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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019, at 11 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. 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.

Eternal God, who laid the foundation of the Earth, the Heavens are the works of Your hands. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever, and Your years have no end.

Today, use our Senators as they serve You with gladness and awe. May they make pleasing You their first priority. Lord, give them Your guidance so that they will behave wisely, striving to have a conscience void of offense toward You and humanity. May they never forget all Your blessings and benefits.

We pray in Your loving 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 (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, there is too much secrecy in drug pricing, particularly in who benefits from rebates. Not all rebates are created equal in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

Rebate obligations for brand-name drugs are currently based on both brand-name and authorized generic drug sales. That means brand-name drug manufacturers pay less in rebate obligations.

The bipartisan legislation I introduced with Senator WYDEN fixes this. It ensures that brand-name drug manufacturers pay—like common sense ought to dictate—brand-name rebates. This reduces gaming in the system to make sure authorized generics come to market for a purpose related to patient access, not just to lower brand-name rebate obligations.

Transparency brings accountability, and with transparency and accountability, the market works better, competition works better, and in the end, gets the price of drugs down.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Senate took a number of steps forward on our considerable to-do list for the week. We confirmed four well-qualified jurists who are now our country's newest district court judges and voted to advance the nominations of 10 more—10. That is what you call big progress for the Federal Judiciary. Today, we are going to continue moving these nominations forward.

For too long, thoroughly uncontroversial judicial nominees just like these have been held up and delayed by our Democratic colleagues, even when the vacancy qualifies as a judicial emergency.

Uncontroversial district judges used to be confirmed promptly in big groups by voice vote. These days, in a kind of protest theater, our colleagues across the aisle usually insist that we hold a cloture vote and then a rollcall confirmation vote on each one. But we are getting the President's impressive nominees on the job one way or another, and we will continue doing just that.

Our work doesn't stop there. The administration remains in need of a full complement of leaders at the Pentagon and in the diplomatic corps. Last night, we voted to confirm David Norquist, the President's pick to serve as No. 2 at the Pentagon under our new

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



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Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper. We also voted to advance the nomination of Ambassador Kelly Craft, a very impressive individual, to serve in the critical role of U.N. Ambassador.

Ms. Craft is a fellow product of the Bluegrass State. She has already made Kentucky and the Nation proud through significant public service, including as an alternate delegate to the United Nations and, most recently, as Ambassador to Canada.

In each of these cases, this impressive nominee earned an unopposed confirmation, and, in each case, she repaid the Senate's confidence by skillfully and effectively advocating for the interests of the United States on the international stage. During her tenure as Ambassador to Canada, America's relationship with our northern neighbor was tested. A number of challenging policy hurdles threatened to trip up progress on several important issues, including trade negotiations, but, by all accounts, Ambassador Craft's involvement led to greater cooperation.

She worked on finalizing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, encouraged cross-border participation in joint sanctions efforts, and helped more Americans do business in Canada. As she stands in this new role, she brings the ringing endorsements of peers and counterparts she engaged all along the way.

The Premier of Ontario and a former Canadian Ambassador to the United States has said: "She's done the job very well."

And another quote: "Every Premier I know thinks the world of her. . . . She really proved herself over some tough times."

Our partners to the north have a healthy respect for the hard work and qualifications of Ambassador Kelly Craft, and so does the Senate. Last week, even in this contentious moment, a wide bipartisan majority of our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee voted to recommend her nomination to be U.N. Ambassador favorably here to the floor, and before we adjourn this week, we will confirm her.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate needs to pass the bipartisan budget agreement secured by the administration with Speaker PELOSI. The deal we have in front of us is a product of extensive negotiations between President Trump's team and the Democratic House. I am confident it is not exactly the legislation that either side of the aisle would have written if one party held the White House, the House, and had 60 votes in the Senate. That is what we call divided government, but I am equally confident that this is a deal that every one of my colleagues should support when we vote on it in the near future.

This government funding agreement is the right deal for our national de-

fense. It is the right deal because it ensures the United States maintains its full faith and credit. It is the right deal because it brings predictability and stability through 2020 and moves toward restoring regular appropriations. It is the right deal because it secures these priorities without partisan poison pill riders that would take us backward on the issue of protecting human life and curtail central Presidential authorities.

The Republicans' No. 1 priority was investing in our national defense. After 8 years of neglect and atrophy under the Obama administration, Congress has worked hand-in-hand with the Trump administration to begin writing a new chapter. More of the resources our Armed Forces need, more flexibility for commanders, more cutting-edge tools for U.S. servicemembers, and more investments in modernization will not only rebuild the military that we need today but set us on the trajectory we need to be on to secure our future.

All in all, I don't think any Senators are actually rooting for a destabilizing continuing resolution. I certainly don't think any Senators are rooting for a debt limit crisis that could put our full faith and credit at risk. I believe that every one of our colleagues wants this agreement to pass. That means every one of our colleagues should actually vote for it.

The House has passed this deal. The President is ready and eager to sign it. It is our turn to do our job.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over 2 weeks ago, the four congressional leaders in the White House reached an agreement to raise the budget caps and extend the debt ceiling. The House has already passed the legislation that codifies the agreement into law. The President supports it. He is even making calls—evidently, from press reports—asking Republican colleagues to support it. So the last piece of the puzzle here is the Senate.

Speaking for the minority, Democrats have no objection to voting on the budget caps deal as soon as possible. I say to my friend the majority leader: Why don't we vote on the caps deal this morning and send it to the

President's desk? There is no need to wait until later in the afternoon today, tonight, or tomorrow to get this done. Democrats are ready to pass it right now if the majority leader would call it up for a vote.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. As trade negotiations with China continue this week, I want to press the President again to stay tough and hold out for the best possible deal. If China is unwilling to make significant reforms to its economic model, President Trump must be prepared to walk away.

I believe the President's instincts on China are right. I have not been afraid to say so, despite our vast political and moral disagreements. But if we are going to be successful in these negotiations, it will be up to President Trump—no one else—to keep the pressure on Chinese leaders this week.

There are a few things he can do. The most significant point of emphasis for the President should be Huawei, the Chinese telecom giant. China has responded to the administration's justified restrictions on Huawei, unlike any other action the President has taken. It is our greatest source of leverage.

President Trump, hold tough on Huawei. Don't let there be giant loopholes.

I am told that under the purported proposal being talked about, 80 percent of Huawei's products could still be sold to us. If we have a total boycott of Huawei, then China will beg us to come to the table and make real concessions. It is the best leverage we have—even better than the tariffs. China wants Huawei to dominate the world. They will find a way to do it unless we are tough as can be.

I say to President Trump: I know these multinational corporations are pressuring you to cut a quick deal. The President should not listen to these big corporations who want him to cut a deal quickly. Many of these same corporations are the ones that have shipped jobs overseas through the last decades. They are the ones that took jobs away from American workers and moved them to China. I understand those corporate executives. They are supposed to be totally subservient to their shareholders. Their shareholders say: Whatever you have to do to bring the price up, do it.

That hurts American workers. It hurts American security. It hurts the American economy, especially when it comes to Huawei.

President Trump, don't listen to the siren call of those same corporations that have created part of the problem with China to now get you to back off. Yes, they will have a little pain. They have made billions at large from dealing with China and letting China get away with stuff like taking jobs away from the United States into much lower paid, lower standard jobs in China.

Trade negotiations with China are far too important to the future of American business and American workers to sacrifice just because a handful of American corporations are worried about their quarterly profits. Their quarterly profits are nothing compared to America maintaining its technological dominance, its technological superiority that China keeps trying to steal from us, in some ways legitimate, in many ways not.

Another point of emphasis for the President's team—this is one the President cares less about, but that is OK—is China's human rights record. China released a new policy outlining the use of force against Hong Kong's protest. Its military built up forces along the border. We have seen this movie before at Tiananmen. It was a horror movie—one that resulted in hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed Chinese citizens being mercilessly slaughtered by their own Army under the direction of the Chinese Communist Party. We cannot have a sequel to this atrocity. The administration should push back against China's militarism and stand up for the autonomy and democratic rights of Hong Kong citizens.

I have read some of these columns where they say: Can't we get along? We can't get along because, first, China doesn't play fair and has stolen trillions of dollars and millions of jobs from America and seeks to keep doing it. They have been duping our Presidents, pushing them around, making agreements, and breaking them. Second, we can't get along with China because of what it does to its citizens—the Uighurs in Western China and now the citizens of Hong Kong.

What we have seen with China is that when we are tough and strong, they back off. When we show any glimmer of weakness—as we are showing in floating a deal, a lessening of the restrictions on Huawei—they take advantage.

Let me say this to all of those in this administration who are urging the President to back off on Huawei and let them buy some of our products. There is a bipartisan group here in this Senate who will work very hard to prevent that from happening legislatively. The most likely vehicle is the NDAA. I think we will get broad support from Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate. So to those in the administration who are trying to back off, don't even try it.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Looking back on this work period, it is a shame that the Senate, once again, has made no progress—none—on the issue of election security.

Only a week ago, Special Counsel Mueller called Russia interference one of the greatest threats to democracy he has seen in his career, a threat that he said continues “as we sit here.”

Despite Mueller's warning—a warning echoed by prominent Republicans,

Trump appointees, such as FBI Director Wray, Director Coats, and our entire Senate Intelligence Committee led by RICHARD BURR, a colleague of ours—Leader MCCONNELL has not brought election security to the floor. In fact, he has blocked Democratic requests for a debate on election security, dismissing our ideas as a “partisan wish list.” That is political rhetoric to avoid a problem that shouldn't be partisan at all.

Using paper ballots is not partisan. Making sure that our election machines are safe from hacking is not partisan. Giving the States resources to better manage their elections is not partisan. That is American. Our elections are sacrosanct and these are commonsense, widely agreed-upon reforms that will make our elections safer, particularly in this dangerous new world where powers that have malice toward the United States—Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea—can use new technology to reach into our election structure.

This is not 1940 or even 2005. We need to strengthen our election security, and it should not be a partisan issue. When Leader MCCONNELL calls it a partisan issue, he is ducking to avoid it for reasons unknown to almost anybody.

Recent Republican opposition to election security has been disappointing. I say to my Republican colleagues: Where are you? Why aren't you telling the Republican leader that we ought to do something? Every one of our Republicans is complicit when Leader MCCONNELL blocks election security because they could join with us. If they began to join with us, my guess is that Leader MCCONNELL might put some legislation on the floor. We want to debate it. We want to discuss it. Leader MCCONNELL and our Republican colleagues may not exactly agree with our ideas—although many are bipartisan—but we should at least bring things to the floor, discuss them, and get something done. Unfortunately, we don't see much action.

It was precisely a year ago that the Democrats last sought to secure funding for election security when the Senate Republicans voted down our amendments. Unfortunately, it appears that Leader MCCONNELL will not take action before the August work period. Yet I assure the American people and Leader MCCONNELL that this issue is not going away. The Democrats will press for election security when we return and again when the Senate debates appropriations bills.

This is about protecting the wellspring of our democracy, the vitality of our democracy, and the sacrosanct nature of our democracy. To call it political demeans everything. Young men and young women from Bunker Hill on—for hundreds of years—have died to protect our elections. You have to protect them in a different way now with there being technology and cyber threats, but the

idea of protecting them burns just as brightly in the American heart, and Leader MCCONNELL is somehow impervious to all of that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on climate, I am pleased to share that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works did something amazing and groundbreaking yesterday. It passed the first ever climate title in a transportation reauthorization bill.

Thanks to the Senate Democrats on the committee and to particularly Ranking Member CARPER's hard work, the highway bill actually includes \$10 billion that will be dedicated to climate-focused programs and policies in order to reduce emissions and improve the resiliency of our transportation infrastructure to climate change and natural disasters. It includes funds for States to reduce carbon emissions, support for electric and alternative-fuel vehicles, reductions in emissions from ports and roadways, and investments in climate-resistant infrastructure.

Less than a year ago, I said, in moving forward, the Democrats would demand that climate change be addressed in any infrastructure bill. This bill, with its \$10 billion investment in climate, is a product of that demand. This will be the first time serious money has been included in an infrastructure package to fight climate change, but it certainly will not be the last.

The clock is ticking when it comes to climate change. We need to make progress whenever we can and as quickly as we can. If the Republican leader will not bring legislation to the floor, the Democrats will be prepared to take the lead and fight for climate progress at every opportunity we get. That is precisely what this \$10 billion climate investment in the highway bill represents. Again, I thank Senator CARPER for his leadership, his skill, and his persistence in getting it done.

Protecting our country and the world from the threat of climate change is no less than a moral obligation. When we return from the recess, the Democrats will continue to look for more opportunities to make progress on climate change.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, during the debate last night, when it came to healthcare, half of the Democratic Presidential field engaged in a healthy debate, a great deal of which was focused on the No. 1 issue to American voters—healthcare.

Despite different policy proposals, the debate shows that the Democratic Party is completely united on the idea of universal healthcare coverage as well as on the need to lower the costs and improve the quality of healthcare for every American. Yet one point that should have been made during the debate but unfortunately wasn't should

have been the fact that the Republicans are actively sabotaging our current healthcare system.

Whether you are one of the more moderate Members on healthcare or are one of the ones who have a more broad, more sweeping proposal, it is the difference between the parties. Yet those differences almost pale compared to the differences between every Democrat on that platform and the Republicans, because the Republicans are seeking to undo healthcare, to sabotage healthcare, and to have fewer people covered. As a result of their ideas, thoughts, and lawsuits, costs are going up.

There is a huge gap between the parties on healthcare, and I am glad we are having an active debate on how to move forward to cover more people and have it cost less. While we are doing that, the Trump administration is doing the opposite. It is expanding junk insurance plans, reducing funds to help Americans locate and sign up for the right insurance, and ending cost-sharing payments that help low-income families afford care.

The congressional Republicans have tried and have, thankfully, failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The coup de grace, of course, is the fact that now the Trump administration—with the support of many Republican attorneys general and the complicity of just about every Member of the Senate on the Republican side—is supporting a lawsuit that would invalidate the Affordable Care Act entirely, which would kick tens of millions off of their insurance and eliminate the protections for preexisting conditions for the over 100 million Americans who have those preexisting conditions, and just about every Republican is going along with that.

The difference in the 2020 elections between the Democrats and the Republicans on healthcare will be apparent and glaring, and it will far and away subsume any differences we may have on policy.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Colorado.

BLM HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, several years back, at a committee hearing of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Director Neil Kornze of the Bureau of Land Management under the Obama administration was testifying before our committee on a regulation that was coming out of the BLM that most, if not all, of the county commissioners and various organizations in Colorado were opposed to. In fact, the opposition was so uniform in Colorado and throughout the West that I couldn't understand why the BLM was going forward with that regulation.

Out of frustration, at one point during the committee hearing, I said: Director Kornze, if you were just located in the West, if you were just out west, you would understand why this rule is a bad idea.

The response at the time, several years ago, was kind of a chuckle and a laugh, and, yes, well, we should talk about that.

It planted the seeds of an idea that actually was made into reality just last week with the announcement that the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management will be moving out west and, indeed, to Grand Junction, CO.

This announcement was made on July 16, and I commend the efforts of Secretary Bernhardt and the Department of the Interior for listening to the people of the West.

This isn't a Republican issue. This isn't a partisan issue. In fact, this idea to move the BLM headquarters out to the land that it regulates and oversees has been embraced by Democrats and Republicans across Colorado and throughout the West.

They also talked about their intention in this announcement to reorganize the Bureau of Land Management and to relocate a significant number of headquarters jobs throughout the West, not just in Grand Junction but in Lakewood, CO, in Montana, in Utah, and beyond.

I think it is important to talk about the reasons why it makes so much sense to have this particular Agency located in Colorado, in the West.

Look at this map here. The red on this map is a combination of both mineral rights and surface lands. You can see the red. Forty-seven percent of all the land out west is where 93 percent of all Federal land is located. The Federal Government owns roughly 47 percent of this land out west. It is where 93 percent of the Federal land is located. Think about that. Ninety-three percent of all Federal land, here in the red, makes up 47 percent of the land ownership in the West.

Nationwide, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing

approximately 700 million acres of Federal mineral estates located underground. That is the entire country, of course, but 245 million acres are surface acres, or Federal surface lands. All but 100,000 acres of those surface acres—all but 100,000 of those acres—are west of the Mississippi River, and located predominantly in the 11 westernmost States and Alaska.

One of the frustrations I hear from local and county officials and environmental activists and farmers and ranchers is that when they deal with their BLM local field office, they seem to have a very good experience that people are working together to solve problems, and they like the conversations they have and the cooperation they are getting from the local and regional offices. But something happens when that decision-making process then moves to Washington, DC. Something happens, and all of a sudden the conversation and communication can stop. It changes. All of a sudden, the outcomes aren't what they thought they would be based on those local, productive conversations.

We have seen directives and management decisions coming more from Washington, DC, lately, instead of from the local field offices, where people know their communities best and understand the land best. So what happens is that the deep pockets and special interests in Washington often carry the day, make the convincing arguments, thousands of miles removed from where the Federal and the public land actually is.

That is why it is important to have this BLM move. It changes that. Instead of having special interests in Washington, in a community that has none of these public lands located in it, you are able to make that decision right here, in Colorado, surrounded by public lands, in a community that is defined by the public lands that they oversee.

I believe government is going to work better when it is local, when local decision makers are closest to the land that the decisions they are making affect the most. That is why this decision is so important—whether it is issues of withdrawal of locatable minerals or the reduction of grazing permits; the concept of multiple use over time; the idea that we can use this land for preservation, conservation, or that we can use it for energy development, or that we can use it for grazing. That has somehow fallen out of favor.

My friend Greg Walcher, who is a former Senate staffer for Senator Armstrong, who used to head the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, wrote an op-ed about this point, pointing out that the multiple-use mandate includes managing 18,000 grazing permits, 220 wilderness areas, 27 national monuments, 600 national conservation areas, 200,000 miles of streams, 2,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, 6,000 miles of national scenic trails, 63,000 oil and gas wells, 25,000 mines, and 50 million acres of forests.

Not a square inch of that is in Washington, DC. It is in the 12 Western States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It has never made sense for leadership to work 2,000 miles away from these States, insulated by the inevitably different perspectives of life inside the beltway. That is what is so important about this decision.

When you don't live in the communities that are among and surrounded by these lands, it is easy to make decisions that close off energy development or close cattle ranches and grazing opportunities, because the consequences are felt out west instead of in Washington, DC.

But this strong push by westerners—SCOTT TIPTON, myself, Secretary Zinke, and others—began the conversation about modernization and the organizational structure for the next 100 years of the Bureau of Land Management, and I appreciate Secretary Bernhardt's decision to make this happen.

Grand Junction, where the new BLM will be located, is an incredibly beautiful place, with people who are so supportive of this decision—a community that knows that when these decision makers are in their community, they are not going to have to drive hours or take a flight for 4 hours out of Washington to see BLM lands. Just to look out the window and to see the lands they manage will result in better decision making.

Mesa County, where Grand Junction is located, is the county seat. It is 73 percent Federal land, 46 percent of which is managed by the BLM. In total, the BLM manages 8.3 million acres of surface in Colorado and 27 million acres of Federal mineral estates in Colorado.

But we are not the only State that will benefit, obviously. There are a lot of other positions that will be moving across the country to the State and to the location where those jobs are a best fit. It makes sense.

I know sometimes people think that Washington is the only place where people can do government's work or where people can find the kind of skilled workforce. That is one of the arguments that has actually been made against the BLM move—that only Washington has the skilled workforce able to do these jobs.

Look, I am sorry, if you don't want to live in the counties and communities surrounded by public lands. Then, why are you working for a public land management agency?

So I am excited about this. I thank the good people with the Secretary of the Interior who made this decision happen and the community of Grand Junction, which supported this from day one.

In the same op-ed that Mr. Walcher wrote, he opened with a quote and said this: "There is something more powerful than the brute force of bayonets: It is the idea whose time has come."

That is where we have finally arrived today, an idea whose time has come, locating the decision makers who affect our western communities the most out in the western United States.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the opportunity to talk about this decision. I commend the Secretary of the Interior for doing what is right by our public lands, and I will continue to stand up for public lands throughout this process.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, an unusual event occurred yesterday in the Environment and Public Works Committee—a major bill reauthorizing America's transportation infrastructure for 5 years passed the committee by a 21-to-0 vote. That is the way we should be able to operate on a subject that I think enjoys universal support in the Senate; that is, making sure the Federal partnership for infrastructure is not only reauthorized but also increased because we know the infrastructure needs of this country have only gotten more challenging.

I want to start by complimenting the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Chairman BARRASSO and Ranking Member CARPER worked very closely together on this bill, including the input of all members of the committee as well as Members of the Senate.

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, chaired by Senator CAPITO, and I am the ranking Democrat on the committee, also worked very well in developing this Transportation Infrastructure Reauthorization Act.

As I pointed out originally, the needs are urgent, and the leadership of the committee recognized that. In every one of our States, we know the unmet needs of infrastructure, maintaining our existing infrastructure, and replacing our bridges that are falling down, dealing with our transit systems, dealing with the needs to deal with congestion.

We know there are so many issues out there, and it is important for us to give a clear signal that we intend to have a long-term reauthorization, 5 years, so there is predictability, so our States and local governments know that these projects that require longer term planning will have a Federal partner that is available and reliable.

It also increases the funding, the first year by 10 percent and increases it by certain percentages thereafter, recognizing we need to do more. There are several new initiatives building on existing programs that I think are worthy of mentioning.

Let me just go over a few of the real highlights of this infrastructure bill. First, it has a climate change title. This is the first time we have done this—a separate title to deal with the realities of climate change.

I need only remind my colleagues of what happened this month in Maryland when we had 4 inches of rain that flooded Maryland roads. We have to deal with the realities. We have to deal with resiliency and adaptation in regard to what is happening with climate change. This title deals with that.

Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions. We need infrastructure that deals with the realities of reducing carbon emissions. This title provides for financial help for building an infrastructure for electric and alternative fuel vehicles. That is a reality of consumer desire as well as dealing with the realities of climate change.

We give local discretion for funds to initiate emission reduction strategies. That could include simple things like providing alternatives for the use of our cars for people who want to walk and bike rather than having to get into their cars. It is a major commitment for which we are going to provide resources, in partnership with local governments, to deal with the realities of our responsibility in the transportation sector to reduce carbon emissions.

We also deal with the realities of congestion. I can tell the Presiding Officer, as I told my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, that I face it every day twice a day. I commute from Baltimore here to work and have to deal with the realities of congestion.

It has been estimated that the delays caused by congestion and the excessive fuels that are used by congestion cost our economy over \$300 billion every year. So there is not only a quality-of-life issue involved in our taking on congestion, there is also an economic reason to take on the issues of congestion.

Of course, it is also linked to our commitment to deal with the climate change issues by reducing unnecessary fuel consumption, which adds to carbon emissions.

The legislation provides funding for new initiatives so that we can get solutions to deal with the problems of congestion, the multimobile solutions that are available in many communities. We work and allow the locals to give us ideas and help fund those to reduce congestion.

As I mentioned earlier, we have a real challenge on dealing with our bridges. Many of our bridges are in need of replacement. Many are in need of desperate repair. I can mention many in Maryland. In the southern part of our State, we have the Nice Bridge and the Johnson Bridge, both in need of replacement or repair. This legislation provides additional resources to deal with bridges in our country.

There are certain highways that have been built that no longer really serve the function—or may never serve the function—of moving people from one area to another but instead are dividing communities. So the legislation

has a unique section that allows us to identify those types of highways that are no longer needed and that are dividing and isolating communities so we can get those highways removed.

I am proud that this legislation builds on the Transportation Alternative Program that I helped author on the reauthorization bill with my partner Senator WICKER. I thank him for his help. It allows for much more local discretion on how transportation funds are spent. It allows local communities to have a source of Federal support to deal with local safety issues, for developing trails for pedestrian and bike paths so that the quality of life and safety of the local community are taken into consideration on the use of Federal highway funds.

