecution. Most importantly, businesses engaged in those activities are clearly excluded by the requirements that a defendant be engaged in conduct that is primarily designed, intentionally marketed, or has no commercially significant purpose or use other than for use in illegal streaming. Nor do those engaged in noncommercial activities risk prosecution under this statute. Noncommercial activities are explicitly excluded by the terms of section 2319C(a). It is intended that none of these activities shall be subject to any risk of criminal prosecution under this bill.

More generally, it is well established that criminal penalties are the exception rather than the rule in cases of copyright infringement. As the Department of Justice itself has noted, criminal sanctions are appropriate only with respect to certain types of infringement—generally when infringer knows the infringement is wrong, and when the infringement is particularly serious or the type of case renders civil enforcement by copyright owners especially difficult. As such, criminal prosecution has been and is appropriately reserved for serious forms of large-scale, commercial infringement, not as a means of targeting ordinary business disputes between legitimate companies or those which are otherwise adequately addressed through civil litigation. The new section 2319C, in par-

ticular, requires willfulness, which means that the statute does not apply in the absence of an intentional violation of a known legal duty.

Consistent with this, a provider of broadband internet access service would not be subject to prosecution under this statute, for example, based merely on the attributes or features of its service, nor could prosecution be predicated on the misuse of its service by its customers or others in furtherance of an infringement scheme, where the service provider does not itself share the requisite criminal intent of the underlying substantive offense and act with specific intent to further it. In this regard, offering high-speed connections that allow its customers to access the internet, failing to block or disable access to particular online locations, or failing to take measures to restrict the use of or deny its customers access to such service would not be sufficient to demonstrate the requisite criminal intent under the bill. This conduct would also not otherwise meet the prerequisites under the aiding and abetting statute, regardless of whether the broadband internet access service provider might be civilly liable in such circumstances under the differing standards for contributory or vicarious liability.

A person who willfully and for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain offers or provides to the public a digital transmission service violates the statute under section 2319C(a)(3) when that person intentionally promotes or directs the promotion of its use in publicly performing works protected under title 17 without the authority of the copyright owner or the law. The language of section 2319C makes clear that it is the offering of an illicit digital transmission service, as defined by section 2319C(a)(1)–(3), that is an offense, not the marketing activities done by or at the direction of a person offering an illicit digital transmission service, as referred to in section 2319C(a)(3). Thus, an entity that provides only commercial online marketing services and does not itself also provide an illicit digital transmission service would not be subject to prosecution under section 2319C(a). Further, it is not the intent of this legislation to create potential aiding and abetting liability for mainstream third party ad networks or marketers. An online marketing services provider could be liable for aiding and abetting an unrelated entity providing unlawful streaming services only where the online marketing services provider shared the same requisite criminal intent of each element of the underlying substantive offense and acted with specific intent to further it. Thus, an online marketing services provider which places an advertisement for an entity that is violating section 2319C(a) would face aiding and abetting liability only if the online marketing services provider was itself associated with the criminal venture of the illicit

digital transmission service to such an extent that it shares the criminal intent of the person offering the service and acted with the requisite specific intent to commit or facilitate the underlying offense.

Similarly, a service that streams content uploaded by users would not be subject to prosecution merely because some users might upload infringing content. The service would be subject to criminal liability only if it had the requisite criminal intent and acted with specific intent to further it.

The provisions of this statute also do not apply to any person acting in good faith and with an objectively reasonable basis in law to believe that their conduct is lawful. Thus, a bona fide commercial dispute over the scope or existence of a contract or license governing such conduct or a good-faith dispute regarding whether a particular activity is authorized by the Copyright Act would not provide a basis for prosecution. For example, neither a cloud-based DVR service nor an application provided by a multichannel video programming distributor, MVPD, to enable such MVPD's customers to access its video service utilizing a mobile device, which were the subject of prior civil copyright infringement challenges based on good faith disagreements regarding the scope of rights under the Copyright Act, would be actionable under this provision if the provider offering such services met this standard. By contrast, a party that merely asserts an applicable contract, an exception, or a belief that the person's conduct was lawful, in a case where the assertion is not made in good-faith, is merely a pretense, or is otherwise not based on an objectively reasonable interpretation of the law, would not avoid prosecution on that basis.

The statute provides for an enhanced penalty in section 2319C(b)(2) for someone who knowingly commits an offense in connection with 1 or more works being prepared for commercial public performance. The “should have known” standard in section 2319C(b)(2) applies only after a finder of fact determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the person committed an offense under subsection (a). The “should have known” standard should not be conflated with the standards of willfulness, not primarily designed, no commercially significant purpose, and intentionality set forth in section 2319C(a), all of which define the underlying offense and are intended to protect lawful internet and streaming services, content licensees, and non-commercial users.

Finally, the statute in section 2319C(d)(3) defines a work being prepared for commercial public performance, based on the definition of “work being prepared for commercial distribution” in section 506(a)(3) of the Copyright Act, while updating that definition to account for the challenges of piracy in the modern streaming environment. Section 2319C reflects the

fact that infringement threatens unique harm when it occurs prior to or in the earliest windows of commercial availability. The definition in 2319C(d)(3) recognizes that in the modern streaming environment, not all motion pictures are developed for theatrical distribution. The updated definition of a “work being prepared for commercial public performance” affords appropriately enhanced penalties for violations of the statute involving pre- and just-released film and television content, whether in a first theatrical window or immediately upon release to the public via a streaming or other platform. The legislation does not make corresponding changes to the definition of “work made for commercial distribution” in section 506(a)(3). Whether it is appropriate to harmonize the definitions is a question that is beyond the scope of this particular legislation, which does not otherwise make changes to title 17. Section 2319C(d)(1) defines “motion picture” as defined in the Copyright Act, which includes non-theatrical motion pictures, television shows, and broadcasts of live events.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the joint explanatory statement for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 be printed into the RECORD.

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

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

The following is the explanation of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (hereinafter, “the Act”).

This explanation reflects the result of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) and the (hereinafter, “the Agreement”). The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee. The term “Committees” refers to both SSCI and HPSCI.

The explanation comprises three parts: an overview of the application of the annex to accompany this statement; unclassified congressional direction; and a section-by-section analysis of the legislative text.

PART I: APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the SSCI and HPSCI (collectively, the “congressional intelligence committees”) from publicly disclosing many details concerning the conclusions and recommendations of the Agreement. Therefore,

a classified Schedule of Authorizations and a classified annex have been prepared to describe in detail the scope and intent of the congressional intelligence committees’ actions. The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community (IC) to obligate and expend funds not altered or modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations as requested in the President’s budget, subject to modification under applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified annex is the result of negotiations between the congressional intelligence committees. They reconcile the differences between the congressional intelligence committees’ respective versions of the bill for the National Intelligence Program (NIP) for Fiscal Year 2021. The Agreement also makes recommendations for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) and the Information Systems Security Program (ISSP), consistent with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, and provides certain direction for these two programs. The Agreement applies to IC activities for Fiscal Year 2021.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the bill pursuant to Section 102. It has the status of law. The classified annex supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the bill and the classified Schedule of Authorizations. The congressional intelligence committees view direction and recommendations, whether contained in this explanation or in the classified annex, as requiring compliance by the Executive Branch.

PART II: SELECT UNCLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

This Joint Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (S. Rept. 116-233) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (H. Rept. 116-565).

PART III: SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF LEGISLATIVE TEXT

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Section 101. Authorization of appropriations

Section 101 lists the United States Government departments, agencies, and other elements for which the Act authorizes appropriations for intelligence and intelligence-related activities for Fiscal Year 2021.

Section 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations

Section 102 provides that the details of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for intelligence and intelligence-related activities for Fiscal Year 2021 are contained in the classified Schedule of Authorizations and that the classified Schedule of Authorizations shall be made available to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the President.

Section 103. Intelligence Community Management Account

Section 103 authorizes appropriations for the Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA) of the ODNI for Fiscal Year 2021.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Section 201. Authorization of appropriations

Section 201 authorizes appropriations for the CIA Retirement and Disability Fund for Fiscal Year 2021.

TITLE III—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

Subtitle A—General Intelligence Community Matters

Section 301. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities

Section 301 provides that the authorization of appropriations by the Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity that is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Section 302. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law

Section 302 provides that funds authorized to be appropriated by the Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in compensation or benefits authorized by law.

Section 303. Continuity of operations plans for certain elements of the intelligence community in the case of a national emergency

Section 303 requires the Directors of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), National Security Agency (NSA), and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to establish continuity of operations plans for use in the case of certain national emergencies as defined in statute, and share those with the congressional intelligence committees within 7 days of a national emergency being declared. Furthermore, Section 303 requires these agencies to provide the committees with any updates to those plans as the conditions of the national emergency require.

Section 304. Application of Executive Schedule level III to position of Director of National Reconnaissance Office

Section 304 provides that the Director of the NRO shall be designated as Level III on the Executive Schedule, the equivalent of an Under Secretary. The Committee further clarifies that this provision shall apply to a successor civilian occupying the position of Director of the NRO.

Section 305. National Intelligence University

Section 305 provides the National Intelligence University (NIU) with degree-granting authority and requires reporting on personnel and compensation. Section 305 also sustains an independent, external board of visitors to provide oversight of the NIU.

Section 306. Data collection on attrition in intelligence community

Section 306 requires the DNI to set standards and issue an annual report on the reasons why different categories of IC employees separate from service or applicants to IC positions withdraw from the hiring process after they have been issued a conditional offer of employment. Data on workforce attrition should include demographics, specialties, and length of service. Such reasons may include an alternative job opportunity, a loss of interest in joining the IC, or the length of time to complete the clearance process.

Section 307. Limitation on delegation of responsibility for program management of information-sharing environment

Section 307 stipulates that the President must delegate responsibilities under Section 1016(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to an official other than the DNI.

Section 308. Requirement to buy certain satellite component from American sources

Section 308 prohibits an element of the IC to award a contract for a national security

satellite if the satellite uses a star tracker that is not produced in the United States, with certain limited exceptions.

Section 309. Limitation on construction of facilities to be used primarily by intelligence community

Section 309 amends the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 regarding funding and authorities for facility construction.

Section 310. Intelligence community student loan repayment programs

Section 310 requires the DNI to establish minimum student loan repayment standards for IC employees.

Subtitle B—Reports and Assessments
Pertaining to the Intelligence Community

Section 321. Assessment by the Comptroller General of the United States on efforts of the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense to identify and mitigate risks posed to the intelligence community and the Department by the use of direct-to-consumer genetic testing by the Government of the People's Republic of China

Section 321 directs the Comptroller General to assess efforts in the IC and Department of Defense (DoD) to identify and mitigate the risks posed to the IC and DoD by direct-to-consumer genetic testing by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Section 321 further requires the report to include key national security risks and vulnerabilities, an assessment of the IC's and DoD's identification and mitigation of such risks and vulnerabilities, and recommendations for the IC and DoD to improve identification and mitigation of such risks and vulnerabilities.