It provides flexibility to local government. In the first year, we provide \$1.2 billion for transportation alternative programs with a steady growth in the ensuing 4 years.

I also want to acknowledge the section in the bill that deals with freight traffic. It is a growing field. We expect it to continue to grow. There are funds that are provided in here to deal with the realities of moving freight through our highway surface transportation system.

In that regard, I was pleased that this past week we were able to announce an INFRA grant for Maryland of \$125 million for the Howard Street Tunnel. This is a tunnel that is 120 years old and runs through Baltimore. The replacement of this tunnel will allow for double stacking of rail freight, which is what you need to do today if you are going to have efficiency and be economically competitive. This grant will help us replace that tunnel and help create more jobs in Baltimore, in Maryland, and in our entire region of the country and will provide for more efficiencies on truck traffic.

I say that because, today, because of the inefficiencies of rail, we have trucks that are stacked up in the Port of Baltimore, which is inefficient for the truck operators and, again, adds to the climate problems of excessive use of fuels.

There is a section in here that deals with safety, as we should. In 2017, 37,000 people died in our transportation areas. We need to improve that. There are some important provisions in this legislation that deal with safety issues.

The bill also deals with reauthorizing the Appalachian Regional Commission. I particularly thank Senator CAPITO for her leadership on this issue. Reauthorization is important for the entire region, including the western part of the State of Maryland.

This is the first step—and I hope a successful step—for the completion of the reauthorization of surface transportation by this Congress before the end of this year. I hope we can get it moving. I hope we can get it enacted, certainly, in time, so there is no lapse in Federal partnerships dealing with transportation.

I know we have other committees that need to act on a comprehensive transportation bill. Many of us serve on those other committees. If we follow the example of the Environment and Public Works Committee—21 to 0—if we listen to each other, if we do that, we can succeed in passing a strong reauthorization of surface transportation that will help modernize America's transportation needs, which will be good for our economy, good for our environment, and good for the quality of life of all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to follow that example, and let's get this work done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as those who are following on C-SPAN have probably noted, we are not overwhelmed with business on the floor of the U.S. Senate, nor have we been during the course of this year.

We have considered several bills—you could count them on one hand—including the Defense authorization bill, and, of course, the momentous, historic legislation 2 weeks ago, the tax treaty with Luxembourg, which had been pending before the U.S. Senate for 9 years. It finally made it to the floor of the Senate. That was the highlight of the week, as we have watched the U.S. Senate ignore some of the most important issues of our time.

Let me tell you one that strikes at the heart of our democracy, which we should be focused on today and until it is resolved. Last week, former FBI Director and Special Counsel Bob Mueller testified before the House Judiciary Committee about his report on Russian interference in the 2016 election. The hearing clarified several important things. For example, President Trump loves to claim that the Mueller report completely exonerated him. Trump's tweets, one after another, talk about how he was exonerated by that report. Director Mueller made clear that is "not what the report said."

When asked by the House Judiciary chairman "Did you actually totally exonerate the President?" Director Mueller answered "no."

President Trump likes to say the Mueller investigation was a witch hunt. He has said that about 1,000 times. But the investigation actually led to 37 indictments and over \$42 million in assets forfeited to the government. If this were a witch hunt, it certainly found a lot of wealthy witches.

Some Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee tried to attack Director Mueller's credibility, but Mueller has a lifetime record of being a straight shooter, by-the-book investigator, and prosecutor. He did this country a service when he took on the role of special counsel.

One thing Director Mueller tried to remind the American people of is the reason the investigation was necessary. He said:

Over the course of my career, I have seen a number of challenges to our democracy. The Russian government's effort to interfere in our election is among the most serious.

Mueller went on to say: "This deserves the attention of every American."

One of the most important takeaways from the Mueller report is that Russia did successfully attack our democracy in 2016. Page 1 of the Mueller report says: "The Russian Government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion."

The report detailed numerous examples, including an "intelligence-gathering mission" that employees of the Internet Research Agency, known as the IRA, took in June of 2014.

The IRA was the Russian troll farm that waged information warfare against the 2016 election by using stolen identities, fake social media accounts, and fake campaign events.

The Mueller report and the earlier indictment of several IRA employees noted that two of the Russians arrived in the United States for a 3-week trip "for the purpose of collecting intelligence to inform the [IRA's] operations."

The report also detailed the Russians' attack on my own home State board of elections. In July 2016, the Illinois State board of elections discovered that it was the target of a malicious, month-long cyber attack that enabled the intruder to access confidential voter information and view the registration data of approximately 76,000 voters in my State of Illinois.

These efforts to influence the election and attack campaign organizations and State and local election administrators and vendors continue to this day. What are we going to do about it?

What has been the response so far of the U.S. Senate, the body sworn to uphold the Constitution and to protect against enemies, foreign and domestic? Nothing. We are too busy with the trade treaty with Luxembourg to deal with Russian interference in our elections. In the face of Russia's threat to our elections, this Senate has been quiet as a graveyard.

Let's start in 2016. Top officials from the administration's national security and intelligence community came and warned congressional leadership of Russia's ongoing attack on our elections, rightly asking for a bipartisan statement to tell Russian dictator Putin to stop. What was Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL's response to this obvious request to protect our Nation? He said: No thanks. I am not going to do it.

History will no doubt look back in infamy at that decision.

What about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a historically recognized body with key jurisdiction over Russian attacks on the United States? That committee did not even conduct an investigation into Russia's actions in the last Congress.

Republicans were silent when Trump repeatedly accepted Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's brazen denials over American intelligence experts and all of the evidence to the contrary.

They were silent again after the Mueller report's devastating findings of Russian interference. And they were silent when President Trump subsequently said he would gladly accept election help from a foreign power again.

Now look at the current Congress. Several bipartisan bills have been introduced to respond to this Russian threat, including the Election Security Act. This is a critical, comprehensive bill that would provide States with much needed resources and establish a robust Federal effort to protect our democracy.

Unfortunately, Republican Senate Leader McConnell is blocking all efforts to bring this important legislation to the floor for a debate and vote. This legislation could thwart Russian interference in the 2020 election. Senator McConnell refuses to bring it to the floor.

I end with the questions I have asked before here on the floor: How can the party of Ronald Reagan continue to sit by while this President pursues policies aligned with the former KGB agent, Vladimir Putin? Why didn't the first bills in this new Senate under Republican control deal with this threat to the election process in our democracy? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holding urgent hearings on these stunning dalliances between an American President and a Russian dictator? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee moving bipartisan legislation that would protect U.S. membership in NATO?

Quite frankly, we barely do anything in this legislative graveyard of the Senate under Republican control. You would think we would at least focus, on a bipartisan basis, on making certain that the outcome of the next election is not influenced by a foreign power, whether it is Russia or some other malicious force in the world today.

But because it bruises the President's ego and it may invoke a nasty tweet, the Republican-controlled Senate prefers to do nothing. It is time for the Republican majority to stop protecting President Trump at all costs.

There reaches a point when the Senate Republican leadership needs to put the country before fear of the President's tweets.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, can you hear it? Can you hear the somber notes, the feet shuffling, and the solemn tones? Can you hear it? It is a dirge, a funeral march, and it is the death of a movement—a once proud movement with hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall. It is the death and it is the last

gasps of a movement in America that was concerned with our national debt.

Today is the final nail in the coffin. The tea party is no more. The budget deal today allows unlimited borrowing for nearly 2 years—unlimited, no limits—and the government will borrow what they wish without limit for 2 years. It abolishes all spending caps. Adoption of this deal marks the death of the tea party movement in America. Fiscal conservatives—those who remain—should be in mourning for Congress. Both parties have deserted you.

The national debt now stands at \$22 trillion. This year, we will add over \$1.2 trillion. We are approaching record deficits, and neither party cares. Both parties have deserted, have absolutely and utterly deserted America and have shown no care and no understanding and no sympathy for the burden of debt they are leaving the taxpayers, the young, the next generation, and the future of our country.

The very underpinnings of our country are being eroded and threatened by this debt. The interest on this debt will be over \$400 billion next year—precisely, \$455 billion. Interest will surpass all welfare spending in the next 2 years. Interest on the debt will surpass defense spending by 2025.

Social Security is \$7 trillion in debt. Medicare is over \$30 trillion in debt. Yet a parade of candidates on national television last night said they want to double and triple the government's expenditures where the government is already trillions of dollars short. Whose fault is this? Both parties.

The media completely doesn't get it. The media says: Oh, there is not enough compromise in Washington. That is exactly the opposite of the truth. There is too much compromise in Washington. There is always an agreement to spend more money. There is always an agreement to spend money we don't have. There is always an agreement to borrow your kids' and your grandkids' money and to put this country further at risk.

Admiral Mullen put it this way. He said the most significant threat to our national security is our debt. Yet all around me on my side of the aisle are those who clamor and say: Our military is hollowed out and can't complete its mission. Well, perhaps the mission is too big for the budget. Maybe it is not a problem of having enough money; maybe it is a problem of making our mission to be everything to everyone around the world, to have spent \$50 billion a year building roads and bridges in Afghanistan for the last 20 years and to continue that forever.

When the President put forward a proposal, a thought that we might try to end and to declare victory in Afghanistan, this body—both parties rose up as one, and the vast majority said it would be precipitous to leave Afghanistan after 19 years.

This is the problem. It isn't acrimony. It isn't both parties fighting each other. It is both parties agreeing

to increase the debt. They increase the debt for different reasons, but the only way they get theirs—"give me mine, give me mine" is what both sides say. The right wants for the military. Yet we spend more on the military than the next 10 countries combined. We spend more on the military—the United States spends more than all of NATO combined. All of the NATO countries combined spend less than we do on the military.

People say we are hollowed out and we can't complete our mission. Well, maybe the mission is too big. It isn't that the budget is too small; it is that the mission is too big. Maybe we don't need to have troops in 50 of 55 African countries. Maybe we need to rethink our mission. Maybe the mission of the military should be to defend our country, not to intervene in every civil war around the world.

Admiral Mullen said the most significant threat to our national security is our debt. Yet we are piling on more debt, saying we need more military. Maybe we need to discuss the mission of our military. We are piling on more debt, some in the name of national security. Yet I think it weakens us with every moment.

The vote today will be on a 2-year debt ceiling with no limits. The details do matter. Raising the debt ceiling with no limits would be like telling your kid: OK, you can have a credit card, but there will be no limits on what you spend. Just spend it on whatever you want, in whatever amount, and in 2 years, I will just pay the bill for you.

Nobody would do that with their family money, and no country should act that way. We can't keep going on like this.

Where are all the fiscal conservatives? What happened to the tea party movement, which was bipartisan and was concerned citizens rising up and saying: I don't want something from government. What I want is a government that is responsible, a government that spends what comes in, a government that doesn't keep borrowing and borrowing and borrowing and putting us further at risk.

What happened to that movement? That movement elected some of these people. You heard these people. Don't you remember, when President Obama was President, the Republicans all clamoring and saying "trillion-dollar deficits" for multiple years. Every year, they would say: President Obama wants to spend and borrow and spend and borrow. I heard it in my State. I heard it from the very people who today will vote for this monstrosity.

Some of them will actually vote for my amendment to give themselves cover. They will say: Oh, yeah, I was for the Paul amendment. But then they are also going to vote for the deal that will bankrupt our country. What happened to these people? They all thought debt was bad when it was President Obama's debt, but they are

not ecumenical, and they are not very much into self-examination. They are not interested in the debt now that Republicans are complicit.

But before we make this about Republicans, remember that there is not a Democrat in Washington who cares about the debt. The difference between the parties is that the Democrats are honest. They are very honest. They don't care about the debt. Look, they are all over the stage, falling all over themselves, trying to give free healthcare to illegal aliens. They are all on the stage trying to talk about giving Medicare for All when we can't even afford the Medicare for Some. So Democrats don't care. The country should know that Democrats do not care about the debt. But here is the problem: The only opposition party we have in the country is the Republican Party, and they don't care either. They just come home, and they are dishonest and tell you they care, and then they vote for a monstrosity.

Today's vote will be a vote for a monstrosity, an abomination, the ability to borrow money for over 2 years until guess what intervenes. Why are we going to wait 2 years with no limits on borrowing? There is this little thing called an election. They don't want to be in public voting to raise the debt ceiling an unlimited amount or a vast amount again, so they are putting it off to beyond the election. Both parties are complicit, though. Nobody wants to vote on this again.

People talk about draining the swamp. You can't drain the swamp unless you are willing to cut the size and scope of government. That is the swamp. The swamp is this morass that is millions of people up here organized to involve themselves in the economy. Most of them could disappear from government, and no one would notice. The only thing you would notice is less money coming to Washington and more money remaining in the States.

It is a little bit of what happened with the tax cut. But in addition to the tax cut returning to people their own money, we should also quit spending money we don't have up here. During the tax cut, I, for one, said: You have to cut spending. I offered amendments during the tax cut to cut spending. Do you know what happened? I got four votes. Four people in the Senate cared about the debt on that particular vote.

After we passed the tax cut, there is a provision that says there will be automatic spending cuts if the taxes were to bring in less revenue. Guess what. I forced a vote to keep that rule in place. I got nine votes because most people don't care.

No Democrat cares about the debt. The Republicans falsely tell you they care, and the vast majority will vote for this monstrosity today.

Today, I will offer an alternative. Some say: Well, you conservatives won't vote to raise the debt ceiling at all, and we will go bankrupt, there will be turmoil in the markets, and it will

be a disaster. So what I am offering for conservatives today is that we will raise the debt ceiling under a couple of conditions. We will raise the debt ceiling if you adopt, in advance, significant spending cuts, caps on spending, and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

See, here is the road, and here is, I guess, the beginning and the end of the dishonesty around here. If we had a vote today, we would have some people saying: Why don't we vote on the balanced budget amendment?

We all love to vote for it. We don't really mean it. We don't really care about balancing the budget. We are not for it because we are Big Government Republicans. But we love to vote for the balanced budget amendment because I can go home and tell people: Yeah, I voted for the really crazy, monstrous budget deal to expand the debt, but I also voted for the balanced budget amendment.

Well, here is our deal. We don't want to vote on the balanced budget amendment; we want adoption of the balanced budget amendment. So if you will cut spending, if you will cap spending, and if you will pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, I will vote to raise the debt ceiling—but only if those things are done.

People say: Well, if we don't raise the debt ceiling without any reform, the country—the markets will go into turmoil. Well, guess what. We bring in \$3 trillion, and we spend \$4 trillion. What does that mean? We can pay for \$3 trillion on a daily basis without borrowing. So if tomorrow we didn't raise the debt ceiling, what would happen? We would spend \$3 trillion. Every Social Security check could go out, every soldier could be paid, and everybody on Medicare could be taken care of. That is probably about it, to tell you the truth, because we spend too much damn money. We spend money we don't have. But you could provide the essentials to people—Social Security, Medicare, pay our soldiers, and maybe a few other things—if you just spent what came in.

Isn't that what we should do? Isn't that what responsible people do? Does any American family routinely spend a third—25 percent more than comes in? Does anybody spend \$4 for every \$3 that comes in? Nobody does that. Nobody in their right mind does that, but your government does it. And who is at fault? Both parties. They are complicit. They scratch each other's backs. They both are terrible on the deficit. Both parties are bad. Both parties are ruining our country.

My amendment is called cut, cap, and balance—cuts spending, puts caps back in place that they can't exceed, and says that if we vote now on a balanced budget amendment and if it passes and if it is sent to the States, then we would raise the debt ceiling.

Most people around here don't want any linkage. It is not that they will just complain that my budgetary re-

forms are too harsh; they will complain that they don't want any. So there won't be any alternative. There won't be someone saying: Well, those are too much, and we would rather have just a little bit. No, they don't want any restraint. The budget monstrosity, the deal, the abomination we will vote on today will have no limits—no dollar limits.

I was arguing this last week on another particular issue, and from across the country, I got reamed by the left-wing mob who says: Why are you doing is this? Why couldn't you do it on another matter?

We do it on every matter. Those of us who are fiscally conservative are saying that we shouldn't spend money we don't have. I am doing it again this week, saying that we should not spend money we don't have, that it is irresponsible, and that we are eroding the very foundation that has made America great.

I will vote against this budget deal. I will present cut, cap, and balance. Cut, cap, and balance is a responsible way to raise the debt ceiling by cutting spending, capping spending, and also passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I hope my colleagues will consider that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I love the month of August, and I think I have always loved the month of August going back to the time when I was a kid because, obviously, growing up in South Dakota, August is a great month of the year. It is hot. There are a lot of activities. Of course, it is the month before or, in some cases, it is the month of returning to school, but it is a time in which there are lots of things going on in my home State of South Dakota, and especially since becoming a Member of Congress, I really love August.

I head back home to South Dakota almost every weekend to meet with South Dakotans, but August is wonderful and different for two reasons. One reason is, August gives us an extended work period, a time when we get a chance to visit the farthest corners of our State, places that might be hard to visit on just a weekend—places such as Bison, Milbank, Clear Lake, Huron, and Mobridge. I get to talk to people who make their living in production agriculture in some of the most rural parts of South Dakota. There is nothing more valuable than getting to talk to these South Dakotans firsthand and to hear the challenges they face and what we can do here in Washington to help out—not to mention how wonderful it is to spend time in these beautiful parts of our State. If you haven't taken in the rugged beauty of the Badlands or the rivers and prairies of Central South Dakota, then you are missing out.

The other thing I like about heading back to South Dakota in August is

that it is fair season—the Sioux Empire Fair, the Turner County Fair, the Brown County Fair, Central States Fair, Yankton Riverboat Days, and powwows in Tribal communities around the State. The list literally goes on. You would be hard-pressed to find better events, better people, or better food. I often joke that in the month of August, I am basically eating my way across South Dakota: ice cream at the fair in Parker, pork sandwiches with the pork producers, milkshakes at Dakotafest, cheese curds at the State fair, and I can go on.

I vividly remember the year I had a Tubby Burger plus a big fries, plus to go with it a malt at the Brown County Fair, and got up early the next morning to run the 5K at Riverboat Days in Yankton. Needless to say, it was not my best run time, but it was worth it for the Tubby Burger.

There is really nothing better than a South Dakota road trip. Our State has so much to offer, an incredible range of scenery, from rolling prairies to the heights of Black Elk Peak, and hundreds of miles of wide-open country. There is nothing better than a summer afternoon driving down a South Dakota highway. You feel like you can see, literally, forever.

We have an incredible number of outdoor opportunities, from fishing and hunting to hiking, biking, rock climbing, water sports. You name it; in South Dakota, we have it.

South Dakota is an affordable place for families to visit as well. You are not going to break the bank on meals or lodging. Of course, we have unforgettable road trip stops like the Corn Palace in Mitchell or Wall Drug. Make sure, if you get to Wall Drug, that you grab a homemade doughnut or a glass of free ice water and take a picture on Instagram with the giant jackalope outside.

As for South Dakotans, well, they are the nicest people you are ever going to meet. A South Dakota road trip is worth it for the people alone. In addition to the wonderful memories I made traveling across the State as an adult, I cherish my memories of the trips to the Black Hills as a child with my parents and siblings. We used to go out there for Labor Day, stay in this little non-air-conditioned cabin, and enjoy the outdoors. We would hike and visit the caves, go to Mount Rushmore, or visit the lake.

I still love visiting Sylvan Lake in the Black Hills. I loved being there with my parents and siblings, and I love taking my daughters there on trips like the ones I took growing up. Nobody who visits South Dakota should miss the Black Hills. I am not sure there is a more beautiful place on Earth—the interplay of light, shadow on the trees and rocks late on a summer afternoon, the endless South Dakota sky reflected in the clear blue of Sylvan Lake. People in Washington, DC, don't know what the Milky Way looks like on a clear night in the Black

Hills or on the prairies of South Dakota. It is as if the sky had been carpeted with millions of diamonds.

I am lucky to be a son of South Dakota. I am looking forward to getting out of Washington, DC, this week and heading back to my home State of South Dakota for some of the best weeks of the year.

Brown County, if you are listening to this, please save me a Tubby Burger.

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

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

MEDICARE FOR ALL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the past several months, we have heard a lot of talk about Medicare for All. Its Democratic supporters claim this is the panacea that will solve all of America's healthcare woes. They say it will guarantee every person's access to healthcare and simplify our healthcare system, but it doesn't take much effort to see the flaws in their proposal and in their argument—something we are obligated to do, to examine these proposals to see whether they will work or not.

Our Democratic friends proudly own the fact that Medicare for All would completely end employer-based health insurance as we know it. We heard that a lot last night during the debates of the Democratic candidates running for President. It would literally force every American into one government-run plan modeled after our current Medicare system.

Part of the problem is, seniors have paid into the Medicare system for many years, and we know it is on a path to insolvency unless Congress does something. Medicare for All would only make that worse, expanding it to every eligible American.

According to a Kaiser poll released yesterday, more than three-quarters of Americans favor employer-sponsored health insurance, and 86 percent of people with employer coverage rate their insurance positively. That would include, again, as we heard last night, many union members who have been part of the collective bargaining agreement with their employers, with management, to negotiate outstanding, quality private health insurance. That would go away under Medicare for All.

We know that about 83-percent of the people polled support our current Medicare system for our seniors, and a whopping 95 percent of people with Medicare coverage are happy with it, but if Medicare for All becomes the law of the land, those numbers would plummet because Medicare would be unrecognizable to the seniors who paid into the fund and who have earned that coverage.

Families would lose all freedom when it comes to making their own healthcare choices. You see a government-selected doctor at a government-selected facility. We know what that looks like in the United Kingdom and in Canada, where people have to wait in long lines just to get seen by their doctor, much less elective surgery. You get the coverage the government says you deserve at the time, when the government says you can have it. It would completely hollow out the existing Medicare Program and inject unfathomable instability into America's healthcare system.

If you get past all of that, which is hard to do, you certainly will not be able to stomach the price. Medicare for All, it is estimated, would cost taxpayers \$32 trillion over the first 10 years alone. Now, credit BERNIE SANDERS, our colleague from Vermont. He is honest enough to acknowledge that he is going to have to raise taxes on the middle class to pay for that, but \$32 trillion is a lot of money, especially when our current debt exceeds \$20 trillion already and is growing. When it comes to how they would pay for it, the only answer we hear from everybody other than BERNIE SANDERS is, "Let's just tax the rich."

This is part of their usual talking points and part of the Democratic Party's incredible sprint to the left and their shocking embrace of a socialist agenda.

We saw the start of their move toward socialized medicine in 2009 with ObamaCare. We famously recall President Obama trying to reassure people that if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it, and if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor—none of which proved to be true.

Now Democrats want to make these extravagant promises about Medicare for All, which we know they cannot keep. It is clear ObamaCare was just the beginning. Medicare for All, or the public option, so to speak, which some people try to tout as an alternative, is nothing but a government competition for private health insurance, and you can't beat the Federal Government, especially when it is paid for by Federal tax dollars. That is a march toward the elimination of private health insurance, including that provided through your employer, which now benefits about 180 million Americans.

Last night, we saw candidates defend these radical policies during the Democratic debate. Two of our Senate colleagues who are running for President sparred over what another candidate called "fairytale" promises. They fought to defend their plan to remove all choice from Americans' healthcare. They tried to convince their fellow Democrats and the American people that they are writing a check that, if elected, they can cash.

We know that is not true. The American people are not going to be fooled. They don't want socialized medicine; they don't want to run up government

spending; they certainly don't want to have to pay \$32 trillion in additional taxes to pay for it; and they certainly don't want Washington bureaucrats dictating their families' healthcare choices.

In a speech last week, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Seema Verma, spoke about these radical healthcare ideas. She said: "These proposals are the largest threats to the American healthcare system."

Let me say that again. Seema Verma, head of CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, called these proposals "the largest threats" to America's healthcare system. So you better believe we will keep fighting to resist this socialist agenda and this evermore liberal wish list.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. President, on another matter, we will soon be able to vote on a bipartisan, 2-year budget agreement to provide some certainty and stability to the Federal Government and Federal spending. The President and Speaker PELOSI have reached this deal in order to avoid the possibility of another government shutdown and instead leave time and space for a wide-ranging debate on our government spending habits.

I know the Presiding Officer believes as I do; that it is past time to have a genuine, far-ranging debate about government spending habits that is not just focused on discretionary spending, which is what this budget caps deal does, but on all the money the Federal Government spends, which includes the 70 percent of spending which is on autopilot, which this deal does not discuss or deal with.

I will be the first to admit this budget agreement isn't perfect. It never is. Anything negotiated means both sides have to give up a little bit in order to find common ground. As I indicated, I certainly wish it were more aggressive. I wish it did something to deal with our entitlement programs as we continue to face growing deficits, but I am glad to see that the agreement offsets roughly a 1-year increase for non-defense discretionary spending above current law and allows our government to be funded on time and on budget.

It also avoids 30 poison pill policy riders on everything from taxpayer funding for abortion to immigration law, keeping them from reaching the President's desk.

Above all, this agreement delivers on our most fundamental responsibility, which is to provide for our common defense. When our friend, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, first came here, he said: I am a conservative, which means there are really two things that take priority when it comes to the Federal Government. One is national defense, and the other is infrastructure. He said everything else comes below that on the priority list. I found a lot of wisdom in those words. Providing for the common defense is the most impor-

tant thing Congress does, along with the administration.

We know under the previous administration, the Pentagon and our national defense were underfunded dramatically. It operated without any kind of stability or predictability, and this took a serious toll on our military readiness.

After nearly a decade of neglect, President Trump and Senate Republicans are working to rebuild our military and rebuild that readiness and modernize our force.

Let's look at the Army Future Vertical Lift—or FVL—as an example of why this investment is so very important. FVL is a cross-functional team within Army Futures Command headquarters in Austin, TX, that aims to develop two new helicopters for the Army in the 2020s. These next-generation aircraft will replace aging military helicopters and provide our servicemembers with the capabilities they need today and tomorrow.

But right now, these programs are progressing without timely funding. It is hard to make plans when you don't know how the money is going to flow. Without a budget deal and on-time appropriations, the Army has no choice but to significantly delay these programs for years to come, meaning that the Army will continue to operate helicopters built in the seventies and eighties.

The same goes with our artillery. Those years of underfunding have allowed Russia and China to surpass our capabilities in a number of areas, including long-range precision fire. In this and other areas, the military must develop longer range weapons to provide an advantage over our adversaries and maintain our qualitative edge.

As a newer program, the Army would not be able to continue research, development, and testing under a continuing resolution or without a budget deal, putting us another year behind in modernizing our force in an era of great power competition. That means China and Russia continue apace while we are slow to try to catch up.

That is why this deal is so important. It provides stable and reliable funding so that our military leaders can plan for the future and provide for the common defense.

Our newly confirmed Defense Secretary, Mark Esper, talked about this at length when testifying before the Armed Services Committee a couple of weeks ago. He talked about the Department of Defense receiving funding on time last year and said that it really allowed us to accelerate the readiness gains we have made to advance our modernization efforts and to do all of the things the national defense strategy tells us we need to do.

You would think there would be broad bipartisan support for providing America's military with the necessary resources to keep the American people safe. Somehow, though, some of our Members believe that this critical national security mission is optional.

Unfortunately, there are some in our midst who look to reduce military funding at every possible turn. Fortunately, we have a President who shares our commitment to national security. Thanks to the Trump administration's tough negotiating, this deal provides the stability the Pentagon needs, including critical investments in military readiness. Compared to current law, it provides a larger increase in discretionary funding for defense than nondefense discretionary programs and would allow us to regain the ground lost under the Obama administration.

I appreciate the President's work, along with that of the House and the Senate, to deliver a budget deal that supports America's military, and I look forward to supporting this agreement later today and certainly later this week.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, 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.

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

AMENDING SECTION 327 OF THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT TO CLARIFY THAT NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM TASK FORCES MAY INCLUDE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 639 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 639) to amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System task forces may include Federal employees.

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 and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 639) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESTORE THE HARMONY WAY BRIDGE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3245, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3245) to transfer a bridge over the Wabash River to the New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority, 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 and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3245) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE HONORARY PROMOTION OF COLONEL CHARLES E. MCGEE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 2052 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2052) to authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles E. McGee to brigadier general in the United States Air Force.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Van Hollen amendment, which is 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 933) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit entitlement to benefits by reason of the honorary promotion)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or allowance by reason of section 1.

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

The bill (S. 2052), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 2052

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR HONORARY PROMOTION OF COLONEL CHARLES E. MCGEE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

The President is authorized to issue an appropriate honorary commission promoting to brigadier general in the Air Force Colonel Charles E. McGee, United States Air Force (retired), a distinguished Tuskegee Airman whose honorary promotion to that grade has the recommendation of the Secretary of the Air Force in accordance with the provisions of section 1563 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or allowance by reason of section 1.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR AN EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST AFRICAN SLAVES TO THE TERRITORY THAT WOULD BECOME THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 53, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 53) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the 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. 53) was agreed to.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 263.

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. 263) honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 263) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed the RECORD of June 25, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 294, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 294) designating August 16, 2019, as "National Airborne Day".

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 294) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 295, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 295) designating the month of September 2019 as "Campus Fire Safety Month".

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know of no of further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the resolution pass?

The resolution (S. Res. 295) was agreed to.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble

be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 285.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 285) designating September 2019 as "School Bus Safety Month".

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 285) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 25, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and, notwithstanding rule XXII, the time between now and 3 p.m. be equally divided between the leaders and their designees.

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

The Senator from Indiana.

WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, whistleblowers play a key role in holding the Federal Government accountable for waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and illegal activity. It is therefore appropriate that even though Whistleblower Appreciation Day was yesterday, we take a moment to pause and thank the brave men and women who have the courage to speak up when they see ways to better or improve our government. I want to thank them for their efforts to ensure that our government never loses sight of why we are here—to serve the American people and to be good stewards of their resources and trust.

I was also proud to introduce legislation with Senator MAGGIE HASSAN of New Hampshire. Our bill ensures adequate protections for subgrantees—the folks on the firing line who are most important to revealing when some-

thing is not right. That needs to be protected in a way that is ensured so that they always feel comfortable coming forward.

In 1989, Congress approved the Whistleblower Protection Act, thereby expanding whistleblower protections for Federal employees and later expanding protections for individuals in certain private sector employment.

From time to time, it has been necessary for Congress to refine Federal whistleblower laws. We always want them to be working. In one such instance, Congress enhanced whistleblower protections as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 for Federal contractor, subcontractor, and grantee employees on a pilot program basis. The program worked well, and, in 2016, Congress saw fit to make the pilot permanent. It makes sense. This is how the process should work. Congress saw a problem, addressed it on a test basis, evaluated it to make sure it was working as it should, and moved to make the program permanent.

However, the subsequent amendments in 2016, to make sure the program was working, failed to guarantee subgrantees were recognized in the legislative text, as necessary, to make sure it would work on a technical basis. While 2016 amendments explicitly included Federal subgrantee employees, coordinated changes were not made in the statute's related sections.

I am proud to introduce this legislation with Senator HASSAN to close this gap because it needs to work in all cases. S. 2315, the Whistleblower Act, clarifies the scope of the protection statute specifically as to employees of Federal subgrantees who provide protected disclosures. Subgrantees are often in the best position to provide information regarding wrongdoing as to Federal subgrant funds. I am, therefore, pleased to play a small role in cleaning up our laws so they operate as they were intended—to protect whistleblowers.

Finally, we take whistleblowers seriously in my office. If anybody would like to assist, contact me through our whistleblower assistance line. One can email me at whistleblower@braun.senate.gov.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, over the past several weeks, we have seen numerous attempts by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to take a serious issue and, frankly, I think, turn it into a political football. It is an issue on which the Presiding Officer and I have spent a lot of time looking at what we need to do, in our having served on the Committee on Intelligence and, in my case, on the Committee on Rules and Administration, to be sure that people have the maximum confidence that what happens on election day is exactly reflected in the results.

Our friends came to the floor last week and sought unanimous consent to make sweeping changes to the election laws of the country. Then they somehow suggested there was a conspiracy that anybody would say no to that. Unanimous consent means exactly that. It is what we do when we name a post office. It is what we do when we make decisions that are unanimously agreed to. It is usually all it takes to get that issue settled. It is not how we shape the laws that are at the heart of our democracy. It is also not what we do, in my opinion, when we try to make a point about that. In fact, one of the bills on which they sought unanimous consent had passed the House. It had received exactly one Republican vote in the House. So, clearly, it was not unanimously consented to over there and would not be unanimously consented to here.

This is about press releases, not policy. In fact, today, the President called for us to pass voter ID laws that would require voter ID in every State and a law that would have a paper trail in every State. Right now, I suppose, if I were to draft that bill and call for unanimous consent under the same standard, I should expect my friends on the other side to say: Oh, that is something that others say would help elections, so I should just be for that and be for that immediately. Of course, that would not be the case.

These attempts have all been brought to the floor on the basis of saving democracy—that this is what we need to do to save our elections. This is in the name of election security, but it is really not what it is about at all. Three of the bills were about campaign committees, which are managed by lots of laws and may need to be managed by more, but how you run a campaign committee is not how you secure what happens at the voting place on election day.

One of the proposals was for the Federal Government to secure the personal devices of Members of Congress and their employees. As the Presiding Officer and I know, one of the things we do on the Committee on Intelligence is to put a Fitbit, like this one, on the shelf before we go into a meeting. If you have a phone like this one, you put it on a shelf before you go into a meeting.

This law would say that the Federal Government should secure those personal devices of mine so there would be absolute security so that if they were to interact with a Federal system, there would be no damage done to that system. I guess it would also mean that if one of my children were to call me on his personal device, whether he lives at home or not—and I would, of course, take that call immediately—he would then have gotten into my personal device. Would the Federal Government need to secure that as well?

Even if it were appropriate for the Federal Government to do that for Members and their extended immediate networks, I am not sure it is possible.

I am certainly sure that it has nothing to do with election security. It might have something to do with the security of our system here in the Senate. Frankly, I think it might make it less secure, which is why I have chosen not to bring that bill up before our committee until I know more about it. I think it might make it less secure if everybody, without hesitation, thinks, well, somebody has looked at this personal device of mine and has secured it, so I can go into any of the secure systems in the Senate that I want to with this device and not have any sense that I might endanger that Senate system.

This doesn't protect the elections. There have been numerous UC attempts we have seen on plenty of other bills that have claimed to secure elections. One included a provision that would take away the authority of the States to determine their own processes for voter registration. I am not for that. I also think it is hard to make the case that it would secure elections.

In case you think it would, another one was to require every State to have online voter registration. I am pretty sure that this would make elections less secure.

We have talked about all of the infiltration of bad information out there on the internet, and one of these provisions to secure elections would require States to have online registration.

One was for there to be automatic voter registration, and another was for there to be same-day registration.

In the nonurban part of our State of Missouri, we didn't have voter registration in all elections until 1975 or so. The view was, well, in small towns and school district elections and all, they are going to know everybody, so they really don't need to have registration. Yet, finally, it occurred to somebody that one might just think one knows five people, and the bond issue might be decided by five people, so we would have voter registration. In fact, not only would we have it, but we would have it enough in advance that anybody could look at those voter rolls 28 days in advance and see if there were any question as to whether one were registered or not.

Other States have decided to have same-day registration, but one of these bills that would secure our elections would allow anybody to register to vote that day who would walk up to vote. If you think that works in your State, I am not really arguing you shouldn't do it, because if that is what the voters of that State believe to be the case, maybe it does. I am pretty sure it wouldn't work in every State. In revisiting that online voter registration again, I am sure that doesn't secure elections.

There was one proposal that was rejected in these bills to secure elections, that being, for every \$1 contributed at a certain level, there would be \$6 given to that campaign by the Federal Government. That is one of the secure election things that was rejected, that wasn't accepted by unanimous consent.

At this point, it does seem to me, if you are not willing to accept all of these things—there was sort of this “hair on fire” moment—or are not willing to accept anything somebody else says will secure elections, then somehow you are undermining the elections system. Yet we really undermine the system when we say this kind of thing helps it. Frankly, I have been watching this for a while, and that list of things I gave you has been on every Democratic wish list for about 20 years of what would be of advantage to them in the elections. Never before have they purported that these things have made elections more secure. They have just said it was a better system and more fair. It was obvious to them it would help them, and it was obvious to us it would help them. We haven't done it, and we are probably not going to do it right now.

There are people in this building who simply will not accept the fact that there is not a Federal solution to every problem. Sometimes if there is a Federal solution, it is not the best solution. Frankly, I think the diversity of the election system that we have is one of the strengths of the system. I may get back to that later, but that is what President Obama said in October of 2016. In fact, he said that we didn't have a Federal structure and that it made it really more difficult to impact our elections than if we had.

I believe everybody here clearly knows that State and local officials faced a significant threat from the Russians, particularly in 2016, that they had not faced before. One could probably add that the Russians, the Chinese, the North Koreans, and the Iranians could do very disruptive things for not much money. There is no question that the Russians affected our elections, but they have been trying to impact elections in Eastern and Western Europe for well over a decade. Why this would be a surprise to us is shocking to me and why, in 2016, we acted like we were totally flatfooted that, oh, the Russians would actually interfere with the elections just because they interfered in elections in a couple handful of countries in the previous decade. The world is pretty small when you get to that internet world we live in now.

A critical infrastructure declaration came from the Obama administration in October whereby, frankly, it terrified most State election officials that, suddenly, the Federal Government, with about 2 weeks left before the election, was going to Federalize a system that they were personally responsible for.

As for the Intelligence Committee that started this process—the Presiding Officer and I were both on it, and I am still on it—it released some key findings about what the Russians had done. The committee found that the Russians had worked hard to find the seams between which the Federal Government could be helpful to State

and local governments. They found that the FBI's and Department of Homeland Security's warnings to local officials came way too late in the process and were not well thought out. It scared the wrong people and confused more people when the FBI and the DHS did what they did. While there is no question that both of those agencies have redoubled their efforts to build trust with the States and deploy resources to help secure elections, we have to remain vigilant to see they continue to do that. Even when the Presiding Officer and I worked on a bill together last year, the local officials continued to have some problems with it. I know I said at the time that I had believed we had been doing everything this bill would do. I am not sure we would still be doing it 10 years from now, so we need to memorialize that. I haven't significantly changed my view on that, but I haven't changed my view, more importantly, that we are doing what we need to do now.

Congress needs to be vigilant. We have to insist that State and local officials have the clearance levels they need. Frankly, let me say this too. On that topic, I am not sure you can legislate that. I am not sure you can legislate “here is what you have to be willing to tell State and local officials.” I am not sure you can ever put that in writing, but you can ask them what they are telling people. I talked to one of our State election officials just last week.

I asked: How is this going?

He said: Well, everything we request seems to be one level above the security clearance I have.

Too many of the things we ask meet that criteria. We are going to have to insist that this not be the case. While this is not likely to be solved by legislation, I think it can be solved by congressional oversight and inquiry.

The Intelligence Committee also found that Russian activities demand renewed attention to vulnerabilities in the U.S. voting infrastructure. I certainly agree with that. We even said in that report we should replace out-of-date machines with improved ways to vote and improved cybersecurity. I think that is happening.

Election officials have been taking this threat very seriously. DHS, the Department of Homeland Security, has reported that all 50 States and more than 1,400 local jurisdictions have signed up for the cyber threat information sharing program. We have had reports to the Senate on that, and the Committee on Rules and Administration has had hearings on that. The Committee on Intelligence has asked repeatedly about that. The monitoring sensors that help to detect malicious activity have been deployed to election infrastructure in most States.

Remember that, in 2016, we had a cyber defense, but we didn't have a cyber offense. Early in the Trump administration, I remember people being asked in an open hearing: Do you have

any direction now to be fighting out there—to have a cyber offense? That was about 5 months into the Trump administration.

The person said: No.

You would think that, somehow, the old cyber offense had been turned off. In fact, there had been no cyber offense.

Sometime in 2017, the cyber fighters were given what they needed, and they are out there helping. They are fighting back too. We had a report on that just recently of which all of the Senators are aware.

One of the chief State election officials in terms of that cyber war said that in their system there are about 100,000 attempts every day to scam the voter registration system and see if you could possibly get in.

I don't know how many thousands of those might be from foreign actors. I suspect a majority of them are from people who just say: Let's see if I can get into the system. But we should assume all 100,000 are from somebody who wants to do something wrong, and I think the States are getting the help they need to fight that back.

We have seen States use equipment that didn't have a backup so that when the election was over, you could count something individually and that the voter would have been able to look at and get their hands on and recount. As a matter of fact, if you ask me, the best proof you can have is a backup, a ballot that could be counted—a ballot where if I vote in Missouri, my voting machine generates something that I look at and then I put that in the ballot box and it is counted at the polling place. But if it ever had to be counted again, if there was any question about that precinct counter, they can go back and open that ballot box and count them again.

On election day in 2016, and even in 2018, there were still four States that didn't have that system anywhere in their States. There are a couple of other States that have a partial system and four States that didn't have it. Delaware has it in place for this year's election. Georgia announced just last week that they had awarded a contract to replace their equipment that will be in place for the 2020 elections and have an auditable ballot trail. South Carolina made a similar announcement last month. The fourth State, Louisiana, is working through a contracting bidding process right now. Whether they are in place by 2020 or not in Louisiana I don't know, but I know they will be in as soon as they can reasonably be in and not confuse voters.

Congress has to continue to move States to do that. We need to look and see what happened with the States that were given \$380 million. In 2018, 49 States took the money immediately. One State, Minnesota, has some glitch with their legislature so they don't have their money yet. But of the \$380 million that States have, they have only spent 25 percent of it. So there is

still \$285 million for which States have to do the kinds of things that the Congress thinks States should be doing.

Now, there may be some States that have already spent all of their money and need more. That is something that, in the appropriations process, I am sure we will look at again, just like that \$380 million came through the appropriations process.

As I recall, the Presiding Officer was pretty involved in that discussion at the time.

The Federal Government's role isn't to run elections for the State, but it certainly has a place in trying to be a valued partner, ensuring that the States have all the help they need.

In fact, I believe that a larger Federal role requiring a one-size-fits-all approach to the election would be a big mistake. I am not for federalizing the elections.

I spent 20 years as an elections official, either as the individual responsible for elections in the third-most populous county in our State or the chief elections official as the secretary of State. In 20 years of doing this, I guarantee you that the person on the ground, generally elected by the voters for whom he or she is trying to secure the election that day, is intensely interested in that election going well and people's having confidence in it.

There is very little kicking the buck up to some Federal official in a far-away place and saying: Well, we can't prepare for that because we haven't been told we could prepare for that.

Public confidence in elections is fundamental. It is the central thread in the fabric of democracy. Elected officials take it seriously when they are elected to do this job or supervise this job, just like appointed officials and boards of elections or election commissioners do.

That system would not be improved if it was directed from Washington, DC, in a one-size-fits-all world.

These public servants undertake an important job, and they understand it is an important job. We need to support them. We are supporting them.

We need to have oversight. There may be a time when that oversight has produced a system that is so finely honed that we are ready to make it permanent, but every time you put something in law permanently, you reduce a lot of your flexibility to insist that something be done differently that needs to be done right now.

Both the Intel Committee report—and both Senator WARNER and Senator BURR have done a good job at keeping our committee on a bipartisan, non-partisan track in this report—and former FBI Director Mueller focused on the insidious efforts to confuse voters. This is a much bigger question than what we could do at the government level about elections security.

Let's not confuse that certain fight about bad information that is out there with a fight about whether our elections are secure and what happens on election day.

Frankly, much more attention on what we can do about information is out there. Put people on alert. You know, sometimes even your political opponent says things that aren't true, and they don't have to be Russian to do that. People need to be on alert about information that is out there, but they also don't need to be scared to death that somehow we are not taking seriously the important moment of democracy when people decide.

I believe we are doing that. I am committed to it. I believe the Senate is committed to it. I think this effort to make everything that might advantage one side on an election security issue is something that people need to be thoughtful about, and it needs to stop.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the need to hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable for putting profits before the health and well-being of our people and our communities.

I know that my colleague, Senator BROWN from Ohio, came to the floor earlier this week to call out bad actors in the pharmaceutical industry who have fueled our country's substance misuse crisis, and I am grateful for Senator BROWN's leadership in calling attention to this issue, and I join him in the effort.

We are constantly learning more and more about the unconscionable ways that pharmaceutical companies fueled the substance misuse crisis—a crisis that is killing more than 100 people a day in the United States.

Recent data released by the Drug Enforcement Administration showed that between 2006 and 2012, just 6 years, companies distributed 76 billion pills of oxycodone and hydrocodone throughout the country, including 290 million pills that were sent to New Hampshire, a State with only 1.3 million people. That works out to about 30 pills per person per year in the Granite State.

As they distributed those unfathomable amounts of opioids, pharmaceutical companies pushed these drugs with deceptive marketing tactics, despite the known risks of addiction, to maximize their profits. One of these tactics even included pushing the unproven concept of pseudoaddiction. This false claim asserted that patients showing signs of addiction weren't actually addicted but instead needed even higher doses of opioids. The solution that these scam artists pushed to address addiction was to encourage the prescribing of even more opioids. So instead of providing actual addiction treatment to those suffering from substance use disorder, some patients just received more drugs.

That kind of strategy enabled the pharmaceutical industry to dole out those billions of doses of opioids and profit enormously from it, leaving in

their wake an opioid crisis that is devastating communities.

Outrageously, as they have aggressively pushed doctors to prescribe these opioids, a tax loophole has enabled Big Pharma to write off the cost of television ads that blanketed the airwaves, encouraging more and more people to seek opioids from their doctors for pain relief, oblivious to the harm that these drugs could do. I have joined with Senator BROWN, as well as Senator SHAHEEN, on legislation to close that loophole and end taxpayer subsidies for drug ads, and I am going to continue to push for transparency from these companies.

In addition to the devastating impact that Big Pharma has had in fueling the substance misuse crisis, the industry has also hurt patients by massively increasing the cost of prescription drugs.

One of the top issues I hear about from people in New Hampshire is that affording lifesaving medications is becoming more and more out of reach, and high drug costs are too often forcing seniors and families to make agonizing decisions.

No one should have to decide between buying their prescriptions and heating their home or putting food on the table, but these are the types of choices Americans are devastatingly having to make, all the while big pharmaceutical companies are reporting profits that are higher than ever. We need to change this system, bring down costs, and hold Big Pharma accountable.

Last week, the Finance Committee moved forward with bipartisan legislation to begin to take on Big Pharma and lower prescription drug prices. This bill would cap out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicaid Part D and crack down on pharmaceutical companies that raise drug prices higher than inflation.

It is a really big deal that a bill to take on the pharmaceutical industry in a meaningful way advanced out of committee on a strong bipartisan vote. Pharma did everything they could to try to kill and weaken this bill in committee, and they will keep trying. I am really encouraged that we have gotten this far. That is no small accomplishment. We will continue working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to get it across the finish line.

At the heart of the issue with Big Pharma is the blind pursuit of profits at the expense of people's health and wellbeing. Representatives from the pharmaceutical industry have told us often how important innovation is and how much innovation costs because they say they want to save lives and innovation is critically important.

In my own family, like so many across our country, medical innovation has been critical not only for saving life but to improve the quality of life. Our son Ben regularly has a compression vest that helps clear his lungs without the incredibly labor intensive respiratory therapy that we used to

have to do. He is able to get nutrition through a feeding tube that runs smoothly, steadily through the night so that he can have the kind of nutrition he needs.

Innovation in pharmaceuticals have also helped Ben improve his quality of life, and the combination of pharmaceutical innovation and medical device innovation means that a baclofen pump inserted in Ben's abdominal cavity helps his muscles to relax.

But if innovation is about saving lives, then, how did we get to a point of crisis that started from the drugs that they produced? How did we get to a point where many patients can't even afford the lifesaving prescription that pharma promotes?

It seems that, at least for some pharmaceutical companies, they only want to save lives when it makes them money or when it gives them an excuse not to restrict their profits.