Section 322. Report on use by intelligence community of hiring flexibilities and expedited human resources practices to assure quality and diversity in the workforce of the intelligence community.

Section 322 requires the DNI to submit a report describing how IC elements are exercising hiring flexibilities and expedited human resources practices afforded under 5 U.S.C. 3326 and related regulations, including the identification of any obstacles encountered by the IC in exercising such authorities.

Section 323. Report on signals intelligence priorities and requirements.

Section 323 requires the DNI to submit a report detailing signals intelligence priorities and requirements subject to Presidential Policy Directive-28 that stipulates “why, whether, when, and how the United States conducts signals intelligence activities.” This report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Section 324. Assessment of demand for student loan repayment program benefit.

Section 324 requires the head of each IC element to calculate the number of personnel who qualify for a student loan repayment program benefit, and compare it to the number of personnel who apply for such a benefit. The information provided will include recommendations for how to optimize participation and enhance the effectiveness of the benefit as a retention tool, to identify any shortfall in funds or authorities needed to provide such benefit, and to include such materials with the budget request for Fiscal Year 2022.

Section 325. Assessment of intelligence community demand for child care.

Section 325 requires the DNI in coordination with the heads of other IC elements to provide a report that includes: a calculation of the total annual demand for child care by

employees at NSA, NGA, DIA, NRO, CIA, and ODNI; an identification of any shortfalls between demand and the child care support by these IC elements; an assessment of options for addressing any such shortfall; an identification of the advantages, disadvantages, security requirements, and costs associated with each option; a plan to meet, within five years after the date of the report, the demand for childcare, and an assessment of specific considerations that impact the alternatives available to these IC elements.

Section 326. Open source intelligence strategies and plans for the intelligence community

Section 326 requires the DNI in coordination with the heads of each IC element, to conduct a survey of the open source intelligence requirements, goals, investments, and capabilities for each element of the IC and to evaluate the usability of the Open Source Enterprise (OSE). Based on such findings, it further mandates the DNI shall develop, in coordination with the heads of each IC element, a strategy for open source intelligence collection, analysis, and production across the IC; create a plan for improving usability of the OSE; and conduct a risk and benefit analysis of creating an independent open source center.

Using the findings above, Section 326 further requires the DNI to develop a plan for a centralized data repository of open source intelligence. Finally, it mandates the DNI develop a cost-sharing model that leverages the open source intelligence investments of each IC element for the beneficial use of the entire IC. It also requires the heads of ODNI, CIA, DIA, NGA, and NSA to jointly brief the congressional intelligence committees on the progress developing the aforementioned plans.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Section 401. Establishment of Office of the Ombudsman for Analytic Objectivity

Section 401 establishes in the CIA an Office of the Ombudsman for Analytic Objectivity to implement required procedures and conduct required activities.

Section 402. Expansion of personnel management authority to attract experts in science and engineering

Section 402 facilitates NGA's recruitment of experts in science or engineering for research and development projects.

Section 403. Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent Award for distinguished female personnel of the National Security Agency

Section 403 requires the Director of the NSA to establish an honorary award for the recognition of female personnel of the NSA for distinguished career contributions in support of the mission of the NSA.

Section 404. Department of Homeland Security intelligence and cybersecurity diversity fellowship program

Section 404 requires the Secretary of DHS to carry out an intelligence and cybersecurity diversity fellowship program that provides paid internships, tuition assistance, and potential employment opportunities.

Section 405. Climate Security Advisory Council

Section 405 requires the DNI, in coordination with the appropriate heads of other IC elements, to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the Climate Security Advisory Council as a potential model for future advisory councils.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Section 501. Requirements and authorities for Director of Central Intelligence Agency to improve education in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics

Section 501 ensures that the Director of the CIA has the legal authorities required to improve the skills in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (known as STEAM) necessary to meet long-term national security needs.

Section 502. Seedling investment in next-generation microelectronics in support of artificial intelligence

Section 502 requires the DNI, acting through the Director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, to award contracts or grants, or enter into other transactions, to encourage microelectronics research.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Section 601. Report on attempts by foreign adversaries to build telecommunications and cybersecurity equipment and services for, or to provide such equipment and services to, certain allies of the United States

Section 601 requires the CIA, NSA, and DIA to submit to the congressional intelligence and armed services committees a joint report that describes the United States intelligence sharing and military posture in Five Eyes countries that currently have or intend to use adversary telecommunications or cybersecurity equipment, especially as provided by China or Russia, with a description of potential vulnerabilities of that information and assessment of mitigation options.

Section 602. Report on threats posed by use by foreign governments and entities of commercially available cyber intrusion and surveillance technology

Section 602 requires the DNI to submit a report on the threats posed by foreign governments and foreign entities using and appropriating commercially available cyber intrusion and other surveillance technology.

Section 603. Reports on recommendations of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission

Section 603 requires the ODNI, Department of Homeland Security (acting through the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis), Department of Energy (acting through the Director of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department of Energy), Department of Commerce, and DoD to report to Congress their assessment of the recommendations submitted by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission pursuant to Section 1652(j) of the *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019*, and to describe actions that each agency expects to take to implement these recommendations.

Section 604. Assessment of critical technology trends relating to artificial intelligence, microchips, and semiconductors and related supply chains

Section 604 requires the DNI to complete an assessment of export controls related to artificial intelligence (AI), microchips, advanced manufacturing equipment, and other AI-enabled technologies, including the identification of opportunities for further cooperation with international partners.

Section 605. Combating Chinese influence operations in the United States and strengthening civil liberties protections

Section 605 provides additional requirements to annual reports in 50 U.S.C. 3237(B) on Influence Operations and Campaigns in the United States by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) by mandating an identification

of influence operations by the CCP against the science and technology sector in the United States. Section 605 also requires the FBI to create a plan, in consultation with stakeholders outside the Intelligence Community to increase public awareness of influence activities by the CCP. Finally, section 605 requires the FBI, in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights and the Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department of Justice, to develop recommendations to strengthen relationships with communities targeted by the CCP and to build trust with such communities through local and regional grassroots outreach.

Section 606. Annual report on corrupt activities of senior officials of the Chinese Communist Party

Section 606 requires the CIA, in coordination with the Department of Treasury's Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the FBI, to submit to designated congressional committees annually through 2025 a report that describes and assesses the wealth and corruption of senior officials of the CCP, as well as targeted financial measures, including potential targets for sanctions designation. Section 606 further expresses the Sense of Congress that the United States should undertake every effort and pursue every opportunity to expose the corruption and illicit practices of senior officials of the CCP, including President Xi Jinping.

Section 607. Report on corrupt activities of Russian and other Eastern European oligarchs

Section 607 requires the CIA, in coordination with the Department of the Treasury's Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the FBI, to submit to designated congressional committees and the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, a report that describes the corruption and corrupt or illegal activities among Russian and other Eastern European oligarchs who support the Russian government and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the impact of those activities on the economy and citizens of Russia. Section 607 further requires the CIA, in coordination with the Department of Treasury's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, to describe potential sanctions that could be imposed for such activities.

Section 608. Report on biosecurity risk and disinformation by the Chinese Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of China

Section 608 requires the DNI to submit to the designated congressional committees a report identifying whether and how CCP officials and the Government of the People's Republic of China may have sought to suppress or exploit for national advantage information regarding the novel coronavirus pandemic, including specific related assessments. Section 608 further provides that the report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may have a classified annex.

Section 609. Report on effect of lifting of United Nations arms embargo on Islamic Republic of Iran

Section 609 requires the DIA to submit to designated congressional committees a report on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's plans to acquire military arms if the ban on arms transfers to or from such government under United Nations Security Council resolutions are lifted, as well as the effects such arms acquisitions may have on regional security and stability.

Section 610. Report on Iranian activities relating to nuclear nonproliferation

Section 610 directs the DNI to submit a report on any relevant activities relating to nuclear weapons research and development

by the Islamic Republic of Iran and any relevant efforts to afford or deny international access to related facilities in accordance with international non-proliferation agreements.

Section 611. Annual reports on security services of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Section 611 requires the DNI to submit a report on the presence and activities of Chinese security services operating within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Section 612. Research partnership on activities of People's Republic of China

Section 612 requires the Director of the NGA to seek to enter into a partnership with an academic or non-profit research institution to carry out joint unclassified geospatial intelligence analyses of the activities of the People's Republic of China that pose national security risks to the United States, and to make publicly available unclassified products relating to such analyses.

Section 613. Report on the pharmaceutical and personal protective equipment regulatory practices of the People's Republic of China

Section 613 requires the DNI to submit a report on the pharmaceutical and personal protective equipment regulatory practices of the People's Republic of China.

Section 614. National Intelligence Estimate on situation in Afghanistan

Section 614 requires the DNI, acting through the National Intelligence Council, to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on the situation in Afghanistan.

Section 615. Assessment regarding tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Section 615 requires the DNI to submit an assessment regarding tensions between the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Section 616. Sense of Congress on Third Option Foundation

Section 616 expresses the sense of Congress that the Third Option Foundation's work on behalf of the CIA's special operations community and their families is invaluable, such that the Director of the CIA should work with the Foundation to implement section 6412 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020, which provided special rules for certain monthly workers' compensation payments and other payments to CIA personnel.

Section 617. Annual reports on worldwide threats

Section 617 requires the DNI, in coordination with IC element heads, to submit an annual report with an IC assessment of worldwide threats to United States national security. Section 617 further requires the DNI, together with IC element heads determined appropriate by the congressional intelligence and defense committees in consultation with the DNI, to testify at an open hearing before such committees upon request. It is the intent of the Committees that a request by one of the congressional intelligence or defense committees, or a number of them, shall trigger the obligation of IC element heads to testify at an open hearing before a requesting committee, as specified under Section 617.

Section 618. Annual report on Climate Security Advisory Council

Section 618 requires the chair of the Climate Security Advisory Council to submit an annual report regarding the Council's prior year activities.

Section 619. Improvements to funding for National Security Education program

Section 619 authorizes funds for national security-related scholarship, fellowship, and grant programs.

Section 620. Report on best practices to protect privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights of Chinese Americans

Section 620 makes certain technical and conforming amendments to a reporting provision enacted pursuant to the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Section 621. National Intelligence Estimate on the threat of global pandemic disease

Section 621 requires the DNI, acting through the National Intelligence Council, to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on the threat of global pandemic disease.

Section 622. Modification of requirement for briefings on national security effects of emerging infectious disease and pandemics

Section 622 amends a quinquennial reporting provision enacted pursuant to the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 to require annual reporting.

Section 623. Independent study on open-source intelligence

Section 623 requires the DNI to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center or a nongovernmental entity to conduct a study on the future of the collection, processing, exploitation, analysis, dissemination, and evaluation of open-source intelligence by the IC, with certain requirements and criteria.