From the substance misuse crisis to the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, this body has failed to hold Big Pharma accountable for far too long. That must change, and I am committed to working with anyone who is serious about finally acting to put patients first.

I yield the floor.

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

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL VENECHUK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is the time of week again when I come to the floor to recognize a very special person in my State—someone who I believe helps to make Alaska the best State in the country. We refer to this person as our Alaskan of the Week. It is one of my favorite times of the week because I get to brag about my State and brag about my fellow Alaskans and constituents. I think the pages enjoy these stories about Alaska and what we are doing up there.

This week, that person is Cheryl Venchuk. She is our Alaskan of the Week. She is a wife, a mom, a grandmother, an active member of her community in Healy, AK, which is in the interior of Alaska, and a woman who is very active not just in her community but in her chosen profession. She is a proud member of Laborers Union Local 942 in Fairbanks. That is part of the construction union, Laborers' International Union, LIUNA.

Many people know it for its great men and women across our country—one of the biggest construction building trades in North America. These are men and women who like to go out and build stuff—roads, pipelines, mines, build things. These are the type of Americans who made our country great.

Let me talk about Cheryl's life—about raising her five children in Healy, about her job, and about all she does for her community, which is a lot. I certainly think she personifies the kind of self-sufficiency, toughness, kindness, and independent spirit that Alaska and Alaskans are known for,

not just in Alaska but really throughout the country and the world. She personifies it.

Let me tell you a little bit about Cheryl's life. She was originally from the Midwest—Michigan. When she was about 23 years old, a friend of hers, Tom Bodett—who was a high school friend and eventually became the voice of Motel 6's motto, "We'll leave the lights on for you"—told her that Alaska was a good place to make a living and raise a family. So Cheryl and her husband Tim, with a child on the way, moved to a beautiful part of Southeast Alaska, a community called Petersburg, which is a beautiful fishing community in the southeast part of our State.

They settled there. They made friends. They began to raise a family. She worked at the local cannery, at the daycare, at the grocery store. She loved Petersburg. We all love Petersburg. I encourage people watching or watching on TV, when you visit Alaska, make sure to make that part of your stops.

Eventually, three kids later, Cheryl and her husband Tim moved north for Tim's work as a surveyor for Usibelli Coal Mine in Healy, AK. That is about 100 miles southwest of Fairbanks in the interior.

Usibelli is another great story in Alaska. Several generations of Usibelli family members have been producing coal for Alaska and the world, and they are still doing it—a great company, great families.

What did Cheryl find in Healy? Certainly another welcoming community, but a lot smaller, with a lot fewer amenities than she found in Petersburg.

So as she does, Cheryl rolled up her sleeves, and along with other young mothers in the area, she got to work to create a community that her children—eventually five children—and all the other children and families could enjoy in interior Alaska.

"We made stuff happen," Cheryl said. They started a daycare. They started Boy Scout and Brownie troops. They made sure hungry children got a hot lunch. They went around town picking up cans and started a recycling effort before recycling was even the rage. They helped build an ice rink for the kids to play hockey on. They even went so far as to haul the water for the rink in a truck and then spread it out to form ice. She mentored countless kids and always had time for her five kids.

This is what one of her children said about her: You have a hockey team that needs a hot meal? Call Cheryl. You need food for a wedding? Call Cheryl. Your kid is in trouble? Call Cheryl. You need something built? Call Cheryl.

Every community has a Cheryl—the backbone, the go-to person—who is usually unsung. We all know someone like that, and they make our communities so strong and caring, and in

many ways these kind of people are exactly what my "Alaskan of the Week" series of speeches is all about. So it is very appropriate we are talking about her right now.

When Cheryl was in her mid-forties, with her kids settled and in college, like a modern-day homesteader, she yearned for the next challenge. One day, she saw a group of workers doing road construction—hard, but very important work—and she thought, I can do that. Soon, she became a proud member of Alaska Laborers Local 942. That was almost 20 years ago. Her hard work, along with fellow laborers, is seen all across the State of Alaska, wind farms, trails, roads, bridges, and pipelines.

Many people talk about the great natural wonders in Alaska, and we have so many, but the manmade wonders are also remarkable—bridges, roads slicing into giant mountains, oil rigs, mines—and she and her fellow laborers have done so much to build up that part of the State.

She is a strong advocate for anybody who decides to work in the building trades, and she is particularly focused on women in the construction and building trades and recruiting them for these good jobs. She said: These are good jobs. They are good-paying jobs, and they build confidence. It is a great way to make money and to learn how to use your hands and of course to give back to your community.

To that end, she and her daughter Halle created, at their own expense, an Alaska "Women in the Trades" promotional calendar. The calendar features women of all ages who are employed as heavy equipment operators, welders, truckdrivers, tree trimmers, and on and on and on. With her own money, she put this calendar together.

She drops these calendars off at laundromats, schools, cafes, union halls, churches, and always keeps a few on hand to give to women who might need a new way of thinking about a career, who might need hope. She also gives them to people she just runs into—people like me. I was out in Fairbanks, AK, a couple weeks ago in the O'Reilly Auto Parts parking lot, and bumped into Cheryl and her daughter Halle, and I got one of these.

This calendar, Alaska Women in the Trades, is a great calendar with a couple of inspirational quotes:

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, "I'm possible."

Get it? Pretty clever.

How about another one:

Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Think about that, pages. It is good advice, even for Senators.

This is the kind of work she does, on her own dime, giving this kind of inspiration to her fellow Alaskans.

My team and I have gotten many emails from Cheryl's five children over the past few days, all of them talking about what a great mother she is, how giving, caring, hard-working she is,

how she is a hero to all of them, and how she is an inspiring example. Let me quote from one of the emails.

Her daughter Emmaline Hill, who, by the way, signed up for the U.S. Marine Corps when she was 18, then went on to graduate from Notre Dame, got her commission in the Marine Corps, and now is stationed in Japan as a major in the U.S. Marines—here is what she said about her mom:

My mom believes in people, especially those who have a hard time believing in themselves or don't think they are worthy of it. She is a rugged champion for the underdog and a tireless advocate for employing Alaskans and building our communities through volunteerism and action.

That is a beautiful testament to her mom from her daughter who is a major in the Marine Corps in Japan.

We are going to be going into our August work session. I am going to be back home in Alaska the whole time. We are going to be coming up on Labor Day, a very important holiday. I think it is important, when we are thinking about Labor Day, to think about people like Cheryl, her fellow laborers, and particularly the women who are doing this kind of hard work. You don't always think about that in terms of the construction and building trades, but they do great work.

So, Cheryl, thank you for all you have done. Thank you for your hard work, your inspiration, your dedication and faith, your indomitable spirit, and your example to your kids, to your fellow Alaskans, and now to Americans, as we congratulate you for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH DARLING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the coming hours, the Senate could take up the nomination of Elizabeth Darling to serve as Commissioner for Children, Youth, and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services. If she is confirmed to that role, she would be a key official overseeing the foster care system.

I previously had a hold on Ms. Darling's nomination, and I am going to begin my remarks by saying my hold was never about her personally or about concerns with her qualifications. In fact, I believe she is qualified for the position. I placed a hold on her nomination because of serious problems at the Department of Health and Human Services affecting child welfare policies that would fall in her area of jurisdiction if she is confirmed. I think this involves a matter the distinguished Presiding Officer of the Senate might be particularly interested in at this point.

I authored, with the former Finance Committee Chair, Senator Orrin Hatch, landmark families legislation called the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Family First, that Chairman Hatch and I authored, is a once-in-a-generation bipartisan update of child welfare

laws in America, inspired to a great extent by Marian Wright Edelman, the head of the Children's Defense Fund. The implementation of that law, in my view, is moving too slowly.

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services followed through on a request from me and a group of colleagues from both parties and both Chambers to open up the availability of prevention programs for States that Chairman Hatch and I felt so strongly about under Family First. This was an important first step, and, if Ms. Darling is confirmed, I expect to see the Department take more.

What I would like to address for a few minutes, though, is a deeply discriminatory policy change that has been made by the Trump administration in the child welfare system. Until the Trump administration intervened, Health and Human Services regulations explicitly banned religious discrimination in federally funded Social Services programs, discrimination that should be barred by our core constitutional protections. Unfortunately, under this administration, that safeguard is no more.

This year, the Trump administration has set a precedent that foster care agencies that receive Federal dollars can turn away qualified prospective foster parents simply because they are Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Mormon, or any other faith, or simply because they are nonbelievers.

What this is all about, in short, is a green light for taxpayer-funded discrimination on the basis of religion. It stems from a case involving Miracle Hill Ministries, a foster agency in South Carolina. Miracle Hill is a faith-based social service organization—the largest provider of foster care services in South Carolina. It serves around 15 percent of the State's foster care population. I have no reason to doubt that Miracle Hill has a lot of wonderful staff and volunteers who wish to do a great deal of good work.

Last year, the Governor of South Carolina asked the Department of Health and Human Services for a waiver that would allow Miracle Hill to continue receiving taxpayer dollars despite its practice of turning away qualified foster parents based solely on their religious beliefs. In effect, it was a request for a loophole to evade the Federal policy banning religious discrimination. The Department of Health and Human Services OK'd it.

At a time—the Presiding Officer of the Senate and I have talked about this—when there are too many vulnerable kids and too few safe foster homes in America, the Trump administration actually gave the largest foster care organization in South Carolina permission to turn away prospective foster parents because of their faith.

This is not an academic matter. Let me give an example of the consequences. In 2018, Beth Lesser—a woman who unintentionally brought this issue to light—went to Miracle

Hill Ministries to volunteer as a foster mentor. Before she moved to South Carolina, she was a foster parent in Florida. You would think any foster care organization would be thrilled to have Ms. Lesser walk through their door—an experienced foster care parent coming to volunteer her time, her energy, and her love—but during orientation training, Miracle Hill found what they consider to be a problem: Ms. Lesser, like me, is Jewish. After Miracle Hill discovered Ms. Lesser's religion, they quickly turned her away.

Ms. Lesser is not the only person to experience this discrimination. Another was Aimee Madonna, who grew up in a foster care home and has three kids of her own. She contacted Miracle Hill and volunteered to open her home in the screening process. But when Miracle Hill learned that Ms. Madonna is Catholic, she got turned away too. She was devastated by the decision. In February, she sued the State of South Carolina and the Department of Health and Human Services over this unconstitutional discrimination. I commend her for fighting for her rights, and I believe she speaks for people of so many faiths whom I mentioned earlier.

I do want to explain why I find this precedent the Trump administration has set to be so objectionable, starting with the most obvious.

It is horrendous policy because it is going to hurt vulnerable kids all across this country, particularly if and when the Trump administration hands out more waivers in more States. If they do it this way, it is going to reduce the number of safe and loving foster homes available to youngsters in the child welfare system. That is the wrong way to go.

This policy is going to limit the diversity of foster homes and foster parents and growing up around people of different views and philosophies and religions. Diversity is important for kids. That is particularly important for LGBTQ youth, who make up one in five kids in foster care. There are homes where LGBTQ kids are not safe. They benefit from the chance to grow up in these more inclusive environments, where there are more diverse families who respect their sexual orientation and their gender identity.

It raises troubling questions about what is going to happen to children who were raised outside of evangelical Christianity before they entered the child welfare system. What is going to happen to a Jewish kid or a Muslim kid or a Mormon kid who is placed in a home where they are considered heretics?

This is a personal matter for me. That kid could have been me. I was so proud of my parents. They fled the Nazis in the thirties. Not all got out. All my dad—just about the most red, white, and blue fellow around—wanted to do was serve in our Army so he could drop propaganda pamphlets on the Nazis, telling them they ought to give up. You can read about my dad,

Peter Wyden, in the Holocaust Museum. I am so very, very proud of my dad.

I thought about, for example, what might have happened if my parents had died in a car crash when I was 12 years old and I had been put in one of these evangelical families through a foster agency that discriminates. I could have been told that everything my wonderful, patriotic, Jewish parents had taught me to believe was wrong; that my parents—that my dad, who was honored in the Holocaust Museum—that his beliefs were sinful. It would have added a lot more difficulty to a situation that was already traumatic.

The thought that children who have lost their parents could have another part of their identity stripped away is appalling. That religious discrimination in particular, that fundamentally un-American act—the idea that it is going to be propped up with Federal tax dollars is just wrong.

In my view, what the Trump administration has done with the South Carolina waiver is unconstitutional. I also believe it is the latest iteration of a much larger assault on individual religious liberty.

From a legal perspective, the Department of Health and Human Services justifies its discriminatory waiver by pointing to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, what is known as RFRA. Here is the problem: That law was intended to stop religious discrimination, not promote it. In this case, however, the administration is interpreting that law to protect only the religious freedom of Miracle Hill, not the freedom of Jewish or Catholic or Muslim or Buddhist individuals who want to become foster parents in South Carolina.

HHS's waiver disregards the establishment clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits the government from "respecting an establishment of religion." This is a Federal agency using taxpayer dollars to elevate some religions above others. That is unconstitutional every way you cut it.

The consequences at this point are limited to one State, but because of this precedent, that is one too many. It only takes one small step to set a harmful, dangerous precedent that will change everything. There are already rumors that HHS plans to turn this waiver into a nationwide policy. Make no mistake about it—that would be nationwide religious discrimination.

The consequences of an action like that would reach far beyond our child welfare system. It is not much further down the road before out-and-out discrimination against people of particular faiths, gender identities, and sexual orientations under the guise of religious freedom bleeds into other areas of American life. These debates are going to keep hitting the courts, and they are going to keep confronting the Congress. The Trump administration, Republican lawmakers, and Republican judges are ensuring that will happen.

I mentioned at the outset that this debate is tied to a nomination the Senate may take up today—we will see about later in the week. It involves the Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families at Health and Human Services. I made that judgment, after a lot of reflection, that I am not going to stand in the way of that vote. I believe Ms. Elizabeth Darling is qualified. But in making that judgment, I was not willing to let today pass without sounding an alarm on a very dangerous precedent the Trump administration has set in this field. This is about the prospect of State-sponsored religious discrimination. In this case, it is going to come down hardest on vulnerable kids in our country. I believe it is clear that what is happening is unconstitutional.

I will close by saying again that there is bipartisan interest in improving our child welfare system. The distinguished Presiding Officer of the Senate is from Utah. I wish he could have seen Chairman Hatch and me work together on Families First. As you know, when Chairman Hatch got enthused about something, he was really enthused.

Marian Wright Edelman came to both of us. This had been her dream for 30 years, to try some fresh approaches in terms of helping these kids. In effect, what Families First does is it creates a third option. You have kids in homes where a parent might have gotten caught up in drugs or alcohol. We can get them some help. There is the foster care option. We have some very good foster care facilities in this country, and we have some that aren't exactly so great. So what Chairman Hatch and I said and what Democrats and Republicans on the Finance Committee said and what eventually the Congress on a bipartisan basis said was "We are going to do better by these vulnerable kids," and we created a third option.

One of them is built on a dream that I was part of. Back when I was director of the Gray Panthers, we were advocating for something called kinship care where grandparents could play a bigger role in stepping in and trying to help these vulnerable families, where maybe if a son had gotten in trouble with the law or a daughter-in-law had problems with alcohol and the like, the grandparent could help out.

Under Families First, Chairman Hatch, a Republican, and I, a Democrat, said: We are going to try to help those families. We are going to try to give them help. If you have a son who has had problems with alcohol and drugs, they are going to be able to get some help. The grandparents can step in and get some help. We are going to create more options for the most vulnerable families and most vulnerable youngsters in America.

We were moving forward. We were moving forward to be able to say—and this, of course, is not driven from Washington, DC; it is driven at the

State level. The Presiding Officer of the Senate is a former Governor. We were moving forward. Now we have the Trump administration seeking to move backward.

There are nearly half a million kids in foster care in this country. Democrats and Republicans ought to keep building on the work that Chairman Hatch and I—and I was proud to be his partner, with him as the chairman, in this effort to help those kids stay safe and get ahead in life. Now the Trump administration is spending taxpayer dollars not to help those kids but to promote discrimination. That is not the way to help these kids, not the way to help these families. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in opposing these policies of discrimination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL AUNDRE
PIGGEE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable Arkansan at the end of a 38-year Army career.

LTG Aundre Piggee, who will retire in September, is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Logistics. His nearly four-decade career has taken him literally all over the world, but his roots are and always have been in Arkansas.

The general was born in Stamps, AR, which is a small town in Lafayette County with fewer than 3,000 people. The son of a World War II Army veteran, the general didn't have his sights set on a career of military service from a young age. After graduating from high school, he chose to go to the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, which is about 2½ hours from home. He was a smart kid, so he received an academic scholarship to attend school.

There was no real reason for him to choose to go into the ROTC. In fact, according to him, the only reason he entered the Army ROTC was because the school allowed him to substitute it for an otherwise mandatory physical education class that would have required him to walk all the way across the campus. That seemingly mundane decision to save himself a few steps each day and maybe allow him to sleep in a few more minutes ended up being a life-changing decision for him. It set him on a path to an extraordinary career that he probably couldn't have dreamed of at the time.

Years later, the general served in jobs in Fort Hood, TX; Seoul, South Korea; Kaiserslautern, Germany; MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, and many other places. He deployed to Ku-

wait, Bosnia, and Iraq. He commanded thousands of soldiers and managed an \$11 billion Army portfolio. He led capacity-building efforts in Iraq and headed train-and-equip missions in Syria. He also directed logistics works in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. For his exemplary service, the general earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and many other recognitions.

Throughout all of his great accomplishments and prominent positions, he has maintained a strong connection to his alma mater and his Arkansas roots.

For his work with and on behalf of his school, the current chancellor at UAPB, Laurence Alexander, said of the general:

He not only serves as a beacon of light and hope to our university and our community, but also to our state and our country. He continues to positively impact the lives of many, as well as inspiring a new generation of future military leaders.

For all of his accomplishments, the general was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame last year. Now he has decided that it is time to take off his Army uniform and pursue his next adventure with his wife, Kassi.

The general has risen to such incredible heights during his career. He is a hero in the sense of his outstanding military service, but more importantly, he is a hero in the sense that when you talk about duty, honor, country, and integrity, he is the guy who is a great example for all of us, one of the best we can find and look to. I am so proud to call him a fellow Arkansan and a friend. On behalf of all Arkansans, I wish him and his wife, Kassi, much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

IOWA

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, with August just around the corner, countless Iowans are preparing to fill up their gas tanks—many with Iowa-grown E15—and take to our scenic highways for one last summer road trip. I can tell you one thing: I will be hitting the Iowa roadways myself, and I really cannot wait, folks. Throughout the month, I will be continuing on what I call my 99 County Tour, an annual tradition where I visit each and every one of Iowa's 99 counties. I will be logging hundreds of miles and speaking with thousands of Iowans.

It doesn't get any better than heading back home, getting out of this DC swamp, and talking with folks about the issues that matter most to them—like solutions to lower prescription

drug prices, policies to help our farmers and small businesses thrive, and efforts to cut wasteful spending and to make them squeal here in Washington.

So far, this year, my tour has brought me to over 50 Iowa counties, and I am aiming to visit another 30 or so before Labor Day. I will be crisscrossing the State, hosting townhalls and visiting the small businesses, farms, plants, and everyone else that are currently creating jobs and contributing to Iowa's current economic boom and record unemployment.

Meeting with and hearing from my fellow Iowans is one of the best and most important parts of my job. Our elected officials should always be out there listening to the people we work for. It is our job, and it really does make us more effective lawmakers.

For Iowans and folks across the Nation planning to hit the road this August, I hope you will take advantage of all that Iowa has to offer. With 99 counties, it means 99 unique communities for road warriors and families to visit and enjoy.

There are national treasures like the Effigy Mounds National Monument, a sacred site that is located in Allamakee and Clayton Counties, featuring more than 200 American Indian mounds. There are historic gems like the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Cedar County and Lewis and Clark State Park in Monona County.

I am sure folks will be willing to fill their social media feeds with one-of-a-kind Iowa attractions like the American Gothic House in Wapello County, the world's largest concrete gnome, in Story County, and the famed Field of Dreams in Dubuque County.

And who could forget the Iowa State Fair, truly the best State fair in North America and the crown jewel of Iowa attractions, with everything from the butter cow to peanut butter and jelly on a stick, hot beef sundaes, and, of course, good old-fashioned hotdogs. In fact, the Iowa State fair lists over 69 foods on a stick. That is right. It is on a stick, folks. You can try that at the fair this August.

But while you are out on the road, there are a few things that you will not be able to avoid. First and foremost, it is Democrats running for President. Folks, they are everywhere in Iowa. You will not miss them. You also can't avoid Casey's Pizza. Why would you want to? That is my question.

Now, inside the DC swamp, people may turn their nose up at gas station pizza—that is what it is, Casey's Pizza—but Iowans know it doesn't get any better than pizza from Casey's.

One more thing Iowans will not be able to avoid on the roads this August is me. So, as I am out on my 99-county tour this August, if you happen to see me at a townhall or at a local business or organization or maybe even gassing up my Harley-Davidson at Casey's or waiting in line for a slice of pizza, please be sure to stop and say hello.

So, folks, hit the roads this August. Make that one last trip with your family. Get out and see those sites, and for heaven's sake, swing through Iowa. Visit our Iowa-nice folks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Montana.

MONTANA

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as we are getting ready for a busy August work period, I am very much looking forward to spending time in Big Sky Country back home in Montana, away from the swamp, enjoying the beautiful State that I am so lucky to call home.

In between meetings, I am taking a few days to enjoy Montana's great outdoors, including spending 3 days backpacking in the Beartooth Wilderness with my sweet wife Cindy and a couple of our dogs. As an avid outdoorsman, I was raised to appreciate our public lands, and I can assure you, nothing beats going off the grid for a bit, where there is no cell phone coverage on top of the peaks, with my sweetheart and a couple of our pups and enjoying Montana's beauty, the fly rod with an elk hair caddis and chasing cut and sometimes even goldens in Montana's highest lakes.

I will also be spending a lot of time on the road traveling all over Montana. I get to each of Montana's 56 counties every congressional period, to every corner of our State, from West Butte down to Ekalaka, even Alzada, over in Monida, up to the northwest corner of our State to places like Libby, Troy, and even Yaak.

I will also work to get to one of my favorite places in Montana, the famous Jersey Lilly in Ingomar. This place is not well known. It is off the beaten path. But the Jersey Lilly in Ingomar, MT, is home to the best bean soup in Big Sky Country. If you ever find yourself in east central Montana, Rosebud County, you have to get off of Highway 12 and stop in. I have known the owners of that restaurant for many years—Boots and June. There is a Montana name for you—"Boots." They not only serve up great food and even better conversation, they are also yet another example of a local family business—the bedrock of our small towns and counties across Montana. The fine folks over at the Jersey Lilly are what Montana is all about. It is about hard work, family values, passion for their community, and passion for our great country. I am a proud and frequent customer of the Jersey Lilly, and I can't wait for the next bowl of bean soup.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

MISSOURI

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, first of all, I wanted to talk about everything you could be doing in Missouri in the next month or so with your family, and then I was told I have 5 minutes. That seems to be an impossible restriction for me. So let me see how many things

I can talk about here as we end the summer travel season. But there are other people traveling after the summer. Some families still have their summer vacation. Some schools start after Labor Day, some before. I am sure I will be leaving things out that I will be glad to talk about at a later time. Let me first just mention a couple of our national parks.

If you leave my hometown of Springfield, MO, and you head west, pretty quickly you get to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield park. There was a battle in August of 1861. Several thousand people fought who really weren't prepared to fight. They weren't trained. They weren't ready. It was a big battle that made a big difference in what happened in Missouri in the war.

Not too far from there, you get to Diamond, MO, where there is the George Washington Carver National Monument. It is a 240-acre park on the farm where George Washington Carver grew up. He was born as a slave but was quickly freed and raised by the older White couple who lived there. He managed to get to school there a little bit and in those years after the Civil War became a leading scientist and spokesman for agriculture in the country. This monument was established in 1943, and it was the first national park dedicated to an African American.