Section 624. Survey on Open Source Enterprise

Section 624 requires the Director of the CIA (as the open source functional manager for the IC), in consultation with the DNI and any other IC element head that the Director determines appropriate, to conduct a survey to measure the satisfaction of customers of open-source intelligence with the Open Source Enterprise of the CIA.

Section 625. Sense of Congress on report on murder of Jamal Khashoggi

Section 625 provides that it is the sense of Congress that the DNI should reasonably have been able to produce an unclassified report, as required pursuant to section 5714 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020, and section 1277 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER AND GALLERIES REGULATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, pursuant to Senate rule XXXIII, I wish to inform all Senators that on December 18, 2020, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted the "U.S. Senate Alternate Vehicle Parking Regulations," which supersede and replace the current "Regulations Governing Use of Bicycle Racks Hart Office Building Garage."

The updated regulations describe the eligibility and process Senators and eligible staff use to request, register, and obtain parking permits for alternate vehicles. The proposed regulations also expand the use of the garage parking racks beyond bicycles to include newer commuting technology such as electric scooters.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the regulations as adopted be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE ALTERNATE VEHICLE PARKING REGULATIONS

[ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON DECEMBER 18, 2020, PURSUANT TO RULE XXXIII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE]

1.0 Scope—These regulations describe the eligibility and processes Senators and eligible staff shall use to request, register, and obtain parking permits for alternate vehicles to be parked in Senate garages.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 Rules Committee means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.2 Alternate vehicle means a personally owned vehicle, other than an automobile, motorcycle, personal assistance mobility access device, or rental vehicle, including but not limited to bicycles, motorized skateboards, and manual and electric scooters.

2.3 Congressional ID means a current congressional identification badge issued by the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

2.4 Eligible Staff means employees of the Senate or employees of the Superintendent's Office.

2.5 Permit means an identification sticker affixed to an alternate vehicle permitting parking in a Senate garage.

2.6 Senate Garage means the underground parking areas administered by the Superintendent's Office.

2.7 Superintendent's Office means the Architect of the Capitol's Senate Superintendent Office.

2.8 TranSAAct means the web-based program administered by the Senate Sergeant at Arms for Senate offices that allows offices to request alternate vehicle parking permits.

2.9 USCP means the United States Capitol Police.

3.0 General Use of Garage Parking Racks—The use of the garage parking racks for alternate vehicles is on a first-come, first-served basis.

3.1 Permit holders must present their Congressional ID and display their parking permit to USCP at garage entrances.

3.2 Permit holders must park alternate vehicles in the designated garage parking racks in a manner that does not interfere with others' ability to utilize the racks and that does not interfere with adjacent parking spaces.

3.2.1 Personal property and alternate vehicles that obstruct access to a parking space or parking rack will be moved immediately.

3.3 Permits are not transferrable to other alternate vehicles.

3.4 Alternate vehicles may not use garage electric chargers.

3.5 The Senate, the Superintendent's Office, and the USCP are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property.

4.0 Permit Eligibility—Senators and eligible staff with a valid Congressional ID granting 24-hour building access are eligible for a permit.

4.1 The Rules Committee issues permits on a first-come, first-served basis.

4.2 Eligibility for alternate vehicle parking permits is in addition to other parking and federal transit benefits.

4.3 A permit holder may register up to two alternate vehicles under one permit.

5.0 Permit Registration—Eligible participants must submit a permit application through their employing office's TranSAAct account.

5.1 The TranSAAct permit application requires the registrant's name, office phone

number, cell phone number, email address, employing office, and the make, model/style, and color of the alternate vehicle.

5.2 Approved permit holders must provide their Congressional ID and alternate vehicle to the Senate Garage Administrative Office, SH-G12, to receive the approved permit.

5.3 The Superintendent's Office will attach the permit in an easily identifiable location.

6.0 Permit Renewal—Permits must be renewed by a permit holder's employing office each Congress.

6.1 The Rules Committee will contact each office for permit renewal information.

6.2 Permit holders approved for renewed permits must bring their Congressional ID and alternate vehicle to the Senate Garage Administrative Office for the new permit.

6.3 Permit holders may request the Superintendent's Office either place the new permit over the previous permit or remove the previous permit and place the new permit in the same position. The Superintendent's Office is not responsible for damage caused by removal or placement of a permit.

6.4 Permit holders who either leave Senate employment or whose permits are not renewed must immediately stop using the garage racks and bring their alternate vehicle to the Senate Garage Administrative Office for permit removal.

7.0 Noncompliance—Alternate vehicles may not be stored in a Senate garage. The Superintendent's Office conducts regular inspections of the bicycle racks and will notify alternate vehicle owners of noncompliance with these regulations, including for the following: failure to display a valid permit; parking outside of a designated area; and storing or abandoning an alternate vehicle in a Senate garage.

7.1 Any alternate vehicle that remains unmoved for more than two weeks will be considered as being stored.

7.2 Notice of violation (s) will be placed on the alternate vehicle.

7.3 After the fourth notice of violation within a 30-day period without subsequent cure by the permit holder, the Superintendent's Office will notify the USCP to remove the alternate vehicle and process it as abandoned property.

7.4 Owners of alternate vehicles removed from Senate garages should contact the USCP for information regarding its abandoned property policy.

REMEMBERING PAUL SARBANES

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague, Senator Paul Sarbanes, who passed away December 6, 2020. I join the entire Nation in mourning his passing.

Paul was born in Salisbury, MD, on February 3, 1933. His first job was bus- ing tables and washing dishes at his parents' restaurant on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He attended Princeton University, where he received the Moses Taylor Pryne Honor Prize, Princeton's highest undergraduate honor. He was a Rhodes Scholar, which earned him admission to Balliol College of the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. Upon his return to the United States, Paul attended Harvard Law School.

In the early 1960s, Paul Sarbanes clerked for Fourth Circuit Judge Morris A. Soper before entering private practice with two Baltimore law firms. In 1966, Paul ran for the Maryland

House of Delegates in Baltimore City, where he served on both the Judiciary and the Ways and Means Committees.

Four years later in 1970, Sarbanes was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Maryland's Fourth and later Maryland's Third Congressional Districts from 1971 to 1977. Paul continued his public service when he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976. Senator Sarbanes served Maryland well. He sat on many committees but was chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee prior to my years as chairman.

After serving five terms in the U.S. Senate, Paul retired to Maryland in 2007. The same year, he earned the Foreign Language Advocacy Award from the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the ancient world's values and languages.

Paul was admired by many and will be missed by his sons, JOHN and Michael, his daughter, Janet, and his seven grandchildren. He was known for his intellect and tenacity and will be remembered for his devotion to Maryland and the Nation. I ask the entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Paul Sarbanes.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking my good friend Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER for his nearly two decades in the Senate and his longstanding devotion to improving our country. His dedication to the people of Tennessee and Americans throughout our Nation has been unwavering. We have served together in the Senate for 18 years, but he has been in public service for much longer than that.

I remember when Senator ALEXANDER was first elected to the Senate in 2002. He was no stranger to his new colleagues. LAMAR had already served as the Governor of Tennessee, the president of the University of Tennessee, and the Secretary of Education under George H.W. Bush. He also ran for President in 1996 and again in 2000.

We should have seen the writing on the wall then—that Senator ALEXANDER would be one of the smartest and most ambitious Members we would serve with throughout our careers.

Born in Maryville, TN, LAMAR graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vanderbilt University and went on to receive his juris doctor from the New York University, NYU, School of Law. He then clerked on the Fifth Circuit for Judge John Minor Wisdom in New Orleans.

Following his time in Louisiana, he moved to Washington to work as a legislative assistant for then-Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee. This is when he met his beloved wife Honey. They married and had four children, and his remarkable career took off.

During LAMAR's time as a U.S. Senator, he served as the chairman of the

Senate Republican conference, an important leadership position in which he influenced his fellow Members to accomplish conservative achievements by working in unison.

Currently, LAMAR is the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, Committee—a “Class A” committee in the Senate. In 2016, he was instrumental in passing the overwhelmingly bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act—landmark legislation that has brought new innovations and advances to patients who need them faster and more efficiently.

I have been blessed to serve with LAMAR on the Senate Rules Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he is the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

In this role on Appropriations, he has supported and advanced a host of important national priorities, such as nuclear security, critical infrastructure projects across the country, and the science and research taking place at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I, along with my colleagues on the committee, am grateful for his hard work to craft many years of significant and influential funding measures.

LAMAR came to the Senate as a staffer and is leaving as chairman of one of the largest and most significant committees in the Senate. His impact and leadership during his time here has been both substantial and constructive.

LAMAR and I have travelled the world together. Annette and I have enjoyed the many hours spent with Honey and him. He will be missed in the Senate. I thank Senator ALEXANDER for his dedication to the betterment of our country and wish him all the best in his next chapter of life.

HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of another year, I rise to remember all those American men and women who have given what President Lincoln called “the last full measure of devotion” in service to this great Nation.

I often reflect on the Gettysburg Address when thinking about our servicemembers and veterans. We all know this short, somber speech has reverberated throughout our history with an influence that vastly exceeds the few minutes for which Lincoln actually spoke. In November 1863, President Lincoln stood on the battlefield in Gettysburg to bless those brave soldiers who had fallen in what was the bloodiest battle in U.S. history up to that point. The “last full measure of devotion” remark has always resonated with me, as it does with so many Americans, but Lincoln had another message in his address. He said, “It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

Even in moments of mourning, Lincoln charged those still standing to rededicate themselves to the hard work of preserving our Nation's integrity, protecting our fundamental freedoms, and building our families' security and prosperity. In a time of great division, this was no small task, and it today remains one of our urgent and most solemn tasks.

The year after the Gettysburg Address, the women of Boalsburg, PA, began a tradition that would carry on for generations. They gathered together to decorate the gravestones of their loved ones who had gone to God. They wanted to reach beyond the pain to show their fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons that their memories endure in the hearts and minds of the living. Honoring the spirit and sacrifice of our military and veterans isn't just about isolated days of commemoration on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year, it is about the work we do every day to be worthy of their valor, as my father used to say.

As we discuss a potential U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, combat the resurgence of ISIS in the Middle East, exercise oversight over other U.S. military engagements overseas, and look to resolve increasingly complicated global crises, we must not forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, particularly in the most recent wars. The numbers are important: 7034 Americans have lost their lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with an additional 7 killed in African Command operations since 2001. This includes 300 servicemembers from Pennsylvania—the fifth highest toll of any State. Over 53,000 have been wounded, including more than 2,000 from Pennsylvania. Although this administration refuses to be transparent in its deployment tracking, press reports indicate that approximately 7,500 Americans are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, with an additional 65,000 serving in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

This year, for the first time in nearly two decades, Pennsylvania did not lose any servicemembers abroad. While I am grateful Pennsylvania did not suffer losses this year, this milestone only serves as a reminder of the grim toll that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken on the Commonwealth and the Nation. As families of fallen servicemembers continue to mourn, we must reconsider the nature of our military commitments overseas and recommit to ensuring those who serve are taken care of.

These fighting men and women were born into families, not into divisions and brigades. They are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Their love for their families is matched only by their devotion to our country.

But many more bear the scars of war. Some families have a loved one who served in Iraq or Afghanistan and returned home but was one of the 53,250

wounded. And we must not overlook the unusually high percentage of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have died since returning home, whether from drug overdose or suicide. Thousands of American families continue to pay a terrible price for the courage and dedication of their family members who gave life and limb for this country.

As we look to a new year and a new Congress, I am reminded of the moments when policymakers reached across the aisle, putting partisan differences aside to implement ideas that best served the American people. We can think about the establishment of the first system of State veterans homes after the Civil War, enactment of the GI bill after World War II, creation of the modern, Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs under President Reagan, all required foresight and courage to see come to fruition. The year ahead provides an opportunity for further bipartisan cooperation in service of our veterans and our men and women in uniform.

Each of us, those who have served and those who haven't, must be a part of the effort toward healing. We can meet today's challenges with the spirit of the women in Boalsburg so many years ago, to remember our past and keep working towards our future. We can continue our work here in Washington, in Pennsylvania, and across the Nation, to ensure we are worthy of the valor of the men and women we commemorate today. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to reflect every day on the sacrifice of those who came before us.

As another year comes to a close, we remember and honor those who have laid down their lives for this great Nation. God bless them.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DOUG JONES' STAFF

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, as I mentioned in my farewell speech last week, I also wanted to spend a few final moments here on the Senate floor honoring my incredible staff. As the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Alabama in two decades, I had no idea how many brilliant young folks would want to come work in my offices, but we were absolutely overwhelmed with the talent my election attracted—and not just from Alabama—we had applicants from all over the country. We of course tried to give priority to folks from Alabama, but we did have a few from other States who brought special expertise and who, after just a short time with us, became honorary Alabamians.

Some of my staff came from other Senate or House offices where they had been biding their time, hoping 1 day to work for an Alabama Democratic Senator. Their experience was critical. Some staff members brought no legislative experience at all, but they were quick and eager learners and got up to speed unbelievably fast. What they all

had in common was a deep and sincere commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons.

There were very few shortcuts and very few easy decisions, but we all worked hard to understand the issues backwards and forwards and to do our best for the people of Alabama and for our country. Although each member of the staff was acutely aware that I would have to stand for reelection in just 3 short years, they were as committed as I was to not let political considerations enter into our deliberations. Instead we focused on the needs of our constituents, big and small, and doing all we could to make sure those needs were met.

Over the past 3 years, we have become a family, and we have had some fun to boot. Equally important, we have gotten things done. We led or coled over 20 bipartisan bills that were signed into law. We mustered enough support to finally repeal the Widow's Tax. We secured permanent Federal funding for HBCUs and minority-serving institutions. We made things easier for folks applying for Federal student loans. We secured authorizations and appropriations for hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for defense-related projects in Alabama. We set up a process to collect and make available to the public the Federal records from unsolved civil rights crimes. We completed 2,094 requests for casework help and responded to hundreds of thousands of calls, letters, and emails from Alabama constituents. We submitted 624 letters in support of Alabamians' grant applications, resulting in \$270,973,411 in awards for municipalities, nonprofits, colleges and universities, rural fire departments, health centers, and others. Out of the outstanding high school seniors who I nominated to our military service academies, 44 have received appointments, and that is in just our first 2 years alone; we won't know the results for 2020 until next spring. We did more than 1,000 interviews, speeches, town-halls, and events across the State of Alabama and in DC. None of these things, absolutely none of them, would have been possible without the hard work and unflagging dedication of my staff.

My time in the U.S. Senate was enhanced immeasurably by the tangible and intangible contributions of my staff. As I said earlier, we knew we only had 3 years guaranteed, and we made the most of it. From our amazing record of legislative accomplishments, to our warm and welcoming office culture, to our emphasis on bipartisanship and collegiality, we made a positive difference, and I am immensely proud to have served with each of them.

Although it is impossible to go through the contributions of each I do want to single out a few who really made the office click or were responsible in some way for a major accomplishment.

First is my chief of staff Dana Gresham. Dana came to me by way of the

House and then the Department of Transportation. He has always been a leader, and for me, I was so proud to have him as the first African-American chief of staff for a Democratic Senator. He was instrumental in building the staff and guiding the delicate nature of Beltway and Alabama politics.

My legislative director Mark Libell brought a level of experience and direction to our legislative team that I think is unmatched in the Senate. He brought a level of skill to the legislative process that is largely responsible for the many successes we had.

Katie Campbell doubled as the deputy legislative director and legislative assistant on our healthcare related matters. She brought a tremendous amount of knowledge and was thus a tremendous resource for our healthcare agenda, which was always one of my top priorities.

On the Banking Committee, I was fortunate to have Mike Berman for a couple of years before he moved into the private sector. Mike began the painstaking process of revising the country's money laundering laws which his successor on the staff, Lauren Oppenheimer, picked up. Thanks to their combined efforts and working with colleagues and various stakeholders and regulators, Congress passed as part of the NDAA an update to our money laundering laws for the first time in decades.

My friend of 20 years Cissy Jackson came to Washington after practicing law with me in Birmingham. She had no legislative experience but soon became a rockstar among the Senate staff on both sides of the aisle, first with the Homeland Security Committee and then as my MLA on the Armed Services Committee. So much of what we were able to secure for the people of Alabama in the NDAA is a direct result of Cissy's tireless and persistent efforts.

Rebecca Howard handled education policy for me. Through her efforts, we secured additional and permanent funding for HBCUs, as well as the success in simplifying the FAFSA form, which will allow so many kids in Alabama to receive a college education. She also coordinated the annual HBCU symposiums that we conducted each year.

The director of my State staff was Brantley Fry. Brantley made sure that I stayed incredibly busy when I was at home. We traveled from one end of the State to the other. We visited businesses, military installations, schools, and farms. She coordinated the town-halls and roundtables, all with an eye to the important issues facing the State.

Heather Fluit was my communications director and she did tremendous work keeping the people of Alabama up to speed on all the good work that we were doing in Washington and around the State. This could be a difficult job at times on weedy issues like money laundering, but Heather excelled.

I could not conclude these remarks, however, without once again noting what was one of my proudest moments in the Senate when we successfully eliminated the Military Widow's Tax. It took a tremendous amount of effort and persistence in making that legislation a reality, and so much of the credit goes to Sarah Kate Sullivan in my office. Like me and my colleague Senator COLLINS, Sarah Kate never gave up, and today, so many military families will benefit from her efforts.

My wife Louise and I thank each of these individuals listed below from the bottom of our hearts. We love them all like family, and we wish them all the very best in their future careers:

Katie Campbell, Deputy Legislative Director.

Olivia Chartier, Deputy Scheduler.

Sam Coleman, Press Secretary.

Jordan Cozby, Staff Assistant.

Gregory Early, Military Fellow.

Elise Fink, Fellow.

Mike Flint, Fellow.

Heather Fluit, Communications Director.

Jasmine Goodman, Staff Assistant.

Dana Gresham, Chief of Staff.

Rebecca Howard, Legislative Assistant.

Cissy Jackson, Counsel and National Security Advisor.

Roger Johnson, Staff Assistant.

Darren Kinnaird, Systems Administrator.

Smriti Krishnan, Heflin Fellow.

Mark Libell, Deputy Chief of Staff / Legislative Director.

Leila Mohaideen, Digital Director / Deputy Press Secretary.

Becca Murdoch, Legislative Correspondent.

Lacy Nelson, Digital Assistant / Deputy Press Secretary.

Koby Noel, Mailroom Director.

Lauren Oppenheimer, Senior Economic Policy Advisor.

Avery Phillip, Press Assistant.

Judy Rainey, Administrative Director.

Zoe Scott, Staff Assistant.

Abby Selden, Counsel.

Laura Sherrod, Legislative Aide.

Jack Spalding, Research Director.

Jessica Spence, Legislative Correspondent.

Garrett Stephens, Legislative Correspondent.

Caroline Stonecipher, Press Secretary.

Brenda Strickland, Director of Scheduling.

Sarah Kate Sullivan, Projects Director.

Ted Trippi, Legislative Correspondent.

Emma Turner, Scheduling Assistant.

Calvin Willborn, Special Assistant.

Kern Williams, Legislative Correspondent.

Michael Williams, Legislative Correspondent.

ALABAMA

Anna Bern, Field Representative.

Bonnie Beviacqua, Staff Assistant.

Beau Bowden, Field Representative.

Ricky Chapman, Staff Assistant.

Eden Cockrell, Staff Assistant.

Paula Cox, Staff Assistant.

Donald Dees, Field Representative.

Sam Duff, Staff Assistant.

Jason Fisher, Field Representative.

Brantley Fry, State Director.

April Hodges, Field Representative.

Sandra Jackson, Regional Director.

Shanderla McMillian, Caseworker.

Kate Messervy, Field Representative.

Jim Perdue, Regional Director.

Jose Perry Jr, Regional Director.

June Reeves-Weir, Caseworker.

Liz Rutledge, Field Representative.

Amber Selman-Lynn, Field Representative.

Ron Sparks, Senior Advisor.

Al Stokes, Regional Director.
Rick Tate, Staff Assistant.
Susan Thompson, Caseworker and Grants Coordinator.
Zandra Wilson, Caseworker.
Violeta Yanez, Community Outreach Coordinator.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD RONALD KNOCK

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to honor the passing of a great Kentuckian, Richard Ronald Knock, or Dick, as he was known to his friends and family. He died December 8, 2020, at the age of 82.

Dick was born June 28, 1938 in Cold Spring, KY. Dick's name was always mentioned with high praise. He was valued in his community, as he was known to lend a helping hand when needed and provided a thoughtful ear when spoken to. Mr. Knock came from a humble upbringing, but through his own deeds, he rose to the pinnacle of his profession, being a respected member of many institutions, including as CEO of Knock Investments; CEO of Omaha Enterprises; through his service on the Board of Trustees at University of the Cumberlands; and as chairman of Board of Commissioners for the Boone County Water District.

Dick was also an active political pundit within his community. His commitment to freedom was unmatched, and he often proved to be a great source of wisdom for elected leaders such as myself. Dick worked tirelessly in bringing Republicans throughout the Commonwealth together in the name of freedom. I can recall during my first election he opened his house for an event that featured my predecessor, Senator Jim Bunning, that helped unify Republicans in a critical area of our State. A picture from that event hangs in my Washington office to this day. With his passing, we have lost one of our brightest and loudest freedom fighters, but, as Dick would want, the voices of liberty will remain loud and clear.

While we share in the great sadness of his passing, it with great joy we look back at his life, his many accomplishments, and the positive impact he had on his community and Kentuckians across the Commonwealth. We honor Dick and his family, and may he rest in peace.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF ART MINISTRIES

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a milestone achievement for a ministry in my State. The Academy of Arts Ministries is celebrating its 50th anniversary in South Carolina on January 8, 2021. This ministry has trained thousands of students in the arts and sent them out in

their local communities to share the Good News about God through their art.