I have to circle back a little bit to get to Branson. With 50 theaters in Branson, there are more theater seats than Broadway. It is never too early to find a show you want to see in Branson.

In Silver Dollar City, in the summer of last year, their great park was named the No. 1 Christmas venue in America to visit.

Now back to my hometown of Springfield, which is the way this comes up on my list. It is the home of Bass Pro Shops. The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium right there by Bass Pro was named "America's Best Aquarium" by USA TODAY Travel last year. That museum has 3,000 fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibious animals there.

A park we just added to our National Park System—I will pop right up to almost St. Louis, to St. Genevieve, where you have French architecture that dates back to the 1700s. This is the first summer that there has been a full-time park person there. This park is rising out of what the community has preserved so well for so long. There are a number of houses there that reflect that early French architecture along the Mississippi River.

South of there, at Perryville, is the full-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. There have been some traveling memorials, and there are a couple of memorials that are miniature in some way, but in Perryville, MO, you can see a full-sized replica on a 47-acre family farm that Jim Eddleman and his family made possible, along with other donations. I was there not too long ago, and I was at the Vietnam Wall here not too long ago.

They are in different places, but they are the same wall, exactly the same size, with the same names, and are the same in every way.

On the other side of our State, in Kansas City, is the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Just this week, Senator Kaine and I introduced legislation for a memorial coin to benefit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Congressmen CLEAVER and STIVERS in the House did the same thing.

While you are in Kansas City here at the end of the centennial of World War I, the World War I Museum in Kansas City was the World War I Memorial dedicated in the 1920s. It is the No. 1 place in America to visit and think about the war and the impact of that war in the 100 years that have passed since then.

If you want to go north to St. Joseph, you, of course, pass some baseball stadiums and football fields that are good places to visit if you are there at the right time. In St. Joseph, there is the Pony Express Museum. The Pony Express didn't last very long, but it became a very important part of the lore of the West, these young riders—before the telegraph—taking a message as quickly as they could ride and changing from one rider to another to go from St. Joe to California.

I wouldn't want to leave out the Mark Twain Boyhood Home in Hannibal. There was a time when Mark Twain was by far the best-read American author anywhere in the world. Hannibal is the setting for the classic American novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

We will circle right back down to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. More than 135 million people have visited the arch since 1963. It just went through a major overhaul and a 60-year renewal of the facility, better connecting it to downtown. It is the first example of what the National Park Service hopes will be the next century of the park, a true public-private partnership.

In going to all these places, we drove by lots of lakes and lots of fishing and boating. There are a lot of things to do in our State. Like many States, tourism is our second biggest industry. We look forward to people visiting us this summer and next year and the years after that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to participate today and talk a little bit about my State of Tennessee. I will tell you, as we are talking about what we are going to do and how we are going to be working across our State during the August work period and how we are looking forward to having people visit our State during that time, one of the things that strikes me so very often when people talk about Tennessee and when they hear that I am from Tennessee, they will stop and say: That is

one of the most beautiful States. Our State is beautiful, with its rivers, lakes, rolling hills, mountains, and the flatlands over toward Memphis. Indeed, it is beautiful. It is also very long, and that is also quite remarkable to people when they start to drive through the State. They say: I spent a whole day driving through the State of Tennessee. From the time they enter up around Mountain City and Bristol and make their way through to Memphis, it does really take the whole day.

I think one of the things that interest people when they cross into Tennessee as they are going down I-81 is seeing the Bristol Motor Speedway. They realize that it is truly a feat of engineering—NASCAR is very popular—and realize the innovation and creativity that has gone into creating that speedway. Then to be there on race day, I will tell you, that is something that is quite amazing, to see those cars speeding around those banked turns and realize it is people who are handling these feats of engineering.

People also appreciate, in addition to the Bristol Motor Speedway and car racing, that Tennessee is a State that is very important to the automotive industry. You have Volkswagen in Chattanooga, and you have the GM facility at Spring Hill. Nissan North America's headquarters are located in Cold Springs, right outside of Nashville. Their manufacturing plant is in Smyrna. You have the Toyota plant that is over in West Tennessee.

We Tennesseans are also excited about the prospect of having an aerospace park that is going to be in East Tennessee, up at the Tri-Cities. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I have had the privilege of working with the Tri-Cities Airport and local officials to make that a destination and to make it a reality.

A little further down in the State, as you get on I-40, you will find yourself in the middle of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited park in our National Parks System. Senator ALEXANDER and I are continuing the work to designate the Dean Stone Bridge on the Foothills Parkway there in Blount County. Dean Stone was a pillar of the community, and naming the bridge in honor of him is the perfect way to thank him for his dedication in improving the lives of all those who live and enjoy the Smokies in that part of our State.

The Smokies are second in my heart to just one Tennessee landmark in Nashville that I think everyone wants to see. They are all country music fans, and they want to see the mother church of country music, which is the Ryman Auditorium. The best singers and songwriters in the world leave their stadiums and their festivals because they want to have the opportunity to play just one song on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium. It is a wonderful place to be and to celebrate

Tennessee's creativity and to celebrate the music that fills our hearts and our lives.

When I was a Member in the House, I worked tirelessly for several years and fought for the unanimous passage of the Music Modernization Act. That is something that fixed a lot of loopholes that were in U.S. law that adversely impacted our songwriters as they were facing copyright many times.

Upon coming to the Senate, I worked with Senator FEINSTEIN, continuing the fight on behalf of our songwriters to close the loopholes that exempt broadcast radio from paying royalties to music creators.

Tennessee is also known for some other wonderful music, a little bit further down I-40, and that is the blues. You can't leave the State of Tennessee without going through Memphis and having a visit over on Beale Street, right there on the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

The Mississippi River is our Nation's original superhighway, if you will. It is vitally important, not only to river but to rail, air, and highway transportation networks. All of these have found their way along West Tennessee's river lands.

Shipping and logistics giant FedEx has its corporate headquarters in Memphis. Memphis is the city of their founding and their headquarters location, and that takes advantage of Memphis International Airport and their cargo operations center.

All that being said, one of the things that individuals repeatedly comment on when they talk about Tennessee is how nice the people are in Tennessee, how welcoming they are, and how they engage you and want to make certain that you come back.

You will find in Tennessee a very diverse community. Yes, we are the home to artists and athletes. We are the home to engineers, to farmers, to doctors, to soldiers, and to veterans. It is, indeed, one of the best places on the face of the Earth to call home and, indeed, a certain not-to-be-missed destination for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

ALASKA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. My colleagues have been to the floor here for the past little bit talking about various road trips in their State and destinations, including their favorite destinations. When you think about where your favorite place is, it is like saying which son is your favorite son. We all have our favorite places all around our State.

I got to thinking about road trips. I thought, well, road trips in Alaska perhaps take a little bit of a different meaning than in other States. We all

know the State I come from because we talk about it a lot. Senator SULLIVAN and I come from a big State. We have over 663,000 square miles, but within those 663,000 square miles, we don't have a lot of roads. Over 82 percent of the communities in the State of Alaska are not connected by roads. We are not part of the road system. So traveling in Alaska can be a little bit of an adventure. Flexibility is always key.

More often than not, when you are in a big State, you move around from town to town, and you rely on the commercial carriers. You rely on Alaska Airlines. You rely on Ravn. You rely on some of the others. We pretty much move around by air.

But sometimes it is impossible to get around by air all the time. Sometimes we have what I call "forest road trips." It is not that I don't want to be on our roads, but once you get on the roads, you are on them for a fairly long time. Sometimes the jets don't fly. Sometimes the jets don't fly because you have bad weather. Sometimes the jets don't fly because you have a volcano that goes off.

I was holding a field hearing in Fairbanks and needed to get down to Anchorage, and Pavlof blew. Pavlof is one of our more active volcanos, and it shuts down the air space. What was going to be a 45-minute trip home turned out to be a 359-mile drive home—7 hours—that evening.

We had another trip going out of Valdez to Anchorage, and we needed to get back to Anchorage that night, but the fog and the wind in Valdez said there are no planes coming in to take you out, and they might not be there the next day and they might not be there the next day after that. There is bad weather. The pass is shutting down so you better move now. When that happens, you get in a car and 300 miles later—5 hours later—you are in Anchorage.

I had Senator MANCHIN with me just over the Fourth of July break. We were headed from Anchorage to King Salmon to attend a ribbon-cutting for a National Park Service facility. We got fogged out in the morning and waited for hours in the airport, and then we got word that the fog had lifted, and we were getting ready to get on a plane and they called a mechanical. If there is a mechanical, I am with you, and we just don't fly. Senator MANCHIN turned to me and said: I know it is a long way, but can't we just drive there?

That was my opportunity to turn to my colleague in another learning moment and tell him: No, this is one of those 82 percent of our communities where there is no road. So JOE, we are not flying.

Aviation really is our lifeline here. If you are not on Alaska Airlines, you are on one of our many bush carriers. This is a picture of a pilot I had an opportunity to fly with, Eric, who is the pilot and owner of Arctic Backcountry Flying Service. This is his Cessna 206. More often than not, these are the type

of aircraft that we are in. We are not flying in some fancy leased jet. We are in a small aircraft, what we call a bush carrier. That is when we have airstrips that we can land on.

But we don't have airstrips in many of our communities. What we do is we come in and out on the water on our floatplanes. Some people call them seaplanes out here. We call them floatplanes.

Here is a picture of me and Secretary Perry on Kodiak Island. We had flown over on Alaska Airlines. But to get around the island, you either take a boat or fly in a floatplane. We were flying over to Old Harbor there on Kodiak Island, but we got around on the water.

Sometimes you don't have the water though. In a place like Alaska, what we do have in the wintertime is a fair amount of snow. You take your floats off and you put your skis on. You can see the wheels there. This plane can land in Anchorage and take off in Anchorage on the wheels, but when you are up on Ruth Glacier, as this Cessna 185 is, you are landing on skis. That gets your attention because it is a little bit different than a floatplane, but it gets you in and out of what you need to get in and out of.

There are some places, though, where you don't have an airstrip, a floatplane can't land, and the only way to really get in and out is by helicopter.

Little Diomed Island sits out in the middle of the Bering Straits. It is 2 miles from Big Diomed. Big Diomed is owned by Russia. Little Diomed is owned by us. There are about 150-plus people who live out there on Diomed. They have a school, and they have a community center, but how do they get the mail? People move in and out by helicopter. The mail is delivered by helicopter. There are a few weeks in the wintertime—maybe, sometimes, as much as a couple of months—when the ocean freezes over and they can make a strip where a plane can land on the ice. But most of the year, you fly in and out on helicopter. So we fly.

The other way we get around when we don't have a lot of roads is on our rivers. One thing that Alaska is blessed with is a lot of rivers. We have 365,000 miles of rivers. That makes for a lot of roads because in the summertime, those rivers are our roads.

This is a picture upriver in the village of Napaskiak. There are about 500 people there. We had Attorney General Barr with us in May. We took him upriver. This is how he traveled. These are the Bethel Search and Rescue boats there. They are not fancy boats. They are not yachts. These are functional. They have decent motors on them because these are workhorses. Yet how we travel in the summer is up and down these rivers.

In the summer, it makes it possible to move around these communities. In the winter, you move around by snow machine. You have trucks and you have vehicles out there as well. When the rivers freeze, you then have your

frozen highway, and you can have 100 miles of it. The Kuskokwim, I think, plowed out 250 miles of road on the river.

This is a frozen river. This is actually a picture that was taken when we took Secretary Moniz from Bethel to Oscarville. We had with us about four other Members of the Senate because we had a field hearing for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We held it out there in Oscarville, and we had a motorcade on ice. It was basically about six trucks that went down the river, but the Secretary said it was his first official truck motorcade on ice. That really does allow us to get around when the rivers are frozen over.

Down in the southeastern part of the State, where I was born and spent a lot of my growing-up years, they are all islanded communities. There are 32 or 33 islanded communities in the southeast. So to move around, we either fly Alaska Airlines, fly smaller carriers, or we rely on our Alaska marine highway system, our ferry system. This is our marine lifeline. This is how we move freight, how we move vehicles, how we move goods, and how we move people.

Right now, our very system is threatened on a host of different levels, which really hurts my heart because, as one who knows how dependent we are on being able to move on the water, this is our road, and these types of vessels can move us in ways that are efficient. The marine highway system is our road. So we are working in the State right now to address it. Again, this is one more way that I do my road trips when I am back home in the State.

In the interior, you have communities, again, that are isolated. There is no road system that gets you there. There are small villages, Arctic villages, that are about 500 people strong.

I was in an Arctic village just in July, and this is how I was picked up at the airport. There are not many trucks. There are basically four-wheelers. There are ATVs, and everybody just hops on. This was my driver for the day. Again, you just hop on the back and ride.

Then, there are some communities in which, really, the way that you get around is not on a road and not on a sidewalk but on just a wooden trail, a wooden boardwalk. This is the village of Napaskiak. This is out in the Bethel region, in the Y-K Delta. These are just planks that are put down on top of the tundra because the area is so marshy that you cannot walk on it. You would need hip waders to be better able to travel through it. Just walking around on the boardwalk is the extent of your road trip in a place like Nunam Iqua or Napaskiak.

Whether it is freedom to be on a frozen river or freedom to be out on the Arctic Ocean, wintertime gives us a little bit more freedom. This is a picture of me with a friend, off of Utqiagvik, which is on the Arctic Ocean. It looks like a lot of fun. We were going out

snow-machining. We were going out to work because the community had harvested a whale, and the whaling crew and the community were taking their snow machines out to load the muktuk onto sleds to haul back to the community so it could be shared as part of their subsistence food. So we were going out to help the community harvest that whale. This is not fun and recreation. It is your means of transportation. This is your workhorse.

We do have a little bit of fun every now and again. Everyone asks: Do you ever travel around by dog sled? That is my dream. That would be the next career opportunity for me. I would love to run the Iditarod, and I would love to have my own dog team, but, right now, I don't have enough hours in my day. Yet, every now and again, you can hop on the back of a dog sled.

I am looking forward to being back home and traveling around the State, visiting from Ketchikan to Barrow. It is 4,000 miles for Senator SULLIVAN, Congressman YOUNG, and me to get back and forth between Washington, DC, and Alaska. I have kind of mapped out my trip for the month ahead. Once I get back to Alaska, in that first couple of weeks, I will have doubled that airtime, if you will. Then, with the additional travel that we have toward the end of August, I am looking at about 15,000 miles of travel within my State.

I know many of my colleagues are going to exotic locations that will take them to places that will be a long, long ways away. Yet I am just reminded every day of the privilege and the honor of being able to travel through an extraordinary State like Alaska, where we use a little bit of everything to get us to where we need to go in order to visit some of the finest Americans whom I know and am blessed to be able to serve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, August is coming quickly. It is the time that we have a gap in the legislative calendar. As this body knows well, Congress is in session for 11 months of the year. We have one month in which we are not in Washington, DC, which gives us the opportunity to be home and to, quite frankly, catch up with family but also to be able to travel around our States, see what is going on in our States, and talk to folks.

I happen to live in an unbelievably beautiful State. In August, Oklahoma is crazy hot and humid, but it is a great time to get a chance to see people and to see what is going on.

In just the few weeks around this time period, I have already been to Ada and Durant and Calera, and I will be heading quickly to Chickasha, Lindsay, Lawton, Vinita, Miami—that is not "Miami-ee"; the correct pronunciation is "Miami-ah"—Afton, Grove, Jay, Chelsea, Hennessey, Enid, up to Kaw Lake, and, of course, all around the

Oklahoma City area and all around Tulsa, to spend as much time as I can with as many different people as I can to find out what is going on in Oklahoma. I get this one precious month a year to make sure I have focus time in the State to see as many people as I can.

I got to thinking about this and the privilege that I have really had in being able to travel around my State and see so many people and so many places, to get on Route 66, travel the State from east to west, and see exactly what is going on.

I have had the opportunity to be out at the E.W. Marland Mansion in Ponca City. I have had the opportunity to be at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga. I have climbed up to the top of Black Mesa in Kenton, and I have been to the lowest point, by sea level, in far southeast Oklahoma in Broken Bow. I have been out to Mount Scott in Lawton and have climbed on its tumbled rocks. I have been to the Blue Whale in Catoosa.

I have had the great privilege of getting a chance to walk around through the Gathering Place in Tulsa. This is an absolutely spectacular park and gathering place. In fact, USA Today just named it the No. 1 new attraction in America. For folks who have not been to Tulsa or for the folks who have been to Tulsa before, they need to go back and just enjoy the Gathering Place.

I have had the opportunity to walk the streets around Black Wall Street and to visit with the fine folks who are there. I have had the opportunity to be in Davis at Turner Falls and the Arbuckle Mountains, and, of course, Falls Creek. I have had the opportunity to be in Hochatown, which is down near Broken Bow Lake, and the chance just to enjoy the time there, around the tall trees, in beautiful southeast Oklahoma. I have had the opportunity to visit Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore and visit the Ole Red restaurant in Tishomingo. I have driven the Talimena National Scenic Byway in the fall and have seen the spectacular scenery in those mountains. I have been to the Robbers Cave in Wilburton and the Ouachita National Forest in McCurtain County.

I have had the opportunity to walk around through the Heavener Runestone area and see the Norse Viking carved stones that are there in eastern Oklahoma. I could see, most definitely, by far, amongst those high trees and those rolling hills, that I wasn't the first person to go there.

I have been to the Round Barn, off Route 66 in Arcadia. I have stopped to get a great hamburger at Pop's, which is there on Route 66. I have quietly stood at the national Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial in downtown Oklahoma City, and I have seen the amazing western art at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. I have walked through the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

You can't go through Oklahoma without stopping at Cattlemen's Steakhouse and enjoying a great steak or without driving out west to see the Stafford Air & Space Museum. People who travel to Washington, DC, go to the Air and Space Museum, and I will often smile at them and say: Do not miss the Air & Space Museum that is in Weatherford, OK, because the Stafford Air & Space Museum has a remarkable collection from a fantastic Oklahoma astronaut.

The Great Salt Plains in Jet and the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie are also really remarkable places.

I do have to brag about a spot because, on my 50th birthday, my wife surprised me by our taking a trip to the Little Sahara State Park and the sand dunes in northern Oklahoma. We rented dune buggies and drove them as hard and fast as we wanted on that day. It was a great day to just enjoy Oklahoma. It was just like the day I was able to drive to Pawhuska and eat at the Pioneer Woman Mercantile restaurant and just enjoy the downtown area.

It is really a fantastic State, and the people and the places that I miss while I am here in Washington, DC, for 11 months of the year I look forward to getting a chance to see when I get back home in August. With as much work as we have to get done here—and we still have a lot of work to get done—we will spend some time on the phone, we will walk through legislation, and we will continue to do writing. Yet, thankfully, I will be able to write and spend time on the phone while I look out my windshield and enjoy some Oklahoma scenery at the same time.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, pursuant to yesterday's authority, the Senate will now vote on the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 48, 55, and 351.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 48.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Immergut nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I oppose the confirmation of U.S. District Court nominee Karin Immergut. She went through the committee confirmation process in 2018, before I joined the Senate Judiciary Committee, and subsequently, she was part of a package of judges who were renominated and voted out earlier this year. I later learned that the nominee had issued a questionable abortion opinion and is pro-choice.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 55.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Milton Younge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Younge nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 351.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rowland nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at 3 p.m. today, the Senate will vote on confirmations of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 205, 231, 232, 345, 350, 364, and 402.

I ask unanimous consent that if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Executive Calendar No. 205 is the pending question.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN).

(Mr. TILLIS assumed the Chair.)

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—36

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Udall
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The votes will be 10 minutes in length.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of

Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown nomination?

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—40

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

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Brantley Starr, of

Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Starr nomination?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be

United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pulliam nomination?

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—36

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Udall
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pacold nomination?

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander	Gardner	Reed
Baldwin	Graham	Risch
Barrasso	Grassley	Roberts
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Sullivan
Cotton	McConnell	Tester
Cramer	McSally	Thune
Crapo	Merkley	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Udall
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Enzi	Paul	Whitehouse
Ernst	Perdue	Wicker
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Fischer	Portman	Young

NAYS—3

Hirono	Markey	Menendez
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NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stickman nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—34

Baldwin	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	King	Shaheen
Brown	Leahy	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Tester
Carper	Merkley	Udall
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Hassan	Rosen	
Heinrich	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Craft nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Craft nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—34

Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Smith
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Booker	Harris	Warren
Burr	Isakson	
Coons	Klobuchar	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid

upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Mississippi.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. 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.

(The remarks of Senator HYDE-SMITH and Senator WICKER pertaining to the submission of S. 2410 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. WICKER. I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO DARREN WALKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Sunday, May 19, 2019, I was honored to attend the 218th commencement ceremony at the University of Vermont, where my wife Marcelle was presented with an honorary doctorate degree and recognized for her many years of public service. The commencement speaker, Darren Walker, made this wonderful day even better when he delivered a truly moving address. By recounting his personal story, examining the challenges our Nation faces, and celebrating the achievements of the recent graduates, Darren implored us to view our differences as a strength and our division as a liability to our collective futures. It is with great appreciation that I recognize Darren for his commitment to social justice and thank him for sharing such an eloquent and unifying message with us on that day.

As the president of the Ford Foundation, Darren oversees a \$13 billion endowment and \$600 million in annual grant making for international social justice philanthropy projects. He has served as the vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, as the chief operating officer of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, and has spent more than a decade working in the fields of international law and finance. Prior to all of this success, however, Darren was raised in the humblest of conditions by a single mother in rural Texas, where he attended public schools, and battled racism and homophobia, to set himself on a path toward what he says is the great honor of serving as president of the Ford Foundation.

I ask unanimous consent to have Darren Walker's Address to the University of Vermont Class of 2019 printed in the RECORD. I encourage all Senators to read these moving remarks, with the hope that we can transcend our differences and focus on the shared values and aspirations that unite us.

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

DARREN WALKER ADDRESS TO THE CLASS OF 2019, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

218TH UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
BURLINGTON, VERMONT—SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

To President Sullivan; Provost Prelock; Senator Leahy and Governor Scott; distinguished vice presidents and deans; faculty and staff; and—most importantly—to the University of Vermont Class of 2019: Congratulations!

Graduates: I know how hard you've worked to earn the achievement we honor today. I also know your success required a lot of love, devotion, and commitment from the people in your life, who helped you achieve this major milestone. So, Class of 2019: Please join me in thanking your parents—and all of the family, friends and teachers who have helped you on your journey. This day is about you—but it's also about honoring them.

Today is special for many reasons. It's a celebration of excellence—and of the promise your future holds. It's the end of one chapter—and the beginning of another.

But today is also special for an additional reason.

You came to his magical community called Burlington, Vermont, from different places. Different towns, and states and countries around the world. You came to your degree by different paths. Took different courses in different majors. Even when you were on the same campus, you spent time with different people, engaged in different activities. And after today, you will go off in your different directions. To different jobs, different cities and towns, entirely different lives.

And yet, here we are. Together. And the fact that we are together—at this time, in this place—is remarkable.

It's remarkable because this is a unique, wonderful moment in your lives. But it's also remarkable because, in this new digital world, we are too often led to believe that our differences are reasons for division, rather than unity.

Class of 2019, this is a defining characteristic of our digital era: Whether it's algorithms that segment and select the information we see based on our previous clicks and likes; or media outlets incentivized to confirm our beliefs, rather than deliver facts that help educate us and make us better citizens; or political leaders who rally the extremes, rather than serve a common good.

As a result of all this, we jump to judgment—and disagreement too often turns to dehumanization. We miss opportunities to turn difficult and challenging moments into teachable ones, from which we can learn and grow. We lose touch with the shared values, and shared experiences, and shared aspirations that bind us together in this country and make us who we are.

My message to you today is this: It doesn't need to be this way—and it hasn't always been. And I know this to be true, from my own journey.

You see, many aspects of who I am as a person, as an American, might be labeled as "different." I am black. I am gay. I live in Manhattan, that tiny island moored off the coast, and a little unmoored from reality. And I spend much of my time traveling across the country and around the world, meeting visionary, courageous, resilient people fighting poverty, inequality, and injustice. All of these things—the things that make me different—define who I am.

And there are parts of my story, that equally define me, that are harder to see, which also make me different.

I was born to a single mother in a charity hospital. We lived in a shotgun shack in a small, rural community in East Texas.

I attended public schools and colleges. I was in the first class of Head Start in 1965,

received Pell Grants, and private scholarships.

As an African American growing up in the south, I certainly encountered bitter racism. But I also benefited from enormous generosity—from people who provided me with support, and encouragement, and who believed in my potential.

You see, in spite of the differences I presented, and the challenges I encountered, I always felt that my country, that America, had my back. I had good people of good will cheering me on and pushing me forward.

Indeed, my story is an American story. It's a story of what is possible, of what can happen, when "we the people," live up to our highest ideals. And when we do fulfill these ideals, the fact of our differences does not hold us back, in the very same way that the fact of our differences is not really what divides us.

Class of 2019: The differences among us and the divisions between us: These are separate things. One does not inevitably lead to the other.

We are different, yes. But our differences are our strength.

Our division, on the other hand, is a liability—a liability that has been exacerbated and exploited, I believe, because of the corrosive, inequality that today is widening in American society.

More than what we look like, or where we come from, or how we worship, inequality is what is tearing our communities and country asunder.

Economic inequality asphyxiates the very American idea of economic and social mobility. It creates unprecedented wealth gaps, sorting us into circles where we only engage with people of similar means and perspectives.

Persistent racial and gender inequality cause the sins of our history to infect the present and imperil the future.

Inequality helps explain the gaps between the experience of rural Americans and urban Americans—and entrenches the polarization in our political institutions.

And inequality doesn't just cause our challenges. It also prevents us from joining together to solve our common problems.

It undermines our hope for the future and erodes our faith in one another. Because of it, we are less willing to trust one another. Less willing to extend the benefit of the doubt. Too often, we rush to judgement, assuming the worst intentions of others.

Now, I'm not naive. There are people for whom hate, and harm is the intention. From Charlottesville to Pittsburgh, we have witnessed the painful, pernicious impact of hate. And while there certainly are racists, anti-Semites, homophobes and prejudice in America today, this is not the character of who we are as a nation. Most Americans believe in ideals of equality and justice for all—and in order for these ideas to be realized we must stand up to emboldened bigotry.

And so, graduates: I ask you, I implore you, not to build walls, but to build bridges and to build relationships, because when I reflect on my own story, I know I did not get here alone.

None of us have.

It was not the simple fact of my presence, or superficial measures of diversity or inclusion, that led me to the great honor of serving as president of the Ford Foundation, or to the great honor of addressing you today. It was often people who were very different from me extending their humanity, and generosity, and their privilege to help me—leaving their comfort zones behind; spanning a divide.

It was people I didn't know—or came to know only later—who had faith in me, who

invested in me, who sustained me on my American journey.

My story is proof of what can happen when people choose to transcend their differences, and build bridges, and build relationships. You, too, are proof. And, on its best days, so is this country I love.

America always has been the product of people choosing to bind themselves together. Actively choosing. We are "We the people." We are *e pluribus unum*—out of many, one.

Because of our differences, we can ascend from cooperation, to collaboration, to innovation. Out of our differences, there is hope. Out of difference, there can be unity. Out of difference, equality and justice.

And it's bigger than the United States. This issue transcends boundary and geography. Out of many countries, we are one planet—with one future.

Which brings me back to where I started: The celebration of difference—and all of the possibility that difference unleashes.

Out of many paths—out of many graduates—you are one class. And while you have many careers and choices in front of you, I hope you keep one objective in mind: To make this a more just—a fairer world.

So, I ask you: What bridges will you build? What new relationships will you initiate? What justice will you serve? What will you make possible for someone else?

Many of the bridges you cross will not be physical structures of concrete or steel. They will be relationships you forge, through hard work and attention, respect and care, listening and love. And the best relationships are those in which you can be yourself and better yourself.

If my experience is any indication, this is especially true of relationships with graduates of this great university. My partner in life of 26 years, David Beitzel was a proud member of UVM's class of 1980. He passed away suddenly in January.

David taught me so much about life, and our common humanity. We were very different. We hailed from very different places and backgrounds. But we found each other despite those differences—and enriched each other's lives because of them.

Relationships with other people—friendships and family, professional, romantic, incidental and intentional—all are essential, no matter how different we may seem to be. They strengthen our empathy, our compassion, our humanity, and widen our perspectives.

If we build bridges and bonds of connection, then when injustice affects one of us, we know—deeply, personally—that it affects all of us. When we bind ourselves to others—when we recognize that our fates are bound together—we can put the small things aside. We can make a world where stories like mine are more probable, more likely, more common. We can shrink the gaps of inequality and grow justice in its place.

It will not be easy, class of 2019. Justice takes time. It takes work. It takes love. And it takes risk.

But I hope you find ways to build these bridges. I hope you find ways to listen and be curious—to be present and proximate. I hope you embrace difference—and reject division.

Class of 2019: I know you will answer the call—and I know the future will be much better for it. It's yours for the taking and the making, as of right now.

Congratulations. Good luck. And Godspeed.

AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise in support of America's Transportation Infrastructure Act, a bill we on the En-

vironment and Public Works Committee passed today with broad bipartisan support.

Our bill contains the largest funding commitment in highway authorization history. It grows our economy, enhances roads and bridges, improves transportation safety, provides funds for necessary projects, eliminates burdensome regulation, promotes innovation, and invests in our Tribal lands.

Our EPW chairman said the bill would "enhance quality of life for the American people." Our ranking member believes it "can endure the test of time and keep up with the evolving demands of a 21st century global economy." I agree with their assessments, and as a member of EPW, I want to thank them for listening to our priorities and collaborating with each of us.

Since joining the Senate, I have expressed my belief that divided government presents an opportunity for us to achieve mutually beneficial goals and shared priorities. President Trump, myself, and my colleagues in Congress agree on the importance of investing in our Nation's infrastructure. This bill is proof that we can work together in a bipartisan manner on behalf of the American people.

More important to me than anything else, our bill also reflects the needs of my great State of North Dakota. As a large, rural State built on agriculture and natural resources, we are heavily dependent on our extensive infrastructure to get our goods to market.

With that in mind, I reached out our stakeholders at the very beginning of this process to glean their perspective. We received input and comments from city, county, and State leaders all across North Dakota, expressing their desire for a highway bill reauthorization that works best for our State.

Their feedback and priorities are very important to me. While not all of their requests were met, I want them to know their voices were heard. I therefore ask unanimous consent for the letters they sent us to be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. Full versions of each of these letters can be found on my official website.

I would also like to take a moment to highlight some of the bright spots in this legislation.

First, at \$287 billion, this is the largest highway bill in history. North Dakotans made it clear: They want a real, long-term reauthorization that does more than the status quo and actually invests in our Nation's roads and bridges.

Second, 90 percent of these funds will be distributed to the States via formula. That is incredibly important to large, rural States like North Dakota. The main point for the formula is that it is not discretionary, so it is stable, predictable funding. We have vast stretches of highway system that contribute greatly to our Nation's economy and interstate commerce. Despite our low population, rural States contribute much more to the highway

trust fund per capita than the rest of the country. In fact, North Dakota contributes the second-highest amount in the country, roughly three times more than the national average. Maintaining the current formula ensures that our State's contribution is acknowledged and paid back to us in a consistent, unbiased manner, giving North Dakota steady funding and flexibility to prioritize our State's transportation needs. Under this bill, transportation funding has increased by 27 percent, and North Dakota will receive nearly \$1.6B over the next 5 years, which is welcome news to communities back home.

Third, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act cuts duplicative bureaucracy and delays. For example, it establishes a 2-year goal for completing environmental reviews, a 90-day timeline for related project authorizations, and an accountability system for these projects. The days of half-finished, never-ending projects must come to an end. This bill acknowledges that. In addition, it creates incentives to lessen carbon emissions and reduce methane and energy waste.

Lastly, this bill includes multiple provisions I have cosponsored. The bipartisan USE-IT Act, which incentivizes carbon capture and sequestration technology, is included in this package; as is the Addressing Underdeveloped and Tribally Operated Streets Act, also known as the AUTOS Act. The AUTOS Act, sponsored by my fellow North Dakota Senator JOHN HOEVEN, would enhance the safety of roads on Indian lands by streamlining existing federal procedures and increasing funding to repair roads and bridges in Indian country.

These just a few of the many aspects of our bill that I support. As I have demonstrated, this is an economically and environmentally responsible bill. It is a win for both sides of the aisle and a win for our country. I am grateful our committee was able to take this first step today. I encourage my colleagues in the House to be proactive and to avoid procrastinating until the last minute. Let's work together in a timely fashion to deliver a significant investment for the constituents we serve.

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

NORTH DAKOTA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,

Bismarck, ND, February 19, 2019.

North Dakota Priorities for the Next Highway Reauthorization Bill.

Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer input on State Priorities for the Next Highway Reauthorization Bill. Below are some key points that are vital to transportation funding in North Dakota:

Good infrastructure, including highways, is important for North Dakota and the National Economy.

This allows us to efficiently move agricultural, manufactured goods, and energy resources to the World Markets.

Increases personal mobility.

Promotes safety.

Legislation must provide North Dakota a share of Federal highway and transit formula programs at least as high as it receives today.

Current level of fuel tax is not keeping up with current needs.

Allows states the flexibility to efficiently plan for projects.

Disruptive technologies (such as autonomous, hybrid, and electric vehicles) are having an impact on the amount of revenue generated for transportation.

Congress should continue the distribution of highway and transit program funds by formula.

Historically, North Dakota has not been very successful with the competitive grant programs such as TIGER and INFR.

Maintain the current Federal share of project cost—80/20

Public Private Partnerships do not work well in rural states.

The volume of traffic in rural states is not sufficient to attract private investments in roadway infrastructure (Example: tolling).

THOMAS K. SOREL,

Director.

DOUG BURGUM,
Governor.

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

OF NORTH DAKOTA,

Bismarck, ND, February 22, 2019.

Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Thank you for the opportunity to offer input from our industry's perspective for the next Highway Reauthorization Bill. We applaud the EPW committee for beginning these discussions in advance of the 2020 expiration of the current act.

A strong federal program is extremely important for a geographically large, yet sparsely populated state like North Dakota. We simply do not have the critical mass to fund the transportation needs on the state/local level. The current administration seems to favor more local participation but we'd caution the utilization of that to areas where it is feasible and not a detriment. Maintaining the 80/20 federal/state split is imperative in a state like North Dakota. Private Public Partnerships work well in higher populated areas but they are not feasible in North Dakota. Being rural and sparsely populated make the interest of private entities nearly impossible.

Funding solutions for the Highway Trust Fund is long overdue and the user fee of the federal motor fuel tax has not generated enough revenue to fund the program for many years. It needs to be addressed and soon. The 18.4 cent per gallon user fee has not been adjusted since October 1, 1993. The decline in buying power is obvious and better fuel economy of vehicles adds to the issue. Adjusting it upward makes sense to us. Looking at any other funding options should also be considered. In our previous Congressional visits, AGC of ND representatives have provided an outline of various funding options. We'd be happy to provide them again if interested.

With an extremely short construction season in our state, it is imperative the ND DOT have certainty for federal funding payments. Too many times, there have been delays in sending the appropriations which lead to delayed bid lettings. This is a significant issue in North Dakota. Even a one month delay can cause huge issues in completing projects.

Those are but a few of our suggestions for the next federal highway act. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to submit them and

are available for any subsequent deliberations.

Sincerely,

RUSS HANSON,
Executive Vice President.

FARGO-MOORHEAD METROPOLITAN

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS,

Fargo, ND, March 6, 2019.

Subject: Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill (Highway Bill).

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (FM Metro COG) is very grateful for the opportunity to share our input about the surface transportation reauthorization bill. Metro COG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all jurisdictions within the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, including the North Dakota jurisdictions of Cass County, Fargo, Horace, and West Fargo, which are all in our designated urbanized area, and Casselton, Mapleton, and Harwood in our metropolitan planning area. In Minnesota, our urbanized area includes Clay County, Dilworth and Moorhead, and our metropolitan planning area includes Glyndon, Hawley, Sabin, and Barnesville.

On behalf of the local jurisdictions, Metro COG administers the federal transportation and transit planning funds received by our metropolitan area and carries out the required planning and programming activities to ensure a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process. Our Policy Board, made up of local elected officials and planning commissioners, represents citizens throughout the metropolitan area.

Our input on reauthorization of the surface transportation bill is as follows:

Retain the Transportation Management Area population threshold of 200,000. The Highway Bill establishes the population threshold of 200,000 as the point when an MPO may choose to become a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Our metropolitan area has exceeded this threshold, and will officially exceed it as part of the 2020 Census. Local leaders have been looking forward to becoming a TMA and carrying out planning efforts that will ensure we are in good standing to meet TMA requirements when the time comes. We ask that the threshold remain at a population of 200,000.

Retain local flexibility in the use of Highway Funds. The FAST Act allowed our local leaders a certain amount of flexibility in the use of Highway Funds to help update our transit vehicle fleet, thus keeping the fleet in manageable condition from a maintenance standpoint. This flexibility has been seriously considered and put to good use in our metropolitan area, and we request that this type of flexibility be retained, and even increased in the reauthorization bill.

THE CITY OF FARGO,

Fargo, ND, March 1, 2019.

Re Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill (Highway Bill).

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the next surface reauthorization bill. The City of Fargo has benefitted tremendously from the current Highway Bill and I strongly support future appropriations. Previous allocations have allowed the City of Fargo, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, to construct and maintain high quality, long lasting infrastructure projects by allocating upwards of \$10-\$12 million annually. Without these necessary funds, our citizens and businesses would be burdened with

higher taxes that would undoubtedly stifle our growth.

As Fargo continues to grow and moves closer to becoming a TMA (Transportation Management Association) long term, sustainable funding sources will become even more important to ensure that Fargo remains an economic engine in the Upper Midwest. For this reason, among many others, I strongly support the reauthorization of the next surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,

BRENDA E. DERRIG, PE,
City Engineer.

CITY OF VALLEY CITY,
Valley City, ND, March 4, 2019.

Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Please accept this letter as an expression of support on behalf of the City of Valley City, North Dakota for the reauthorization of the FAST Act. In my role as Mayor, I can attest to the fact that infrastructure funding in this critical piece of legislation is a key priority for our community.

At the local level, the City of Valley City funds transportation infrastructure projects through special assessments and the local renew and replacement fund (R&R) which uses sales tax and utility fees. To fund critical infrastructure projects, voters passed a half percent sales tax in 2007 and an additional half percent sales tax in 2010 for a total of 1 percent dedicated for infrastructure.

At the state level, legislators are currently debating a bill commonly referred to as "Operation Prairie Dog" which is designed to provide and increase in infrastructure funding to townships, cities, and counties throughout North Dakota.

Despite significant efforts on the local and state level to fund infrastructure needs, federal funding can often be the determining factor as to whether or not many projects come to fruition. Uncertainty of federal funding after the FAST Act's expiration in 2020 would jeopardize many needed infrastructure projects in our community and state. Many communities, like the City of Valley City, rely on the certainty provided by an entirely funded and planned federal highway bill. A reauthorization would mean more projects in North Dakota and the City of Valley City can proceed, much like those successfully funded by the current FAST Act and other authorizations preceding it.

Our community has seen success through critical programs such as the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program and the Urban Grant Program (UGP), and we urge you to consider those programs favorably throughout the legislative process.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (701) 845-8126 or email at dcarlsrud@valleycity.us.

Sincerely,

DAVE CARLSRUD,
Mayor, City of Valley City.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS,
Grand Forks, ND, February 27, 2019.

Re Grand Forks comments on Federal Transportation Authorization.

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation bill and, particularly, your personal interest and involvement through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. We support the committee's current strategy and timeline of reauthorization and we thank you for your work and support.

Infrastructure needs are a national issue and we support ongoing efforts that ensure transportation programs are right-sized to meet the needs of all cities, particularly those of the size and needs of North Dakota cities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express how very fortunate we are to have such solid partners in the NDDOT and we continue to strive to maintain this productive partnership that best coordinates resources from federal, state and local partners.

Our comments will follow three key themes: 1) Continue to deregulate and encourage further confluence of programs to provide for effective and efficient use; 2) Continue and expand funding and funding flexibility that best leverages federal, state and local—as well as private investment. 3) Continue focus on local transit solutions that promote a state of good repair and levels of service necessary to North Dakota communities.

1) Continue to deregulate and encourage further confluence of programs to provide for efficient use.

We applaud the streamlining policy changes of the current bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. These include environmental review deregulation efforts that reduce project costs and the consolidation of "siloed" programs that enables more effective flexibility.

Deregulation can go further, for example, by providing for categorical exclusions for projects under \$5M, which would cover a significant number of projects in cities across North Dakota.

MICHAEL R. BROWN,
Mayor.

CITY OF WEST FARGO,
West Fargo, ND, February 27, 2019.

Re Surface Transportation Reauthorization.
Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: It is with great pleasure that I write to you to share the City of West Fargo's thoughts related to the reauthorization of the next Highway Bill. Of course funding to continue to support our residents and the great amount of commerce coming out of our City is important, but we'd like to inform you of items within the current bill that we'd like to improve upon.

Increased Emphasis on Land Use: Planning funds are under tremendous scrutiny by the Federal Highway Administration. The City feels strongly that land use decisions are closely tied to transportation and the use of Consolidated Planning Grants (CPG) in transportation studies should reflect this. We believe that by decreasing the focus and weight on levels of service of roadways and increasing the focus on adjacent land use and increased connections will result in a more reliable transportation network.

Increased Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure Preservation, Replacement and Maintenance: The City believes that although growth requires extending infrastructure, it is the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure that will burden our citizens. Increasing funding opportunities will help strengthen our City and allow us to thrive into the future.

Continue Accelerated Project Delivery: The FAST Act helped streamline the environmental review process. The City recommends that this continue and that any opportunity to improve upon this may be explored under the reauthorization.

We thank you for your time and consideration and offer our assistance in any way we can as your work on this Committee.

Sincerely,

BERNIE L. DARDIS,
*President of the Board of City,
Commissioners.*

MEMORANDUM

CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
West Fargo, ND, February 25, 2019.

Re FHWA Reauthorization Bill for the FAST Act.

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

SENATOR CRAMER: As the Cass County Engineer, I am writing to request your support for the reauthorization of the FAST Act. Across the country our counties face infrastructure challenges every day. In North Dakota, our counties have varying issues from traffic around key hub cities, oil impacts, and agricultural impacts. On top of these issues, we face aging infrastructure with deficient bridges and roads designed to the safety standards of the 1960s. To improve our aging roads and bridges, I support our National Association of Counties and Association of County Engineers in these three core areas:

Ensure that the federal highway program dedicates funds for rural secondary infrastructure, particularly bridges.

Make the federal permitting process simpler and more streamlined.

Ensure the long-term certainty and solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

I have also been working with our neighboring counties across the Red River for a critical bridge replacement project. We have three bridges along the Red River in eastern North Dakota/northern Minnesota have fallen into severe disrepair, and our county will need help to procure funds for the building new structures. Our group of counties applied for a federal grant through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. I ask for your support in innovative project delivery through project bundling and other FHWA Every Day Counts Initiatives.

If you have questions, please call Jason Benson.

Sincerely,

JASON BENSON, P.E.,
Cass County Engineer.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF NORTH DAKOTA,
Bismarck, ND, February 28, 2019.

Re Highway Bill Input Request.

Hon. Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: We appreciate the opportunity to outline our industry priorities for the reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs. We are very pleased that your seat on the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee gives you a strong position to advocate for our state's needs.

As you know, in December 2015, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, providing five years of increased funding to support highway and transit projects, while including new reforms to enhance program efficiency. The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) at both the state and national levels strongly supported this landmark legislation, and now urges Congress to remain focused on adopting long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms to support the nation's transportation needs.

ACEC North Dakota represents the consulting engineering firms in the state by assisting members to provide better consulting

engineering services for their clients while protecting the public welfare and safeguarding the ethical standards of consulting engineers in private practice. We strive to cooperate with public bodies and other organizations in matters of common interest. In addition, ACEC North Dakota acts as a resource among our members to provide cooperative services and support the advancement of the science and practice of engineering.

We believe that infrastructure is the backbone of the United States economy. A modern and efficient transportation system is critical for protecting public health and safety, promoting commerce, and providing mobility. It enables manufacturers to get their products to market, farmers to get their goods to stores, and workers to get to jobs.

Unfortunately, our nation's infrastructure remains severely deficient and underfunded. According to the U.S. DOT, improving the condition and performance of highways and bridges requires \$142 billion annually from all levels of government; we currently invest approximately \$105 billion. North Dakota faces a \$2.5 billion shortfall from 2018 to 2023.

BISMARCK MANDAN
CHAMBER EDC

Hon. Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Please accept this letter as an expression of my personal support for the reauthorization of the FAST Act.

In my role as President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC, I actively advocate for probusiness policies on behalf of the organization's more than 1,200 members. Recently, those efforts have focused on infrastructure funding.

At the local level, voters in the City of Bismarck recently passed a half-cent sales tax increase dedicated to arterial roadway construction. And at the state level, legislators are currently debating a bill dubbed "Operation Prairie Dog" designed to provide even more infrastructure funding to townships, cities and counties around North Dakota.

However, there is concern among all of the aforementioned political subdivisions regarding the uncertainty of federal funding after the FAST Act's expiration in 2020. That's because while we can attempt to fund projects to the best of our ability at the local and state level, the federal match for some projects can mean the difference between them happening or not.

The certainty provided by an entirely funded and planned federal highway bill means more projects in Bismarck-Mandan can proceed. As a result, we provide badly needed infrastructure improvements for our residents and continued opportunity for our businesses.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (701) 223-5660 or email at britter@bmcedc.com.

Sincerely,

BRIAN RITTER.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, for rollcall votes 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, and 251 due to a commitment in Williamsburg, VA, related to the events surrounding the 400th commemorative session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Had I been present I would have voted nay on confirmation for Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be U.S. District

Judge for the Eastern District of Texas—rollcall vote 241, PN205; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 242, PN207; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Jeffery Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas—rollcall vote 243, PN510; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 244, PN512; yea on motion to invoke cloture: Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 245, PN453; yea on motion to invoke cloture: Ada E. Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 246, PN524; yea on motion to invoke cloture: Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia—rollcall vote 247, PN566; nay on motion to invoke cloture on Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas—rollcall vote 248, PN454; yea on motion to invoke cloture on Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 249, PN780; yea on motion to invoke cloture on Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 250, PN782; and nay on motion to invoke cloture on William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 251, PN727.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, on July 30, 2019, I was absent for the following rollcall votes due to a commitment in Williamsburg, VA, for an event surrounding the 400th commemorative session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on confirmation: Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas—rollcall vote 241, PN205; "nay" on motion to invoke cloture: Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 242, PN207; "nay" on motion to invoke cloture: Jeffery Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas—rollcall vote 243, PN510; "nay" on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 244, PN512; "yea" on motion to invoke cloture: Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 245, PN453; "yea" on motion to invoke cloture: Ada E. Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the North-

ern District of Texas—rollcall vote 246, PN524; "yea" on motion to invoke cloture: Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia—rollcall vote 247, PN566; "nay" on motion to invoke cloture on Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas—rollcall vote 248, PN454; "yea" on motion to invoke cloture on Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 249, PN780; "yea" on motion to invoke cloture on Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 250, PN782; and "nay" on motion to invoke cloture on William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 251, PN727.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for July 2019. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, BBA18. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is my sixth scorekeeping report this year. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for June 26, 2019. The information included in this report is current through July 26, 2019.