Its founder, Dr. Nicky Chavers, has dedicated the last 50 years to giving young people a safe avenue to be creative through the Logos Theatre, nation-wide traveling ministries, a professional film company and more. The young people in my great state of South Carolina have truly benefited from the sacrifices of Dr. Chavers and the entire team at the Academy of Art Ministries.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 20, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 110. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on December 20, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 979. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 1694. An act to require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes.

S. 2174. An act to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

S. 2683. An act to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

S. 2730. An act to establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee.

S. 3312. An act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3418. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to

establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 3989. An act to amend the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 to modify certain membership and other requirements of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 5036. An act to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1966. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to complete a study on barriers to participation in federally funded cancer clinical trials by populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in such trials.

H.R. 5023. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Carl Nunziato VA Clinic".

H.R. 5459. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6237. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to clarify the requirement of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to reimburse the Indian Health Service for certain health care services.

H.R. 7898. An act to amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider certain recognized security practices of covered entities and business associates when making certain determinations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8906. An act to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 9:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1520) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 128. Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520.

H. Con. Res. 127. Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133.

At 10:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 4996. An act to ensure funding of the United States trustees, extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) has signed the following enrolled bill: H.R. 1520. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. THUNE).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 21, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 212. An act to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities.

S. 461. An act to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes.

S. 900. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

S. 906. An act to improve the management of driftnet fishing.

S. 914. An act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes.

S. 979. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 1130. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1342. An act to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 1694. An act to require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes.

S. 1869. An act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes.

S. 2174. An act to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

S. 2216. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for the family caregiver program, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

S. 2472. An act to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility.

S. 2683. An act to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

S. 2730. An act to establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee.

S. 3257. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 3312. An act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3418. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 3461. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building".

S. 3462. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the "Ralph Hall Post Office".

S. 3989. An act to amend the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 to modify certain membership and other requirements of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 4126. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the "Joseph G. Demler Post Office".

S. 4684. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the "Robert L. Brown Post Office".

S. 5036. An act to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 5078. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the temporary relief from troubled debt restructurings; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5079. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to repeal the suspension of eligibility for grants, loans, and work assist-

ance for drug-related offenses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5080. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5081. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 5082. A bill to provide Federal support for COVID-19 testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 5083. A bill to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a pay-for-results pilot program to assist veterans, members of the Armed Forces on active duty, and their family members at risk of social isolation and loneliness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 5084. A bill to increase transparency and access to group health plan and health insurance issuer reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude corporations operating prisons from the definition of taxable REIT subsidiary.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2773

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2773, a bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available.

S. 3103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3103, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program.

S. 3206

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3206, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 4055

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4055, a bill to address health workforce shortages and disparities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic through additional funding for the National Health Service Corps and the Nurse Corps, and to establish a National Health Service Corps Emergency Service demonstration project.

S. 4461

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4461, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 4742

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4742, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to promote access to life-saving therapies for Medicaid enrollees by ensuring coverage of routine patient costs for items and services furnished in connection with participation in qualifying clinical trials, and for other purposes.

S. 4757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 4757, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 4867

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4867, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. 4967

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4967, a bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the excise tax holiday period for aviation taxes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2726. Mr. SCOTT, of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, affirming the benefits of "Buying American".

SA 2727. Mr. SCOTT, of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, *supra*.

SA 2728. Mr. SCOTT, of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, *supra*.

SA 2729. Mr. CORNYN (for Mrs. FISCHER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371, to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes.

SA 2730. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2429, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

SA 2731. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. WARNER)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Warner to the bill H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2732. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3153, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

SA 2733. Mr. BOOZMAN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 774, honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

SA 2734. Mr. BOOZMAN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 774, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2726. Mr. SCOTT of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, affirming the benefits of "Buying American"; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That—

(1) it is the policy of the United States Government to "Buy American" products for public use when fiscally and reasonably possible, in accordance with the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) the Senate supports American manufacturing and strengthening our American manufacturing base.

SA 2727. Mr. SCOTT of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, affirming the benefits of "Buying American"; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on July 15, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13881 titled

"Maximizing Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials" (84 Fed. Reg. 34257), which would enforce the Buy American Act of 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) to the greatest extent permitted by law;

Whereas, the Buy American Act of 1933 requires Federal agencies to procure materials and products domestically—

(1) when the materials are intended for public use within the United States; and

(2) when the materials to be procured (or the materials from which they are manufactured) are present in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality;

Whereas American-made products are developed under United States' regulations and undergo testing to ensure their compliance with United States' safety standards, which are among the highest standards in the world;

Whereas American-made products are produced by workers earning competitive wages and working in safe working conditions;

Whereas purchasing American-made products supports the producers of those products and their communities;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturing Institute, each dollar spent in sales of manufactured products supports \$1.33 in output from other sectors of the economy;

Whereas, according to the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Foundation, for every full-time job in manufacturing, there are 3.4 full-time equivalent jobs created in non-manufacturing industries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos, when buying products, nearly 70 percent of Americans find it important that the products they buy were made in the United States;

Whereas strengthening American manufacturing supports employment in the United States, produces innovation and the seeds for future industries, and supports the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas a strong American manufacturing base is an important component in helping to revitalize the United States economy as it recovers from the global COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas a strong domestic supply chain for certain goods and close cooperation with trusted allies can support national security and public safety;

Whereas the global COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for the globally interconnected supply chain of medical products and has heightened the need for supply chain security of a variety of critical materials and products; and

Whereas, regarding the manufacturing of critical medical supplies and products essential to national security, national stockpiles and a healthy domestic industrial base would help handle any future surge in need for these supplies: Now, therefore, be it

SA 2728. Mr. SCOTT of Florida proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 625, affirming the benefits of "Buying American"; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution affirming the benefits of 'Buying American'".

SA 2729. Mr. CORNYN (for Mrs. FISCHER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 371, to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams Act” or the “BUILD Act”.

SEC. 2. MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTION DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) TILA AMENDMENT.—Section 105 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1604) is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest with only bonafide and reasonable fees and that is primarily for charitable purposes by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code, forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) shall, collectively, be an appropriate model form for purposes of subsection (b) of this section.”.

(b) RESPA AMENDMENT.—Section 4 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) DISCLOSURE FOR CHARITABLE MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS.—With respect to a mortgage loan transaction involving a residential mortgage loan offered at 0 percent interest with only bonafide and reasonable fees and that is primarily for charitable purposes, an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code may use forms HUD-1 and GFE (as defined under section 1024.2(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations) together with a disclosure substantially in the form of the Loan Model Form H-2 (as depicted in Appendix H to part 1026 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations), collectively, in lieu of the disclosure published under subsection (a) of this section.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2730. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2429, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

Sec. 102. Modification to section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403).

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF AUTHORITIES

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.

Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.

Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000**SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

(a) PURPOSES; FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 202 and 203 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this title are—

“(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condition of United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by natural and human-accelerated changes, including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, water quality degradation, invasive species, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

“(2) to promote the science-based management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit local communities and the Nation, including through improved integration and cooperation among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdictions with coral reef equities;

“(3) to develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strategies to mitigate stressors and restore such ecosystems, including evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness of management interventions, and accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

“(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by supporting science-based, consensus-driven State, Tribal, and community-based coral reef management, including conservation and restoration projects that empower local communities, small businesses, and nongovernmental organizations;

“(5) to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and strengthen State and community-based management programs and conservation and restoration projects;

“(6) to establish a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation and restoration projects;

“(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-based assessment and response to emergencies that imminently threaten coral reefs, such as coral disease outbreaks, invasive species, hurricanes, marine heat waves, coral bleaching, and other natural disasters, vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other exigent circumstances; and

“(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar international efforts to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United States allies and trading partners.

“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator or the Secretary of the Interior may conduct activities described in subsection (b) to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems that are consistent with—

“(1) all applicable laws governing resource management in Federal and State waters, including this Act;

“(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A;

“(3) coral reef action plans in effect under section 205, as applicable; and

“(4) coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209, as applicable.

“(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, monitor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordination with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such State, including—

“(1) developing, including through the collection of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps reflecting—

“(A) current and historical live coral cover data;

“(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

“(C) priority areas for coral reef conservation to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function that benefit coastal communities and living marine resources;

“(D) priority areas for coral reef restoration to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function to benefit coastal communities and living marine resources; and

“(E) areas of concern that may require enhanced monitoring of coral health and cover.

“(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws that prohibit or regulate—

“(A) the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs; or

“(B) the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

“(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

“(4) implementing species-specific recovery plans for listed coral species consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

“(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

“(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to promote enhanced recreational access, near coral reefs;

“(7) monitoring and responding to severe bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks, invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the removal of grounded vessels;

“(8) conducting scientific research that contributes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-term conservation of coral reefs;

“(9) enhancing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

“(10) preventing or minimizing the likelihood of vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral reefs through navigational aids and expansion of reef-safe anchorages; and

“(11) centrally archiving, managing, and distributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assessments and publishing such information on publicly available internet websites of—

“(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(B) the Task Force.

“(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

“(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) The National Park Service.

“(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

“(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator may enter into cooperative agreements with States to fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such States that are consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not provide more than \$500,000 in total funding under paragraph (1) to any one State in any fiscal year.”

(b) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 205 through 210 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

“(1) develop a national coral reef resilience strategy; and

“(2) periodically, but not less frequently than every 15 years, review and revise the strategy.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) A discussion addressing—

“(A) continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems;

“(B) remaining gaps in coral reef ecosystem research, monitoring, and assessment;

“(C) the status of management cooperation and integration among Federal, State, Tribal, and locally managed jurisdictions with coral reef equities;

“(D) the status of efforts to manage and disseminate critical information, and enhance interjurisdictional data sharing, related to research, reports, datasets, and maps;

“(E) areas of special focus, which may include—

“(i) improving natural coral recruitment;

“(ii) preventing avoidable losses of corals and their habitat;

“(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral populations;

“(iv) supporting a resilience-based management approach;

“(v) developing, coordinating, and implementing watershed management plans;

“(vi) building and sustaining watershed management capacity at the local level;

“(vii) providing data essential for coral reef fisheries management;

“(viii) building capacity for coral reef fisheries management;

“(ix) increasing understanding of coral reef ecosystem services;

“(x) educating the public on the importance of coral reefs, threats and solutions; and

“(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

“(F) the status of conservation efforts, including the use of marine protected areas to serve as replenishment zones developed consistent with local practices and traditions and in cooperation with, and with respect for the scientific, technical, and management expertise and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife management agencies; and

“(G) science-based adaptive management and restoration efforts.

“(2) A statement of national goals and objectives designed to guide—

“(A) future Federal coral reef management and restoration activities authorized under section 203;

“(B) conservation and restoration priorities for grants awarded under section 213; and

“(C) research priorities for the cooperative institutes established under section 215(c).

“(3) General templates for use by covered reef managers to guide the development of—

“(A) coral reef action plans under section 205; and

“(B) coral reef emergency plans under section 209.

“(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

“(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Task Force, covered States, and Tribal organizations;

“(2) engage stakeholders, including coral reef stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and research centers described in section 215(c), and coral reef conservation grant awardees; and

“(3) solicit public review and comment regarding scoping and the draft strategy.

“(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall—

“(1) submit the strategy required by subsection (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(2) publish the strategy and any such revisions on publicly available internet websites of—

“(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(B) the Task Force.

“(e) TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020, the 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Strategic Plan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall be considered to be the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under this section until the earlier of—

“(1) September 30, 2033; or

“(2) the date on which the Administrator develops a national coral reef resilience strategy under this section.

“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.

“(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as provided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020, and not later than 2 years after the publication of a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under section 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and submit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide management and restoration activities to be undertaken within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered reef manager preparing a coral reef action plan under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect; and

“(2) revise the plan not less frequently than once every 5 years.

“(c) PLAN ELEMENTS.—A coral reef action plan under subsection (a) shall include a discussion of the following elements:

“(1) Short- and mid-term coral reef conservation and restoration objectives within the applicable jurisdiction.

“(2) An updated adaptive management framework to inform research, monitoring, and assessment needs.

“(3) The status of any coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209 covering coral reef ecosystems within the applicable jurisdiction.

“(4) Tools, strategies, and partnerships necessary to identify, monitor, and redress pollution and water quality impacts to coral reef ecosystems within the applicable jurisdiction.

“(5) The status of efforts to improve coral reef ecosystem management cooperation and

integration among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally managed jurisdictions, including the identification of existing research and monitoring activities that can be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assessments within the applicable jurisdiction.

“(6) An accounting of annual expenditures on coral reef management and restoration activities within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding action plan, if any, was in effect.

“(7) Estimated budgetary and resource considerations necessary to carry out the proposed action plan.

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef manager developing a coral reef action plan under subsection (a).

“(e) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef action plan developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting manager's applicable jurisdiction.

“(f) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral reef action plan by a covered reef manager under subsection (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection (e), shall be subject to public review and comment.

“(g) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the Task Force under this section on publicly available internet websites of—

“(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(2) the Task Force.

“(h) APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—A covered State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is not required to develop a coral reef action plan under subsection (a), but may do so in its own discretion. In developing a coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is encouraged, but not mandated, to comply with the requirements of this section.

“(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef action plan shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to the Task Force under this section during the preceding 6 years.

“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.

“(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—The Administrator shall establish standards for the formation of partnerships among government and community members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in accordance with this section, including guidance for preparation and submission of coral reef action plans under section 205.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REEFS.—Each coral reef stewardship partnership shall identify with particularity the coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship activities.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef that is fully or partially under the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

“(1) That Federal agency, a representative of which shall serve as chair of the coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(2) A State, county, or Tribal organization's resource management agency.

“(3) A coral reef research center described in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher education.

“(4) A nongovernmental organization.

“(5) Such other members as the partnership considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder groups.

“(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL REEFS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef that is not under the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

“(A) A State, county, or Tribal organization’s resource management agency, a representative of which shall serve as the chair of the coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(B) A coral reef research center described in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher education.

“(C) A nongovernmental organization.

“(D) Such other members as the partnership considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder groups.

“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1) may also include representatives of one or more Federal agencies that have management responsibility in the reef that is the subject of the partnership’s stewardship activities.

“(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A representative of a Federal agency described in subparagraph (A) may become a member of a coral reef stewardship partnership described in paragraph (1) if—

“(i) the representative submits a request to become a member to the chair of the partnership referred to in paragraph (1)(A); and

“(ii) the chair consents to the request.

“(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship partnerships.

“SEC. 207. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide block grants of financial assistance to covered States to support management and restoration activities and further the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnerships.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—A covered State shall qualify for and receive additional grant amounts beyond the base award specified in subsection (c)(1) if there is at least one coral reef action plan in effect within the jurisdiction of the covered State developed by that covered State or a non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the amount of each block grant awarded to a covered State under this section shall be the sum of—

“(1) a base award of \$100,000; and

“(2) if the State is eligible under subsection (b)—

“(A) an amount that is equal to non-Federal expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral reef management and restoration activities within the jurisdiction of the State, as reported within the previous fiscal year; and

“(B) an additional amount, from any funds appropriated for block grants under this section that remain after distribution under subparagraph (A) and paragraph (1), based on the proportion of the State’s share of total non-Federal expenditures on coral reef management and restoration activities, as reported within the previous fiscal year, in ex-

cess of \$3,000,000, relative to other covered States.

“(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching funds used to leverage Federal awards may be considered as qualifying non-Federal expenditures.

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator is responsible for—

“(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Federal expenditures and the proper documentation of such expenditures;

“(2) issuing annual solicitations to covered States for additional awards under this section; and

“(3) determining the appropriate allocation of additional amounts among covered States in accordance with this section.

“(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and formally reporting those expenditures for review in response to annual solicitations by the Administrator under subsection (e).

“(g) UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts available for block grants under this section that are not expended shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund under section 208(b).

“(h) WAIVERS OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator may waive the eligibility requirements under subsection (b) through fiscal year 2023.

“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.

“(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this section.

“(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest, and otherwise administer the funds received under this section and maintain such funds and any interest or revenues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’), and known before the date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020 as the Coral Reef Conservation Fund administered through a public-private partnership with the Foundation), established by the Foundation solely to support coral reef stewardship partnership activities that—

“(1) further the purposes of this title; and

“(2) are consistent with—

“(A) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A; and

“(B) coral reef action plans in effect, if any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef to be impacted by such activities, if applicable.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, donations of services) to further the purposes of this title.

“(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained in the Fund.

“(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under paragraph (2), the Foundation

shall notify the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the source and amount of such funds.

“(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall include a written assessment concerning the extent to which the Foundation has implemented the goals and requirements of—

“(1) this section; and

“(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

“(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator may transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to the Foundation under this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in part, contributions (whether in money, services, or property) made to the Foundation by private persons, State or local government agencies, or Tribal organizations.

“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may develop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef ecosystems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdictions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action plan.

“(b) CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES.—The Administrator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, circumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emergencies’), including—

“(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

“(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or nuisance species;

“(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

“(4) natural disasters;

“(5) man-made disasters, including vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction accidents; and

“(6) other exigent circumstances.

“(c) BEST RESPONSE PRACTICES.—The Administrator shall develop guidance on best practices to respond to coral reef emergencies that can be adopted within coral reef emergency plans. Such best practices shall be—

“(1) based on the best available science and integrated with evolving innovative technologies; and

“(2) revised not less frequently than once every 5 years.

“(d) PLAN ELEMENTS.—A coral reef emergency plan shall include the following elements:

“(1) A description of particular threats, and the proposed responses, consistent with the best practices developed under subsection (d).

“(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities for executing the plan.

“(3) Evidence of engagement with interested stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the development of the plan.

“(4) Any other information the Administrator considers to be necessary for the plan.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef manager developing a coral reef emergency plan under subsection (a).

“(f) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a

coral reef emergency plan developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting manager's applicable jurisdiction.

“(g) **PUBLIC REVIEW.**—The development of a coral reef action plan by a covered reef manager under subsection (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection (f), shall be subject to public review and comment.

“(h) **PUBLICATION.**—The Administrator shall publish each coral reef emergency plan prepared and submitted to the Task Force under this section on publicly available internet websites of—

“(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(2) the Task Force.

“(i) **PLAN IN EFFECT.**—A coral reef emergency plan shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to the Task Force under this section during the preceding 6 years.

“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**—There is established in the Treasury an interest-bearing fund to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’, which shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund under subsection (c).

“(b) **USES.**—Amounts in the Fund—

“(1) shall be available only for use by the Secretary to compensate covered coral reef managers to implement a coral reef emergency plan in effect under sections 210 and 212; and

“(2) shall remain available until expended.

“(c) **DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, there shall be deposited into the Fund—

“(1) amounts appropriated for the Fund; and

“(2) other amounts appropriated to the Secretary for use with respect to coral reef emergencies.

“(d) **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of carrying out this title, the Secretary may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, donations of services).

“(2) **DEPOSITS IN FUND.**—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained in the Fund.

“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

“(a) **CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.**—

“(1) **SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may determine and declare a coral reef emergency, including at the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior.

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In declaring a coral reef emergency under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) certify that an emergency has occurred that is ecologically significant and harmful to coral reefs; and

“(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees findings and analysis to justify the declaration.

“(2) **PETITIONS.**—If a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership believes that a coral reef emergency has occurred, and is impacting coral reefs or ecologically significant components of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or jurisdiction of the State or partnership, the State or partnership may petition the Secretary for a declaration of a coral reef emergency.

“(3) **EVALUATION AND ACTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving a petition under paragraph (2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B)), the Secretary shall—

“(i) evaluate the petition to determine whether a coral reef emergency has occurred; and

“(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or deny the petition.

“(B) **EXTENSION.**—The Secretary may extend the deadline provided for under subparagraph (A) by not more than 15 days.

“(4) **APPEAL.**—If the Secretary denies a petition for an emergency declaration submitted under paragraph (2), the State or partnership that submitted the petition may, not later than 15 days after receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial to the Secretary. Not later than 15 days after receiving an appeal under this paragraph, the Secretary shall grant or deny the appeal.

“(5) **REVOCATION.**—The Secretary may revoke any declaration of a coral reef emergency in whole or in part after determining that circumstances no longer require an emergency response.

“(6) **RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.**—The Administrator may seek compensation from negligent parties to recover emergency funds expended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as a result of an emergency declaration arising from direct impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters or accidents.

“(b) **GRANT AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, upon the declaration of a coral reef emergency under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide grants to carry out proposals that meet the requirements of paragraph (2) to implement coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209.

“(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A proposal for a grant under this subsection to implement a coral reef emergency plan in effect under section 209 shall include—

“(A) the name of the entity submitting the proposal;

“(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency plan;

“(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals and entities who will implement the plan;

“(D) an estimate of the funds and time required to complete the implementation of the plan; and

“(E) any other information the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the proposal for a grant under this subsection.

“(3) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection, the Secretary shall review the proposal and determine if the proposal meets the requirements of paragraph (2).

“(4) **CONCURRENT REVIEW.**—An entity seeking a grant under this subsection may submit a proposal under paragraph (2) to the Secretary at any time following the submission of a petition for an emergency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that is applicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant components of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or jurisdiction of the entity.

“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.