Since my last filing, Congress has cleared four pieces of legislation with significant budgetary effects. The first, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019, P.L. 116-26, provided nearly \$4.6 billion in emergency funding to address needs at the Nation's southern border. The second measure with significant budgetary effects, P.L. 116-29, provided for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community health services demonstration program. The third, the Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019, P.L. 116-33, revises loan seasoning requirements related to a refinanced Veterans Affairs housing loan. The fourth, the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act, P.L. 116-34, appropriates such sums as necessary for the Victims Compensation Fund to pay claims to eligible victims through fiscal year 2029 and fully compensate claimants who have received reduced awards in the past because of declining balances in the fund.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared Tables A–C.

Table A gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2019 enforceable levels filing required by BBA18. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. For this reporting period, 9 of the 16 authorizing committees are not in compliance with their allocations. Over the current 10-year enforceable window, authorizing committees have increased outlays by a combined \$13.0 billion. Of the bills clearing Congress this reporting period, P.L. 116-34 added to the Judiciary Committee's existing violations, including an increase in spending of \$9.4 billion over the 10-year window, P.L. 116-33 reduced the Banking Committee's allocation violation by \$3 million in each enforceable window, and P.L. 116-29 added \$5 million to the Finance Committee's existing fiscal year 2019 violations.

Table B provides the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in sections 312 and 314 of the CBA. Appropriations for fiscal year 2019, displayed in this table, show that the Appropriations Committee is compliant with spending limits for the current fiscal year. Those limits for regular discretionary spending are \$647 billion for accounts in the defense category and \$597 billion for accounts in the nondefense category of spending.

The fiscal year 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPs. Table C, which tracks the CHIMP limit of \$15 billion for fiscal year 2019, shows the Appropriations Committee has enacted \$15 billion worth of full-year CHIMPs for this fiscal year.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

For fiscal year 2019, CBO estimates that current-law levels are \$2.9 billion above and \$3.3 billion below enforceable levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. These levels were adjusted to accommodate the budget authority and outlay effects of P.L. 116-26, as that funding was designated as an emergency and qualified for an equivalent and concurrent increase in enforceable levels under existing statute. Revenues are \$426 million below the level assumed in the budget resolution. Further, Social Security revenues are at the levels assumed for fiscal year 2019, while Social Security outlays are \$4 million above assumed levels for the budget year.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule. The PAYGO

scorecard shows deficit increases in fiscal year 2019 of \$1,959 million, \$427 million revenue loss, \$1,532 million outlay increase; over the fiscal year 2018–2023 period of \$3,409 million, \$907 million revenue loss, \$2,502 million outlay increase; and over the fiscal year 2018–2028 period of \$797 million, \$798 million revenue loss, \$1 million outlay decrease. During this reporting period, P.L. 116-33 reduced the deficit by \$3 million over the fiscal year 2019, fiscal year 2018–2023, and fiscal year 2018–2028 periods, and P.L. 116-29 increased the deficit by \$5 million in fiscal year 2019. P.L. 116-34's budgetary effects are not included in this table or the PAYGO scorecard pursuant to the direction included in the statutory text.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor since the enforcement filing on May 7, 2018. Since my last report, no new budgetary points of order were raised.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

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

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

(In millions of dollars)			
	2019	2019–2023	2019–2028
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:			
Budget Authority	2,414	4,249	3,123
Outlays	1,401	1,797	170
Armed Services:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:			
Budget Authority	18	282	379
Outlays	17	282	379
Commerce, Science, and Transportation:			
Budget Authority	41	77	91
Outlays	11	74	90
Energy and Natural Resources:			
Budget Authority	0	–10	–24
Outlays	0	–10	–24
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	2	4	–333
Outlays	2	4	–333
Finance:			
Budget Authority	383	1,078	–1,090
Outlays	164	1,070	–1,093
Foreign Relations:			
Budget Authority	0	–5	–20
Outlays	0	–5	–20
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	2	4
Outlays	43	48	49
Judiciary:			
Budget Authority	13	6,361	9,944
Outlays	13	6,357	9,939
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:			
Budget Authority	0	–36	–84
Outlays	0	–36	–84
Rules and Administration:			
Budget Authority	0	0	1
Outlays	0	0	1
Intelligence:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs:			
Budget Authority	4	79	–335
Outlays	4,402	4,476	4,062
Indian Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Small Business:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Total:			
Budget Authority	2,875	12,081	11,656
Outlays	6,053	14,057	13,036

TABLE B.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS ¹

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

	2019	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Statutory Discretionary Limits	647,000	597,000
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	23,042
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	5,499	58,619
Defense	606,340	129
Energy and Water Development	22,440	22,200
Financial Services and General Government	31	23,392
Homeland Security	2,058	47,353
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	35,552
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies	0	178,076
Legislative Branch	0	4,836
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	10,332	86,804
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	46,218
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	300	70,779
Current Level Total	647,000	597,000
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits	0	0

¹ This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

² Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE C.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

	2019
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019	15,000
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	7,285
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	0
Homeland Security	0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies	7,715
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	15,000
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution	0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2019.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2019 budget and is current through July 26, 2019. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018, pursuant to section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123).

Since our last letter dated June 26, 2019, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2019:

A bill to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes (Public Law 116–29);

Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–33); and

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-26).

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JULY 26, 2019

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
On-Budget:			
Budget Authority	3,663.0	3,665.9	2.9
Outlays	3,556.4	3,553.2	–3.3
Revenues	2,590.5	2,590.1	–0.4
Off-Budget:			
Social Security Outlays ^a	908.8	908.8	0.0

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JULY 26, 2019—Continued

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
Social Security Revenues	899.2	899.2	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
^a Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JULY 26, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^{a,b,c}			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,590,496
Permanents and other spending legislation	2,271,360	2,169,258	n.a.
Authorizing and Appropriation legislation	1,886,507	1,949,120	–302
Offsetting receipts	–890,012	–890,015	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	3,267,855	3,228,363	2,590,194
Enacted Legislation			
Authorizing Legislation			
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–3)	120	8	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–6, Division H) ^d	2	2	1
Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (P.L. 116–8)	2	–5	0
Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–16)	52	32	0
A bill to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes (P.L. 116–29)	–3	5	0
Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–33)	–3	–3	0
Subtotal, Authorizing Legislation	176	39	1
Appropriation Legislation ^b			
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Divisions A–G, P.L. 116–6) ^{b,c}	480,297	311,586	–125
Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–20)	19,121	5,364	0
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–26)	4,586	1,048	0
Subtotal, Appropriation Legislation	504,004	317,998	–125
Total, Enacted Legislation	504,180	318,037	–124
Entitlements and Mandatories			
Total Current Level ^c	–106,128	6,756	0
Total Senate Resolution ^c	3,663,907	3,553,156	2,590,070
	3,663,031	3,556,421	2,590,496
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	2,876	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	3,265	426
Memorandum			
Revenues, 2019–2028			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	33,272,354
Senate Resolution ^c	n.a.	n.a.	33,273,213
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	859

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

^a Includes the budgetary effects of legislation enacted by Congress during the 115th Congress.

^b Sections 1001–1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114–255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Congressional Budget Act). Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include \$781 million in budget authority and \$770 million in estimated outlays.

^c For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, amounts in this current level report do not include those items.

^d The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–5), as amended, extended several immigration programs through February 15, 2019, that would otherwise have expired at the end of fiscal year 2018. The estimated budgetary effects of those previously enacted extensions are charged to the Committee on Appropriations, and are included in the budgetary effects of P.L. 116–6 shown in the “Appropriation Legislation” portion of this report. In addition, division H of P.L. 116–6 further extended those same programs through the end of fiscal year 2019. Consistent with the language in title III of division H of P.L. 116–6, and at the direction of the Senate Committee on the Budget, the budgetary effects of extending those immigration programs for the remainder of the fiscal year are charged to the relevant authorizing committees, and are shown in the “Authorizing Legislation” portion of this report.

^e Section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 requires the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2019; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 also allows the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to revise the budgetary aggregates:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Aggregates Printed on May 7, 2018:	3,547,094	3,508,052	2,590,496
Revisions:			
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	921	0	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	69,464	38,556	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	0	–214	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	1,680	25	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	20,165	3,590	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	19,121	5,364	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	4,586	1,048	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,663,031	3,556,421	2,590,496

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JULY 26, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
Beginning Balance ^a	0	0	0	0
Enacted Legislation ^{b,c}				
A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Incident Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act” (S.J. Res. 57, P.L. 115–172)	*	*	*	*
Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protections Act (S. 2155, P.L. 115–174) ^d	*	22	329	490
Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McInn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017 (S. 204, P.L. 115–176)	*	*	*	*
An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (H.R. 3562, P.L. 115–177)	*	*	*	*
VA MISSION Act of 2018 (S. 2372, P.L. 115–182) ^e	–	–	–	–
Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act (S. 1869, P.L. 115–192)	*	*	*	*
All Circuit Review Act (H.R. 2229, P.L. 115–195)	*	*	*	*
American Innovation \$1 Coin Act (H.R. 770, P.L. 115–197)	0	3	3	0
Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018 (H.R. 4743, P.L. 115–189)	*	*	*	*
Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 (H.R. 5956, P.L. 115–218)	0	0	0	–3

TABLE 3—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JULY 26, 2019—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
KIWI Act (S. 2245, P.L. 115–226)	*	*	*	*
To make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes (H.R. 4528, P.L. 115–228)	*	*	*	*
John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R. 5515, P.L. 115–232)	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018 (H.R. 4318, P.L. 115–239)	0	304	690	–118
Tribal Social Security Fairness Act of 2018 (H.R. 6124, P.L. 115–243)	0	*	–1	–3
Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 6157, Division B, P.L. 115–245, Division B)	0	0	18	18
Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act of 2017 (S. 97, P.L. 115–248)	*	*	*	*
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 (S. 3479, P.L. 115–251)	*	2	*	–3
Elkhorn Ranch and White River National Forest Conveyance Act of 2017 (H.R. 698, P.L. 115–252)	*	*	*	*
FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 302, P.L. 115–254) ^c	*	44	42	26
Patient Right to Know Drug Act of 2018 (S. 2554, P.L. 115–263)	*	*	–11	–52
Orrin G. Hatch–Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act (H.R. 1551, P.L. 115–264)	0	0	13	–24
Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 3509, P.L. 115–268)	0	*	2	4
America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021, P.L. 115–270)	0	2	16	–230
SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6, P.L. 115–271) ^g	0	—	—	—
Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017 (S. 1595, P.L. 115–272)	0	*	*	*
To authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (H.R. 1037, P.L. 115–275)	0	*	*	*
Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act (H.R. 2615, P.L. 115–279)	0	*	*	*
Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (S. 140, P.L. 115–282)	0	10	34	0
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes (H.J. Res. 143, P.L. 115–298)	0	*	*	*
Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018 (S. 2152, P.L. 115–299)	0	*	*	*
A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota (S. 440, P.L. 115–306)	0	0	0	–4
A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Jamestown Reservoir in the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes (S. 2074, P.L. 115–308)	0	0	0	–7
Anwar Sadat Centennial Celebration Act (H.R. 754, P.L. 115–310)	0	*	*	*
Larry Doby Congressional Gold Medal Act (H.R. 1861, P.L. 115–322)	0	*	*	*
Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 (H.R. 1872, P.L. 115–330)	0	*	*	*
Protecting Access to the Courts for Taxpayers Act (H.R. 3996, P.L. 115–332)	0	*	*	*
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (H.R. 2, P.L. 115–334)	0	1,399	1,785	0
Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (H.R. 1918, P.L. 115–335)	0	*	*	*
21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (H.R. 5759, P.L. 115–336)	0	*	*	*
Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 1050, P.L. 115–337)	0	*	*	*
USS Indianapolis Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 2101, P.L. 115–338)	0	*	*	*
Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. 1235, P.L. 115–343)	0	0	0	0
Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (H.R. 3342, P.L. 115–348)	0	*	*	*
Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pensions Act (H.R. 4431, P.L. 115–352)	0	*	*	*
Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 (H.R. 5787, P.L. 115–358)	0	*	*	*
Walnut Grove Land Exchange Act (H.R. 5923, P.L. 115–361)	0	*	*	*
To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend through 2023 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission (H.R. 7120, P.L. 115–386)	0	*	*	*
First Step Act of 2018 (S. 756, P.L. 115–391)	0	11	120	317
Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (S. 1311, P.L. 115–392)	0	*	*	*
CENOTE Act of 2018 (S. 2511, P.L. 115–394)	0	*	*	*
NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018 (S. 7, P.L. 115–403)	0	0	5	5
Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (S. 2248, P.L. 115–407)	0	*	*	*
Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 2652, P.L. 115–415)	0	*	*	*
Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018 (S. 2679, P.L. 115–416)	0	*	*	*
Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018 (S. 3777, P.L. 115–422)	0	*	*	*
National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 2200, P.L. 115–423)	0	*	*	*
To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (H.R. 4689, P.L. 115–429)	0	*	*	*
75th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Act (S. 3661, P.L. 115–433)	0	*	*	*
Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Extension Act (H.R. 251, P.L. 116–2)	0	*	*	*
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (H.R. 259, P.L. 116–3)	0	8	63	*
Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.J. Res. 28, P.L. 116–5)	0	*	*	*
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.J. Res. 31, P.L. 116–6) ^h	0	125	229	9
Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (S. 483, P.L. 116–8)	0	–5	–23	0
John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S. 47, P.L. 116–9)	0	0	–10	–10
Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839, P.L. 116–16)	0	32	69	27
Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (H.R. 1222, P.L. 116–17)	0	*	*	*
An act to make technical corrections to the computation of average pay under Public Law 110–279 (S. 1436, P.L. 116–21)	0	*	*	1
Blue Water Navy Vietnam Act of 2019 (H.R. 299, P.L. 116–23)	0	0	76	394
Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act (H.R. 559, P.L. 116–24)	0	*	*	*
Taxpayer First Act (H.R. 3151, P.L. 116–25)	0	*	–37	–37
An act to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes (S. 2047, P.L. 116–29)	0	5	0	0
Effective Prosecution of Possession of Biological Toxins and Agents Act of 2019 (S. 744, P.L. 116–31)	0	*	*	*
Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019 (S. 1749, P.L. 116–33)	0	–3	–3	–3
Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act (H.R. 1327, P.L. 116–34) ⁱ	0	—	—	—
Impact on Deficit	*	1,959	3,409	797
Total Change in Outlays	*	1,532	2,502	–1
Total Change in Revenues	*	–427	–907	–798

Source: Congressional Budget Office

P.L. = public law; * = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000; — = excluded from PAYGO scorecard.

^a On May 7, 2018, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.^b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.^c Excludes off-budget amounts.^d Pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C. Res. 290 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve's surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of \$655 million in fiscal year 2019, \$570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and \$454 million over the 2019–2028 period.^e The budgetary effects of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 512 of the act.^f Division 1 of P.L. 115–254 contains the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018, which provided \$1,680 million in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and designated that amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. At the direction of the Committees on the Budget, and consistent with the language in section 1701, the funding is shown as discretionary spending.^g The budgetary effects of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 8231 of the act.^h The budgetary effects of title I of division H of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to title III of division H of the act.ⁱ The budgetary effects of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to sec. 4 of the act.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF POINTS OF ORDER RAISED SINCE THE FY 2019 ENFORCEMENT FILING

Vote	Date	Measure	Violation	Motion to Waive	Result
127	June 18, 2018	H.R. 5515—John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.	4106(a)—Senate-Pay-As-You-Go Violation ¹ .	Sen. McConnell (R-KY) ²	81–14, waived.
192	August 23, 2018	S. Amdt #3695 to H.R. 6157, the Defense, Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act ³ .	314(a) CHIMP with Net-Costs	Sen. Leahy (D-VT)	68–24, waived.

¹ Senator Sanders raised a section 4106(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress) point of order against the bill because the bill would increase the on-budget deficit.² By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to a rollcall vote to waive the point of order.³ This surgical point of order would have struck lines 7–8 of page 270 in Division B (Title III) of the substitute amendment, which was related to the Pell Grant program. This provision was a Change in Mandatory Program (CHIMP) estimated to increase spending by \$390 million over 10 years.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Legislative Activities Report of the Committee of Rules and Administration during the 115th Congress be printed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules and Administration is set forth in paragraph 1(n)(1) of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. The following are excerpts from that paragraph.

RULE XXV

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Congress, and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

* * * * *

(n)(1) Committee on Rules and Administration, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Administration of the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol, including the assignment of office space.

2. Congressional organization relative to rules and procedures, and Senate rules and regulations, including floor and gallery rules.

3. Corrupt practices.

4. Credentials and qualifications of Members of the Senate, contested elections, and acceptance of incompatible offices.

5. Federal elections generally, including the election of the President, Vice President, and Members of the Congress.

6. Government Publishing Office, and the printing and correction of the Congressional Record, as well as those matters provided for under rule XI.

7. Meeting of the Congress and attendance of Members.

8. Payment of money out of the contingent fund of the Senate or creating a charge upon the same (except that any resolution relating to substantive matter within the jurisdiction of any other standing committee of the Senate shall be first referred to such committee).

9. Presidential succession.

10. Purchase of books and manuscripts and erection of monuments to the memory of individuals.

11. Senate Library and statuary, art, and pictures in the Capitol and Senate Office Buildings.

12. Services to the Senate, including the Senate restaurant.

13. United States Capitol and congressional office buildings, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution (and the incorporation of similar institutions), and the Botanic Gardens.

(2) Such committee shall also—

(A) make a continuing study of the organization and operation of the Congress of the United States and shall recommend improvements in such organization and operation with a view toward strengthening the Con-

gress, simplifying its operations, improving its relationships with other branches of the United States Government, and enabling it better to meet its responsibilities under the Constitution of the United States; and

(B) identify any court proceeding or action which, in the opinion of the Committee, is of vital interest to the Congress as a constitutionally established institution of the Federal Government and call such proceeding or action to the attention of the Senate.

* * * * *

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

TITLE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m. in room SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the Members of the committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings:

(A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if:

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

3. Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all Members of the committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the committee staff will telephone or e-mail reminders of committee meetings to all Members of the committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

4. A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of legis-

lative business and committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the committee and released to the public at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any Member of the committee from discussing appropriate non-agenda topics.

5. After the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member, speaking order shall be based on order of arrival, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

6. Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least 3 business days before the date of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the chairman may direct, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive such requirement for good cause.

7. In general, testimony will be restricted to 5 minutes for each witness. The time may be extended by the Chairman, upon the Chair's own direction or at the request of a Member. Each round of questions by Members will also be limited to 5 minutes.

TITLE II—QUORUMS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, a majority of the Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of legislative measures.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, one-third of the Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, including action on amendments to measures prior to voting to report the measure to the Senate.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony under oath and 1 Member of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony not under oath; provided, however, that in either instance, once a quorum is established, any one Member can continue to take such testimony.

4. Under no circumstances may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

TITLE III—VOTING

1. Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

2. If a third of the Members present so demand a roll call vote instead of a voice vote, a record vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

3. The results of roll call votes taken in any meeting upon any measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each Member of the committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

4. Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee. However, the vote of the committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of the Members of the committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a Member's position on the question and then only in those instances when the absentee committee Member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he be recorded. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS

1. Provided at least five business days' notice of the agenda is given, and the text of

the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least five business calendar days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and circulated via e-mail to each of the offices by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

2. In the event the Chairman introduces a substitute amendment or a Chairman's mark, the requirements set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Title shall be considered waived unless such substitute amendment or Chairman's mark has been made available at least five business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

3. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

4. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member.

TITLE V—DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman is authorized to sign himself or by delegation all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide in the committee's behalf all routine business.

2. The Chairman is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

3. The Chairman is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

TITLE VI—DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, acting jointly, are authorized to approve on behalf of the committee any rule or regulation for which the committee's approval is required, provided advance notice of their intention to do so is given to Members of the committee.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

*passed Senate; + obviated

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE

S. 1010, Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017

S. 1989, Honest Ads Act

S. 2261, Secure Elections Act

S. 2939, Shell Company Abuse Act

S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115-27.

S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115-28.

S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115-29.

S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Barbara M. Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115-199.

S. Res. 355, a resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.

S. Res. 463, a resolution authorizing a Senator to bring a young son or daughter of the Senator onto the floor of the Senate during votes. *

H.R. 1695, Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act

H.R. 3298, Wounded Officers Recovery Act of 2017. Public Law No. 115-45. *

H.R. 4009, Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act. Public Law No. 115-178. *

H. Con. Res. 149, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make certain corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 4174.

H. Con. Res. 148, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 3628. *

H. Con. Res. 112, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I. *

H. Con. Res. 107, authorizing Reverend Billy Graham to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol. *

H. Con. Res. 106, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the members of the Office of Strategic Services. *

H. Con. Res. 103, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. *

H. Con. Res. 102, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. *

H. Con. Res. 18, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. *

ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

S. Res. 62, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, and October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. *

RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO COMMITTEE FUNDING

S. Res. 20, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. +

S. Res. 21, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Judiciary. +

S. Res. 22, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. +

S. Res. 24, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. +

S. Res. 30, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. +

S. Res. 31, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging. +

S. Res. 32, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. +

S. Res. 33, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. +

S. Res. 34, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. +

S. Res. 36, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. +

S. Res. 37, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations. +

S. Res. 39, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. +

S. Res. 42, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works. +

S. Res. 46, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Budget. +

S. Res. 48, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Select Committee on Intelligence. +

S. Res. 52, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance. +

S. Res. 53, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services. +

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

S. 26, Presidential Tax Transparency Act

S. 27, a bill to establish an independent commission to examine and report on the facts regarding the extent of Russian official and unofficial cyber operations and other attempts to interfere in the 2016 United States national election, and for other purposes.

S. 298, Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act

S. 360, Same Day Registration Act

S. 402, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of the State of Maryland for the acceptance of a statue of Harriet Tubman for display in a prominent location in the United States Capitol.

S. 589, Real Time Transparency Act

S. 1231, Vote By Mail Act of 2017

S. 1353, Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017

S. 1364, National Museum of the American Latino Act

S. 1437, Voter Empowerment Act of 2017

S. 1498, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act

S. 1510, Helping State and Local Governments Prevent Cyber Attacks (HACK) Act

S. 1547, Anti-Voter Suppression Act

S. 1569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate the non-application of certain State waiver provisions to Members of Congress and congressional staff.

S. 1585, DISCLOSE Act of 2017

S. 1604, Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Act of 2017

S. 1608, Wounded Officers Recovery Act of 2017

S. 1660, Stop Foreign Donations Affecting Our Elections Act

S. 1683, Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act

S. 1772, Confederate Monument Removal Act

S. 1783, PROVE Act

S. 1821, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Cybersecurity of United States Election Systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1828, Weekend Voting Act

S. 1929, Empower Act of 2017

S. 1931, Empowering Citizens Act

S. 1954, Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act

S. 2035, SAVE Act

S. 2106, Register America to Vote Act

S. 2240, Students VOTE Act

S. 2330, Earmark Elimination Act of 2018

S. 2467, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 2593, Secure Elections Act

S. 2673, PAPER Act of 2018

S. 2917, Pay for Printing Act

S. 2944, PAPER Act of 2018

S. 3049, Protecting American Votes and Elections Act of 2018

S. 3090, Save Voters Act

S. 3116, PRIDE Voting Act

S. 3150, DISCLOSE Act of 2018

S. 3274, CLEAN Act of 2018

S. 3572, ESIA

S. 3573, Protect our Elections Act

S. 3708, One Subject at a Time Act

S. 3709, Read the Bills Act
 S. 3735, SuperPAC Elimination Act of 2018
 S. Con. Res. 19, a concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

S. Res. 23, a resolution establishing the Select Committee on Cybersecurity.

S. Res. 110, Shutdown Accountability Resolution

S. Res. 197, a resolution to provide sufficient time for legislation to be read.

S. Res. 198, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any sweeping health care legislation must be drafted in public under the watchful eye of the people of the United States.

S. Res. 251, a resolution amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, to provide for timely consideration of nominations.

S. Res. 268, a resolution recognizing September 26, 2017, as “National Voter Registration Day”.

S. Res. 323, STOP Sexual Harassment Resolution Sponsor

S. Res. 396, a resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to address sexual abuse within United States Olympic Gymnastics.

S. Res. 581, a resolution authorizing the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate in *Texas v. United States*, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.).