“The Administrator, in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies, shall establish and maintain an inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving United States coral reefs, including a description of—

“(1) the impacts of each such incident to coral reefs and related natural resources;

“(2) vessel and ownership information relating to each such incident, if available;

“(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel, mitigation, or restoration relating to each such incident;

“(4) the response actions taken by the owner of the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal or State agencies;

“(5) the status of the response actions, including the dates of—

“(A) vessel removal;

“(B) mitigation or restoration activities, including whether a coral reef emergency plan was implemented; and

“(C) any actions taken to prevent future grounding incidents; and

“(6) recommendations for additional navigational aids or other mechanisms for preventing future grounding incidents.

“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) **GRANTS.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a program (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for the conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursuant to proposals approved by the Administrator in accordance with this section.

“(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An entity described in paragraph (2) may submit to the Administrator a proposal for a coral reef project.

“(2) **ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—An entity described in this paragraph is—

“(A) a natural resource management authority of a State or local government or Tribal organization—

“(i) with responsibility for coral reef management; or

“(ii) the activities of which directly or indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems;

“(B) a regional fishery management council established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

“(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in effect under section 205;

“(D) a coral reef research center designated under section 215(c)(4); or

“(E) another nongovernmental organization or research institution with demonstrated expertise in the conservation or restoration of coral reefs in practice or through significant contributions to the body of existing scientific research on coral reefs.

“(c) **PROJECT PROPOSALS.**—Each proposal for a grant under this section for a coral reef project shall include the following:

“(1) The name of the individual or entity responsible for conducting the project.

“(2) A description of the qualifications of the individual or entity.

“(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of the project.

“(4) An estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project.

“(5) Evidence of support for the project by appropriate representatives of States or other government jurisdictions in which the project will be conducted.

“(6) Information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available to the applicant.

“(7) A description of how the project meets one or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).

“(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef action plan in effect under section 205.

“(9) Any other information the Administrator considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for a grant under this subsection.

“(d) **PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall review each coral reef project proposal submitted under this section to determine if the project meets the criteria set forth in subsection (e).

“(2) **PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**—The Administrator shall prioritize the awarding of grants for projects that meet the criteria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be conducted within priority areas identified for coral reef conservation by the Administrator and consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

“(3) **PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION PROJECTS.**—The Administrator shall prioritize the awarding of grants for projects that meet the criteria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through (L) of subsection (e)(2) that are proposed to be conducted within priority areas identified for coral reef restoration by the Administrator and consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

“(4) **REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal for a coral reef project under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(A) request and consider written comments on the proposal from each Federal agency, State government, Tribal organization, or other government jurisdiction, including the relevant regional fishery management councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sanctuary or Marine National Monument, with jurisdiction or management authority over coral reef ecosystems in the area where the project is to be conducted, including the extent to which the project is consistent with locally established priorities, unless such entities were directly involved in the development of the project proposal;

“(B) provide for the merit-based peer review of the proposal and require standardized documentation of that peer review;

“(C) after considering any written comments and recommendations based on the reviews under subparagraphs (A) and (B), approve or disapprove the proposal; and

“(D) provide written notification of that approval or disapproval, with summaries of all written comments, recommendations, and peer-reviews, to the entity that submitted the proposal, and each of those States, Tribal organizations, and other government jurisdictions that provided comments under subparagraph (A).

“(e) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—The Administrator may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under this section unless the project—

“(1) is consistent with—

“(A) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A; and

“(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 covering a coral reef or ecologically significant component of a coral reef to be affected by the project; and

“(2) will enhance the conservation and restoration of coral reefs by—

“(A) addressing conflicts arising from the use of environments near coral reefs or from the use of corals, species associated with coral reefs, and coral products, including supporting consensus-driven, community-based planning and management initiatives for the protection of coral reef ecosystems;

“(B) improving compliance with laws that prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products or species associated with coral reefs or regulate the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;

“(C) designing and implementing networks of real-time water quality monitoring along coral reefs, including data collection related to turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal blooms, and plankton assemblages,

with an emphasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture and urban development;

“(D) promoting ecologically sound navigation and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to promote enhanced recreational access, near coral reefs;

“(E) furthering the goals and objectives of coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 and coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209;

“(F) mapping the location and distribution of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;

“(G) stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems;

“(H) implementing research to ensure the population viability of listed coral species in United States waters as detailed in the population-based recovery criteria included in species-specific recovery plans consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

“(I) developing and implementing cost-effective methods to restore degraded coral reef ecosystems or to create geographically appropriate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters, including by improving habitat or promoting success of keystone species, with an emphasis on novel restoration strategies and techniques to advance coral reef recovery and growth near population centers threatened by rising sea levels and storm surge;

“(J) translating and applying coral genetics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration, including research related to traits that promote resilience to increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, and invasive species;

“(K) developing and maintaining in situ native coral propagation sites; or

“(L) developing and maintaining ex situ coral propagation nurseries and land-based coral gene banks to—

“(i) conserve or augment genetic diversity of native coral populations;

“(ii) support captive breeding of rare coral species; or

“(iii) enhance resilience of native coral populations to increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, and coral diseases through selective breeding, conditioning, or other approaches that target genes, gene expression, phenotypic traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

“(f) **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.**—To the extent practicable based upon proposals for coral reef projects submitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure that funding for grants awarded under this section during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

“(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

“(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.

“(3) Not more than 67 percent of funds distributed in each region in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be made exclusively available to projects that are—

“(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship partnership; and

“(B) consistent with the coral reef action plan in effect under section 205 by such a partnership.

“(4) Of the funds distributed to support projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(g) **PROJECT REPORTING.**—Each entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator such reports at such times and containing such information for evaluating project performance as the Administrator may require.

“(h) **TASK FORCE.**—The Administrator may consult with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

“(i) **UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.**—Any amounts available for grants under this section that are not expended shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund under section 208(b).

“SEC. 214. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b) a report on the administration of this title during the 2-year period preceding submission of the report, including—

“(1) a description of all activities undertaken to implement the most recent national coral reef resilience strategy under section 204A;

“(2) a statement of all funds obligated under the authorities of this title; and

“(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the costs of each project or activity funded, in full or in part, under the authorities of this title.

“(b) **COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.**—The committees specified in this subsection are—

“(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“SEC. 215. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

“(b) **FUNDING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Under an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Administrator may reimburse or provide funds authorized to be appropriated by section 216 to, and may receive funds or reimbursements from, individuals and entities described in paragraph (2) to carry out activities authorized by this title.

“(2) **INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—Individuals and entities described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities, and laboratories.

“(B) State and local governments.

“(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

“(D) International organizations.

“(E) Foreign governments not subject to economic sanctions imposed by the United States.

“(F) Institutions of higher education, research centers, and other educational institutions.

“(G) Nonprofit organizations.

“(H) Commercial organizations.

“(I) Other public or private individuals or entities.

“(c) **COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.**—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish 2 cooperative institutes for the purpose of advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic Coral Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef Institute’.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each institute established under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single coral reef research center designated by the Administrator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pacific basins, respectively, and may contract with other coral reef research centers within the same basin to support each institute’s capacity and reach.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—The institutes established under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) conduct federally directed research to fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem research gaps and improve understanding of, and responses to, continuing and emerging threats to the resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A;

“(B) support ecological research and monitoring to study the effects of conservation and restoration activities funded by this title on promoting more effective coral reef management and restoration; and

“(C) through agreements—

“(i) collaborate directly with governmental resource management agencies, coral reef stewardship partnerships, nonprofit organizations, and other coral reef research centers designated under paragraph (4);

“(ii) assist in the development and implementation of—

“(I) the national coral reef resilience strategy under section 204A;

“(II) coral reef action plans under section 205; and

“(III) coral reef emergency plans under section 209;

“(iii) build capacity within governmental resource management agencies to establish research priorities and translate and apply research findings to management and restoration practices; and

“(iv) conduct public education and awareness programs for policymakers, resource managers, and the general public on—

“(I) coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

“(II) best practices for coral reef ecosystem management and restoration;

“(III) the value of coral reefs; and

“(IV) the threats to the sustainability of coral reef ecosystems.

“(4) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall periodically solicit applications and designate all qualifying institutions in a covered State as coral reef research centers.

“(B) CRITERIA.—An institution qualifies for designation as a coral reef research center under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator determines that the institution—

“(i) is operated by an institution of higher education or nonprofit marine research organization;

“(ii) has established management-driven national or regional coral reef research or restoration programs;

“(iii) has demonstrated abilities to coordinate closely with appropriate Federal and State agencies, as well as other academic and nonprofit organizations; and

“(iv) maintains significant local community engagement and outreach programs related to coral reef ecosystems.

“(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with the heads of other Federal agencies, States, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, local governments, the coral reef cooperative institutes established under subsection (c), and other institutions of higher education, non-

profit research organizations, and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities authorized under this title.

“(e) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—The Administrator may use, with consent and with or without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—

“(1) the United States;

“(2) any State or local government;

“(3) any Indian Tribe; or

“(4) any foreign government not subject to economic sanctions imposed by the United States.

“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of any Federal agency with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C. 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry out a program to award prizes competitively under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

“(b) PURPOSES.—Any program carried out under this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

“(c) PRIORITY PROGRAMS.—Priority shall be given to establishing programs under this section that address communities, environments, or industries that are in distress as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems, including—

“(1) scientific research and monitoring that furthers the understanding of causes behind coral reef decline and degradation and the generally slow recovery following disturbances, including ocean acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

“(2) the development of monitoring or management options for communities or industries that are experiencing significant financial hardship;

“(3) the development of adaptation options to alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by damage to coral reef ecosystems;

“(4) the development of measures to help vulnerable communities or industries, with an emphasis on rural communities and businesses; and

“(5) the development of adaptation and management options for impacted tourism industries.

“SEC. 217. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title the following amounts, which shall remain available until expended:

“(1) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

“(2) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

“(3) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

“(4) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2024.

“(5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

“(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program administration or for overhead costs incurred by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Department of Commerce and assessed as an administrative charge.

“(c) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for authorized activities under sections 203 and 207:

“(1) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which not less than \$8,000,000 shall be made avail-

able to the Secretary for the provision State block grants under section 207.

“(2) \$24,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which not less than \$8,500,000 shall be made available to the Secretary for the provision State block grants under section 207.

“(3) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary for the provision State block grants under section 207.

“(4) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which not less than \$10,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary for the provision State block grants under section 207.

“(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, of which not less than \$11,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary for the provision State block grants under section 207.

“(d) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to support purposes consistent with this title, of which—

“(1) not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made available for each such fiscal year for authorized activities under section 213; and

“(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made available for each such fiscal year through cooperative agreements with the cooperative institutes established under section 215(c).

“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’ means the use of methods and procedures necessary to preserve or sustain native corals and associated species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive species, including—

“(A) all activities associated with resource management, such as monitoring, assessment, protection, restoration, sustainable use, management of habitat, and maintenance or augmentation of genetic diversity;

“(B) mapping;

“(C) scientific expertise and technical assistance in the development and implementation of management strategies for marine protected areas and marine resources consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

“(D) law enforcement;

“(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

“(F) community outreach and education; and

“(G) promotion of safe and ecologically sound navigation and anchoring.

“(4) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

“(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals, gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and

“(B) all species of the order Anthothecata (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa.

“(5) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’ means limestone structures in the form of a reef or shoal, composed in whole or in part by living coral, skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline algae, and other associated sessile marine plants and animals.

“(6) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means—

“(A) corals and other geographically and ecologically associated marine communities of other reef organisms (including reef plants and animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

“(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and processes that control coral calcification rates, tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment, abundance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in such habitat.

“(7) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral products’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or derivatives, or any product containing specimens, parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in paragraph (4).

“(8) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered reef manager’ means a management unit of a Federal agency specified in subparagraph (B) with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem, covered State, or coral reef stewardship partnership.

“(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal agency specified in this subparagraph is one of the following:

“(i) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(ii) The National Park Service.

“(iii) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

“(9) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

“(10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(11) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(12) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes community members such as businesses, commercial and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists, Federal, State, Tribal, and local government units with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations.

“(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(14) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’ means the use of methods and procedures necessary to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a functioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole or in part, within suitable waters of the historical geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide ecological, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency services associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit native populations of coral reef organisms.

“(15) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’ means the capacity for corals within their native range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to recover from natural and human disturbances as determined by clearly identifiable, measurable, and science-based standards.

“(16) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce.

“(17) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

“(A) any State of the United States that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries;

“(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam,

Puerto Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or

“(C) any other territory or possession of the United States or separate sovereign in free association with the United States that contains a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward boundaries.

“(18) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’, with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation, restoration, and public outreach and education.

“(19) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’ means the United States Coral Reef Task Force established under section 201 of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2020.

“(20) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal organization’ has the meaning given the term ‘tribal organization’ in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL OCEANS AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a) of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16 U.S.C. 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal infrastructure” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as coral reefs”.

SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403).

Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “this section” and inserting “section 213”;

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), block grant funds awarded to the territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands under section 207 shall qualify as the non-Federal share of project costs.”; and

(3) by striking subsections (c) through (j).

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a task force to lead, coordinate, and strengthen Federal Government actions to better preserve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

SEC. 202. DUTIES.

The duties of the Task Force shall be—

(1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State, Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef research centers designated under section 215(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amended by section 101), and other nongovernmental and academic partners as appropriate, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

(2) to monitor and advise regarding implementation of the policy and Federal agency responsibilities set forth in—

(A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg. 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

(B) the national coral reef resilience strategy developed under section 204A of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;

(3) to work with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and in coordination with the other members of the Task Force—

(A) to assess the United States role in international trade and protection of coral species;

(B) to encourage implementation of appropriate strategies and actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide; and

(C) to collaborate with international communities successful in managing coral reefs;

(4) to provide technical assistance for the development and implementation, as appropriate, of—

(A) the national coral reef resilience strategy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;

(B) coral reef action plans under section 205 of that Act; and

(C) coral reef emergency plans under section 209 of that Act; and

(5) to produce a report each year, for submission to the appropriate congressional committees and publication on a publicly available internet website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of the coral reef equities of a covered State on a rotating basis, including—

(A) a summary of recent coral reef management and restoration activities undertaken in that State; and

(B) updated estimates of the direct and indirect economic activity supported by, and other benefits associated with, those coral reef equities.

SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall have the following voting members:

(1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

(2) The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) The Secretary of Defense.

(5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

(6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(8) The Attorney General.

(9) The Secretary of State.

(10) The Secretary of Transportation.

(11) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(12) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(13) The Director of the National Science Foundation.

(14) The Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of each covered State.

(b) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall have the following nonvoting members:

(1) A member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council who is designated by the Governor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).

(2) A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council who is designated by the Governor of Florida under such section.

(3) A member of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council who is designated under such section and selected as follows:

(A) For the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31 of the calendar year during which such date of enactment occurs, the member shall be selected jointly by the governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(B) For each calendar year thereafter, the governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take turns selecting the member.

(4) A member of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council who is designated under such section and selected as follows:

(A) For the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31 of the calendar year during which such date of enactment occurs, the member shall be selected jointly by the governors of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

(B) For each calendar year thereafter, the governors of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis, take turns selecting the member.

(5) A member appointed by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(6) A member appointed by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(7) A member appointed by the President of the Republic of Palau.

SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEMBERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a) shall—

(1) identify the actions of the agency that member represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

(2) utilize the programs and authorities of that agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic and applied scientific research;

(3) collaborate with the Task Force to appropriately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef conservation and restoration activities in all agency budget planning and justification documents and processes; and

(4) engage in any other coordinated efforts approved by the Task Force.

(b) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall administer performance of the functions of the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a).

SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Task Force may establish working groups as necessary to meet the goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.

(b) REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.—The members of the Task Force may request that the co-chairs establish a working group under subsection (a).

(c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental organizations as appropriate, including academic institutions, conservation groups, and commercial and recreational fishing associations, to participate in a working group established under subsection (a).

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups established under this section.

SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “restoration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the meaning given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF AUTHORITIES

SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may provide scientific expertise and

technical assistance, and subject to the availability of appropriations, financial assistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs consistent with all applicable laws governing resource management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, including—

(1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;

(2) coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 of that Act, as applicable; and

(3) coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209 of that Act, as applicable.

(b) OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INITIATIVE.—The Secretary may establish within the Office of Insular Affairs a Coral Reef Initiative Program—

(1) to provide grant funding to support local management, conservation, and protection of coral reef ecosystems in—

(A) insular areas of covered States; and

(B) Freely Associated States;

(2) to complement the other conservation and assistance activities conducted under this Act; and

(3) to provide other technical, scientific, and financial assistance and conduct conservation activities that advance the purpose of this Act.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such managers that—

(1) are consistent with the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101; and

(2) support and enhance the success of—

(A) coral reef action plans in effect under section 205 of that Act; and

(B) coral reef emergency plans in effect under section 209 of that Act.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “conservation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of 2020”.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a National Coral Reef Management Fellow.

(2) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship” means the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship established in section 403.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organization” have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship are—

(1) to encourage future leaders of the United States to develop additional coral reef management capacity in States and local communities with coral reefs;

(2) to provide management agencies of States, Tribal organizations, and Freely Associated States with highly qualified candidates whose education and work experience meet the specific needs of each State, Indian Tribe, and Freely Associated State; and

(3) to provide fellows with professional experience in management of coastal and coral reef resources.

SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award the fellowship in accordance with this section.

(b) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship awarded under this section shall be for a term of not more than 24 months.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall award the fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

(1) an intent to pursue a career in marine services and outstanding potential for such a career;

(2) leadership potential, actual leadership experience, or both;

(3) a college or graduate degree in biological science, experience that correlates with aptitude and interest for marine management, or both;

(4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

(5) such other attributes as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 405. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the non-Federal share of the costs of a fellowship under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

(b) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Secretary finds that such waiver is necessary to support a project that the Secretary has identified as a high priority.

SA 2731. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. WARNER)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Warner to the bill H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ENTERPRISE REGULATORY CAPITAL FRAMEWORK RULE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “enterprise” means—

(A) the Federal National Mortgage Association; and

(B) the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; and

(2) the term “final rule” means the final rule adopted by the Federal Housing Finance Agency entitled “Enterprise Regulatory Capital Framework”.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of a study regarding the effect that the final rule would have on the following:

(1) With respect to the mortgage finance system of the United States—

(A) the stability and resiliency of that system;

(B) the liquidity of investment with respect to that system; and

(C) the relationship of that system with private capital.

(2) The taxpayers of the United States.

(3) The counter-cyclical role played by the enterprises.

(4) The cost and availability of mortgage credit for the purchase of single-family and multi-family residences.

(5) Interested parties, including—

(A) potential sources of private capital supporting mortgage finance;

(B) investors in mortgage-backed securities and insurance markets;

(C) market participants, including originators of mortgage loans, servicers of mortgage loans, and sources of alternative funding with respect to mortgage finance; and

(D) purchasers of homes, including first-time and historically underserved borrowers.

(6) The enterprises, including the effect that the final rule would have on the enterprises—

(A) while the enterprises are in conservatorship;

(B) if the enterprises were no longer in conservatorship; and

(C) during a transition between the states described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(c) EFFECT OF RULE.—The final rule shall not take effect until the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits the report required under subsection (b).

SA 2732. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3153, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act” or the “EF-PORT Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) research gaps currently exist in the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction;

(2) the National Science Foundation’s research on opioid addiction has increased understanding of the neuroscience of addiction, substance abuse intervention, the role of illicit supply networks, the secondary effects on families, the use of technology to address the opioid epidemic, and options for alternative, non-addictive therapeutics for pain; and

(3) the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have recognized that fundamental questions in basic, clinical, and translational research would benefit greatly from multidisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

SEC. 2. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON OPIOID ADDICTION.

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

SA 2733. Mr. BOOZMAN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 774, honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize; as follows:

On page 2, lines 10 and 11, strike “staff worldwide;” and insert “staff, who work tirelessly, and often at great personal risk, to combat hunger and save lives around the world;”.

On page 3, line 3, strike “nutrition” and insert “nutrition, including”.

SA 2734. Mr. BOOZMAN proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 774, honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize; as follows:

Beginning in the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “Whereas the WFP” and all that follows through the semicolon in the fifth whereas clause and insert the following:

Whereas the WFP is the largest international humanitarian organization that addresses hunger, promotes food security, and saves lives, including in response to many of the most dangerous and complex crises in the world;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 135,000,000 people around the world suffered from acute hunger and the WFP provided nutrition assistance to nearly 100,000,000 people in 88 countries;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a significant increase in hunger around the world, and the WFP has surged its capacity in order to meet that compounded need;

Whereas the United States played an integral role in the founding of the WFP, remains its strongest supporter, and provides, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 40 percent of its annual resources;

In the seventh whereas clause of the preamble, strike “Price” and insert “Prize”.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. BOOZMAN. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 116-113, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board: Kyle Fortson of the District of Columbia and Charlotte Ponticelli of Maryland.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020, THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn for the next pro forma session: Thursday, December 24, at 10 a.m. and Monday, December 28, at 10 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, December 28, it next convene at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 29; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two lead-

ers be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:47 a.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

C. KEVIN BLACKSTONE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

CYNTHIA KIERSCHT, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

GEETA PASI, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA.

DAVID REIMER, OF OHIO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

BRIAN D. MCFEETERS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 21, 2020:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ERIC J. SOSKIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

C. KEVIN BLACKSTONE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

CYNTHIA KIERSCHT, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

GEETA PASI, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA.

DAVID REIMER, OF OHIO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

BRIAN D. MCFEETERS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.