S. Res. 594, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Government of the Russian Federation’s ongoing attacks against the United States election system to undermine our democracy by interfering with our election system, and affirming the Senate’s unequivocal commitment to holding the Russian Federation, President Putin, and those who carried out the attacks accountable.

S. Res. 626, a resolution designating September 2018 as “National Voting Rights Month”.

S. Res. 718, A resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. Res. 724, a resolution amending rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit the time during which a nomination shall be confirmed or rejected, and for other purposes.

S. Res. 725, a resolution modifying extended debate in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

S. Res. 726, a resolution amending rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for timely establishment of conference committees.

S. Res. 727, a resolution providing for consideration of changes to rules for the proceedings of the Senate.

S. Res. 728, a resolution amending rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate to limit debate on motions to proceed.

S. Res. 729, a resolution amending rule XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for consideration of a minimum number of amendments.

S. Res. 734, a resolution authorizing the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate in *Texas v. United States*, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.).

H. Con. Res. 118, authorizing the printing of “United States Capitol Grounds: Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead’s Design for Democracy” as a House document.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS

February 16, 2017—Business Meeting: Adopt proposed Rules of Procedure for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration for the 115th Congress

December 19, 2017—Committee Hearing: Review of S. Res. 355

April 25, 2018—Markup: Improving Procedures for the Consideration of Nominations in the Senate

June 20, 2018—Committee Hearing: Election Security Preparations: A State and Local Perspective

July 11, 2018—Committee Hearing: Election Security Preparations: Federal and Vendor Perspectives

September 26, 2018—Committee Hearing: Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act

November 28, 2018—Nomination Hearing: Nomination Hearing for Donald L. Palmer and Benjamin W. Hovland

December 5, 2018—Business Meeting: To Consider the Nominations of Donald L. Palmer and Benjamin W. Hovland

December 6, 2018—Committee Hearing: Oversight of the Architect of the Capitol’s Human Resources Policies

NOMINATIONS

PN2559 Benjamin Hovland, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2019, vice Rosemary E. Rodriguez, term expired.

Latest Action: January 02, 2019—Confirmed by the Senate by Voice Vote.

PN2284 Donald L. Palmer, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2021, vice Matthew Vincent Masterson, resigned.

Latest Action: January 02, 2019—Confirmed by the Senate by Voice Vote.

PN2150 Robert C. Tapella, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office, vice Davita Vance-Cooks.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

PN1425 James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023, vice Matthew S. Petersen, term expired.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

PN1024 James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023, vice Matthew S. Petersen, term expired.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

S. Prt. 115-3—Expenditure Authorizations and Requirements for Senate Committees

S. Prt. 115-4—Congressional Pictorial Directory

S. Rept. 115-20—Review of Legislative Activity during the 114th Congress

S. Pub. 115-7—The Congressional Directory

S. Doc. 115-4—Authority and Rules of Senate Committees, 2017–2018

S. Doc. 115-18—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Kelly Ayotte, United States Senator—2011–2017

S. Doc. 115-19—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Barbara Boxer, United States Congresswoman—1983–1993, United States Senator—1993–2017

S. Doc. 115-20—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Daniel Coats, United States Congressman—1981–1989, United States Senator—2011–2017

S. Doc. 115-21—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Mark Kirk, United States Senator—2010–2017

S. Doc. 115-22—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Barbara A. Mikulski, United States Congressman—1977–1987, United States Senator—1987–2017

S. Doc. 115-23—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Harry Reid, United States Congressman—1933–1987, United States Senator—1987–2017

S. Doc. 115-24—Tributes Delivered in Congress: David Vitter, United States Congressman—1999–2005, United States Senator—2005–2017

S. Doc. 115-25—Tributes Delivered in Congress: Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,—United States Vice President of the Senate—2009–2017, United States Senator—1973–2009

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

POM9 Senate Rules and Administration (January 12, 2017)

A petition from a citizen of the State of Minnesota relative to the Minnesota Presidential Certificate of Vote; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC212 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission’s competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC213 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2017)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC471 Senate Rules and Administration (January 12, 2017)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC472 Senate Rules and Administration (January 12, 2017)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC1031 Senate Rules and Administration (March 15, 2017)

A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC1666 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (June 06, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC1667 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (June 06, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office

of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2017”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC2860 Senate Rules and Administration (September 19, 2017) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC2984 Senate Rules and Administration (October 04, 2017)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3415 Senate Rules and Administration (November 08, 2017)

A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center’s consolidated financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor’s report for years ended October 2, 2016, and September 27, 2015, and a report relative to the Center’s schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor’s reports for the year ended October 2, 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3865 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2018)

A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3971 Senate Rules and Administration (January 09, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC3972 Senate Rules and Administration (January 09, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC4039 Senate Rules and Administration (January 11, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission’s competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC4362 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (February 27, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions

for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC4363 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (February 27, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC4774 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (April 11, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC6339 Senate Rules and Administration (August 27, 2018)

A communication from the Secretary of Homeland Security, transmitting a report relative to efforts to protect the United States’ election infrastructure; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC6366 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (September 06, 2018)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2019”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC6516 Senate Rules and Administration (September 17, 2018)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC6517 Senate Rules and Administration (September 17, 2018)

A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC7070 Senate Rules and Administration (November 15, 2018)

A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center’s consolidated financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor’s report for years ended October 1, 2017, and October 2, 2016, and a report relative to the Center’s schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor’s reports for the year ended October 1, 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC7577 Senate Rules and Administration (December 20, 2018)

A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reporting Multistate Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications” (Notice 2018-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2018; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

E-FRONTIER ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to give notice of my intent to object to any unanimous consent agreement regarding S. 918, the E-FRONTIER Act.

In January of 2018, media reports revealed that officials in the National Security Council were considering a proposal for the Federal Government to pay for and build a national 5G telecommunications network. This proposal was then widely criticized by top administration officials, including Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai and White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow. The President himself subsequently distanced himself from the proposal and made it clear that he favored a 5G strategy that is private-sector driven and led.

In response to this controversial proposal, a Senator introduced the E-FRONTIER Act. This bill prohibits the Federal Government from constructing, operating, or offering retail or wholesale services on broadband networks absent congressional authorization.

My colleague stated the bill is intended to “protect commercial 5G broadband networks from nationalization without authorization from Congress.” While I agree that there is no need, at the current time, for the Federal Government to offer commercial wireless service in well-served urban markets, I do not believe that Congress should be taking any options off the table when it comes to delivering high-speed wireless broadband to rural communities that have long been ignored by the private sector.

This bill is also drafted so that its impact would extend significantly beyond its stated goal. Not only would my colleagues' proposal prohibit the Federal Government from operating commercial wireless networks without explicit congressional authorization, but it would also prohibit the government from operating wireline networks, such as fiber and cable networks.

Passing this legislation would bar the Federal Government from offering fiber-to-the-home connectivity to the tens of millions of Americans who currently have no meaningful option for high-speed broadband internet access at home. In effect, it would tell Americans in rural and low-income communities across the country that, if the private sector does not think it can make a profit offering service in their communities, that is the end of the line for them. Outside of providing subsidies, the Federal Government would be barred from addressing these market failures by contracting to build the infrastructure itself.

Time and time again, Congress has, on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, maintained the critical importance of delivering broadband to all Americans, and not just those in big cities. This body should not ban any option for internet connectivity without fulsome debate and regular order.

Unfortunately, this need case is far from a hypothetical. As many as 162 million Americans across the country do not have access to internet service at broadband speeds, according to one recent analysis cited by the FCC. Congress should be passing laws that work to close this gap and not those that tie our hands as millions and millions of Americans are left behind in this new digital divide. It is an issue of fairness, it is an issue of equality, and it is an issue that must be subjected to vigorous public debate.

So I rise today with a simple and straightforward request: Before Congress limits possible broadband build-out options for decades to come, let's give my colleagues' proposal the careful consideration that it deserves. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see if we can resolve some of these outstanding issues in a manner that is fair, transparent, and timely.

For all of these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider S. 918.

CONFIRMATION OF HEATH P. TARBERT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I applaud the Senate's bipartisan confirmation of Dr. Heath Tarbert to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. I am confident that Dr. Tarbert, who is no stranger to public service, will lead the CFTC well. As the former acting Under Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, Dr. Tarbert has exactly the right experience, at the

right time, to lead the CFTC. The CFTC needs a strong leader like Dr. Tarbert. He understands how the markets are impacted by actions taken by Congress and U.S. Federal regulators, as well as those of our legislative and regulatory partners around the world. His experience clearly demonstrates appreciation of what led to the financial crisis 10 years ago. Dr. Tarbert also has the support of a range of agricultural groups, all voicing strong sport and appreciation for his experience in the financial sector, the effort demonstrated to understand priority issues, and the commitment to visiting agricultural operations to reinforce the importance of these markets to farmers, ranchers, growers, and agribusiness.

The CFTC is charged with fostering open, transparent, competitive, and financially sound markets, while working to prevent systemic risk. The regulation and oversight provided by the CFTC allows end users—farmers, ranchers, commercial companies, municipalities, energy companies, pension funds, and others—to hedge commercial risk using the derivatives market. These markets allow companies to generate jobs and produce goods and services for our economy. I look forward to working with Dr. Tarbert in his new role. Thank you.

CAMEROON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the grave situation in Cameroon, specifically the targeted attacks against the English-speaking minority community there, the ongoing conflict between armed separatist groups and Cameroonian security forces, and the country's many political prisoners. In response to the escalation of conflict in Cameroon's northwest and southwest regions, yesterday, Senator YOUNG and I introduced a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict.

Since the outbreak of violence in 2016, Cameroon's security forces have been credibly accused of grave human rights abuses, from suppressing the basic freedoms of expression and assembly, and arbitrarily detaining those who challenge the President's authority, to torture and extrajudicial killings. The victims of these abuses include Anglophone activists, some of whom were forcibly returned to Cameroon after fleeing to Nigeria. Since 2016, entire villages have been burned down, displacing hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians from their communities.

Where did this all begin? The current conflict can be traced back to Cameroon's colonial history, as a country formed through merging pieces of a former French colony with parts of a former British colony. The

Francophone majority has held much of the land since 1961, when Cameroon gained its independence. All the while, the Anglophone minority held on to its language and distinct judicial and educational systems as it continued to be governed largely by French speakers.

About 3 years ago, this all began to shift. The Francophone government began implementing the French language and imposing its own laws, judges, and teachers in Anglophone communities, and protestors rose up in response. Anglophone Cameroonians rightly saw this as an unjust imposition on their autonomy, as a tyranny of the majority seeking to do away with their language and identity. The fact that Anglophone Cameroonians are vastly underrepresented in the central government only exacerbates their grievances in this matter. In response to citizens' voicing their discontent, the government cracked down, arresting hundreds of people—including peaceful activists who were given terrorism charges—and deploying the military to Anglophone areas.

Over the past 3 years, violence has claimed 2,000 lives in the Anglophone region. Human Rights Watch has documented extensive burning of villages by members of the security forces in the last 2 years in both the northwest and southwest regions, as well as rampant killings of civilians and sexual violence. According to a July 22 Human Rights Watch report, Cameroonian security forces have killed at least four civilians and raped one woman since mid June alone during their security operations in the northwest region. Shockingly, those killed included an elderly man with a physical disability and a young man with a mental disability.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the circumstances there. My home State of Maryland is home to a large, active population of Cameroonian diasporans. Marylander Sylvie Bello and members of her advocacy organization, the Cameroon American Council, have been a leading diaspora voice calling for the United States to encourage the Cameroonian Government and armed militias to stop the violence. Many in the diaspora community across the United States are working with civil society organizations in Cameroon to address the needs of internally displaced persons, IDPs, in the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees on the Nigerian side of the border.

This important community has made something very clear to me and my team, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues in the U.S. Congress of it. The conflict in Cameroon greatly impacts Americans here in the United States, whether it be Americans with loved ones affected by the conflict, those who have traveled here to escape the conflict, or simply those of us who understand that being silent on issues of human rights is analogous to being complicit to their

occurrence. I encourage the Government of Cameroon to engage with diaspora organizations, along with a broad spectrum of Cameroonian civil society leader, in meaningful and constructive dialogue to resolve the conflict.

Moving forward, as we look for ways to address the situation in Cameroon, we must look to longtime President Paul Biya and his ongoing attacks on the legitimacy of Cameroon's democracy. President Biya rose to office in 1982 after serving as Prime Minister. In 2008, Presidential term limits were removed from Cameroon's Constitution. Protests ensued, but when the public wished to voice their disapproval of this decision, security forces violently repressed their actions.

In October 2018, Biya claimed a seventh Presidential victory in an election that many considered to be neither free nor fair. There were numerous credible reports of fraud, voter intimidation, violence, and low voter turnout in the Anglophone regions. The opposition party who reportedly came in second place, the Cameroon Renaissance Movement, claims that it had the support of the people. In January of this year, protests and demonstrations against the October elections were summarily suppressed by the Biya regime. Over 200 people were arrested, including opposition leader Maurice Kamto and his close supporters.

The United Nations Secretary General, Amnesty International, and the International Law Commission have called for Mr. Kamto's release, and just last month, thousands of Cameroonians demonstrated in Yaounde with the same demand. Biya's government forces responded as they usually do, by arresting 73 of the demonstrators.

Even members of the President's own inner circle are not immune to his thuggery. In 2012, Mr. Marafa Hamidou Yaya, the former Secretary General of the Presidency, was arrested and sentenced to 25 years in prison for complicity in an embezzlement scheme that many suspect befell him not because of any actual involvement in embezzlement, but as a way to prevent him from ever challenging Biya for the Presidency. His arrest and imprisonment make clear that Biya will target anyone who threatens grip on power.

President Biya has the broad authority to appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister, Cabinet members, judges, generals, and governors. The executive and judicial branches are clearly a product of the President's preference, rather than a reflection of the will of the people. Although several press outlets exist and multiple political parties compete in elections, freedom of expression is greatly constrained. Journalists have been jailed, and Reporters Without Borders has described the circumstances for Cameroonian media as a "climate of fear."

In addition to these democratic concerns, Cameroon currently faces three major humanitarian challenges, which are exasperated by President Biya's un-

checked authority. About 275,000 refugees from the Central African Republic reside in the eastern part of Cameroon. In the north, Boko Haram threatens the communities near the Nigerian border. And in the west, where most of Cameroon's Anglophone minority resides, a conflict among government security forces and those seeking independence from the rest of the country continues to escalate.

If that wasn't enough, reports indicate that U.S. military assistance to Cameroon is being used to arm the same forces accused of committing atrocities against English-speaking Cameroonians. For this reason, Senator DURBIN and I filed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would freeze security assistance to Cameroon, except for those funds that go towards combatting Boko Haram, until the U.S. Departments of Defense and State can certify that Cameroon's military and security forces have demonstrated progress in abiding by international human rights standards, particularly in regards to their actions in the Anglophone region.

Although Cameroon is an important partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region, we cannot turn a blind eye to the extreme violence the government and its security forces have inflicted on innocent civilians. Human Rights Watch has documented extensive burning of villages by members of the security forces in the last 2 years in both the northwest and southwest regions, as well as rampant killings of civilians and sexual violence.

This February, the U.S. withheld millions of dollars in security assistance from Cameroon, on the condition that Biya and his forces work to improve the humanitarian situation there. No country should be able to receive U.S. military assistance while continuing to violently repress the rights of its own population.

America's strength is in our values. We must call out instances of human rights violations wherever they happen in the world. As a Congress, we have a special responsibility to use our voices when it is another government who is the perpetrator of these human rights abuses. This is the case for the situation in Cameroon. The violence must end. Innocent Cameroonians are caught in the crossfires of this political battle.

Communities have become too dangerous to live in. Hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians have been forced to flee their homes to escape the violence inflicted upon them. In November 2018, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated that at least 437,000 people were internally displaced in Cameroon from areas affected by this Anglophone conflict.

There are also thousands of refugees who have left Cameroon completely. As of late November 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that it had reg-

istered more than 32,000 Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria who came from the affected Anglophone regions. The persecuted Cameroonians seeking refuge in Nigeria include dozens of Anglophone activists, but in January 2018, 47 of those activists were forcibly returned to Cameroonian authorities. Many of those returned had reportedly submitted asylum claims in Nigeria, so it is especially troubling that they were made to return to the country from which they fled. Ten of the 47 activists who were forcibly returned from Nigeria now face charges before a military court that would be punishable by the death penalty. The other 37 reportedly remain in detention without charge.

Even non-Cameroonians have found themselves in the midst of this turmoil. On October 30, 2018, U.S. missionary Charles Wesco was killed near the town of Bamenda, Cameroon.

We must act in the face of these gross violations of human rights. We must encourage all actors in the Cameroonian conflict to prioritize respect for human life over the desire for political gain. This must be done by first agreeing to an immediate ceasefire and allowing humanitarian assistance to reach those in need. The Cameroonian Government and Armed Forces must exercise restraint in their actions and ensure that protests remain peaceful.

Leaders on both sides must be willing to engage in constructive dialogue with civil society members to achieve to a political solution, one that is based upon respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms. Failure to do so will only prolong the conflict and lead to an increase in violence and mass displacement of the Anglophone minority.

In closing, I would like to again thank Maryland's vibrant Cameroonian diaspora for their continued engagement with myself and my office, and encourage my Senate colleagues to support my and Senator YOUNG's resolution which addresses many of these issues. Congress has a responsibility to continue to shine a spotlight on ongoing human rights abuses and the duty to advocate for upholding the rights of all citizens in Cameroon, regardless of their religious and political beliefs or the regions in which they reside.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 ARKANSAS WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame Class of 2019 inductees and celebrate their contributions to our State and our country.

Founded in 2014, the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame honors women whose contributions have influenced the direction of Arkansas in their community or the State as a whole. The

AWHOF recognizes women, contemporary or historical, who have achieved prominence within the State. By providing a place for women in the State to be admired, the AWHOF inspires future generations of young Arkansas women to achieve great things.

Alice Andrews is a conservationist and a leading voice for environmental protection in Arkansas. As a farmer's daughter, Alice developed an interest in the environment and protecting land and water resources. Alice's conservation efforts began with advocacy work for the Buffalo River designation in 1972, which protects the river from industrial uses that may change its natural character or surrounding habitat. She has continued her efforts by serving on the Arkansas Trails Council, being appointed to the Arkansas Scenic Rivers Commission and serving as president of the Ozark Society. Alice has also been credited with helping preserve the landscape where iconic landmarks including the Big Dam Bridge, Two Rivers Bridge, and the River Trail, can be found. Her continued support and consultation with nonprofits, governments, and local churches have made Arkansas a better place for many generations to live, work and play.

Olivia Myers Farrell is among Arkansas's most influential women in media. She graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock before starting her career as part of the advertising department at the Arkansas Writers Project at the Arkansas Times. She then cofounded Arkansas Business and Southern magazine in the years following. Olivia has been honored as a Young Achiever by the National Council of Women of the United States—one of only six women selected in 1984 and the first Arkansas woman to receive the honor. She then became the CEO and principal owner of the Arkansas Business Publishing Group, which has received numerous awards for outstanding journalism by its publications, including Arkansas Business, Little Rock Family, and Little Rock Soiree. In 1998, she cofounded the Arkansas Women's Foundation to improve the educational status and skills of Arkansas women and girls in STEM fields, promote philanthropy by and for women, and enhance the economic viability of emerging leaders in Arkansas. Her efforts in the community earned her the Distinguished Citizen Award given by former Governor Mike Beebe in 2012.

Jo Luck attended Hendrix College before graduating from David Lipscomb College with a degree in education in 1963. Jo went on to earn a master's degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and served as the assistant director in the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services before becoming the first director of the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. Under Governor Bill Clinton, she became the executive director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Under Jo's guid-

ance, the economic impact of Arkansas' tourism industry more than doubled. In 1992, she became president and CEO of Little Rock-based Heifer International—a global nonprofit dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty—where she served until 2010. Under her leadership, the organization's state-of-the-art, LEED-certified headquarters was designed and built. In 2011, Jo was appointed by Barack Obama to serve on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. She has worked throughout her career to improve food availability around the globe and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Charlotte Tillar Schexnayder was born in Tillar, AR, in 1923. When she was 16 years old, she enrolled in the University of Arkansas at Monticello while also freelance writing for the McGehee Times. She went on to become editor of the McGehee Times in October 1944. She and her husband Melvin worked at the newspaper for 6 years before purchasing the Dumas Clarion, which they owned for more than four decades. Although the paper was largely known for local news, Charlotte took an editorial stand on many issues, including the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock along with economic and development issues in Dumas, AR. Along with being a critical voice in local media, Charlotte was a board member of the Dumas Chamber of Commerce and served as the first female president of the organization. In 1975, Governor David Pryor appointed Charlotte to the Arkansas Board of Pardons and Parole, making her the first female to serve on the group's board. Charlotte went on to become president of many journalism organizations, including Arkansas Press Women, the Little Rock chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Federation of Press Women, the Arkansas Press Association, and the National Newspaper Association. In 1984, she was elected to the State house of representatives where she served until 1999. While in office, she was the lead sponsor for several bills, including the expansion of the Freedom of Information Act, a bill creating the Arkansas Ethics Commission, and the creation of a sales tax for a research center and endowed chair at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in alcohol abuse prevention. Charlotte's consistent efforts to improve her community and State are both courageous and groundbreaking.

Carolyn Witherspoon graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1974 and continued her education at the UALR School of Law, where she graduated with honors in 1978. Throughout her legal career, Carolyn has advocated for promoting a healthy work-life balance and supported and founded organizations that serve women. She served as the commissioner of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission from 1978 until 1981, when

she became the president of the Arkansas Association of Women's Lawyers. Her law practice has centered on representing private and public employees in defending employment-related matters, including title VII litigation. Her practice has led her to serve as president of the Pulaski County Bar Association and the Arkansas Bar Association, where she became the first woman to hold that position. As one of the top lawyers from Arkansas, she has been honored to serve on the Union Internationale des Advocats. Carolyn has also earned recognition from the American Psychological Association, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the State of Arkansas. Her firm has been honored with the WE WORKs Award three times for incorporating flexibility in workplace practices. Under her direction, Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon, and Galchus is the only firm in the State of Arkansas with 50 percent ownership by female attorneys. Her community involvement includes serving on the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and as former president of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas, as well as providing legal services to low-income people through a program known as VOCALS. We can be proud of Carolyn's contributions to the legal community in our State, country, and internationally.

Diane Frances Divers Kincaid Blair was born in Washington, DC in 1938. She graduated cum laude from Cornell University's Department of Government in 1959. When she returned to Washington, she served as an analyst for the President's Committee on Government Contracts, a research assistant with the Senate Special Committee on Unemployment, and legislative secretary and speechwriter for former U.S. Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri. After marrying Arkansan Hugh Kincaid, she moved to Fayetteville in 1963. Diane completed her master's degree through the Department of Political Science at the University of Arkansas in 1967. The following year, Kincaid became a part-time lecturer in political science at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and in 1979 became an assistant professor of political science. In 1971, Governor Dale Bumpers appointed Diane to chair the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. In 1976, Governor David Pryor selected her to chair a commission on public employee rights. In 1980, she was appointed to the commission for the Arkansas Educational Television Networks, where she served until 1993. She also served as an advisor for the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1992 and 4 years later worked on the President's reelection campaign. President Clinton appointed Diane to the board of directors of the U.S. Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which she later chaired. Diane authored two books, including "Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule?" which is used by many Arkansas colleges and

universities as part of their curriculums. Blair passed away in 2000 of lung cancer, but left behind a legacy of service and dedication to the State of Arkansas.

Louise McPhetridge Thaden was born in Bentonville on a small family farm and became interested in aviation at an early age. She attended the University of Arkansas, but never graduated. Instead, she continued to pursue her love of flying, taking her skills to Kansas and eventually California and working various jobs until she eventually earned her pilot's license. She became the only female pilot to simultaneously hold the women's record for speed, altitude, and solo endurance, beating out Amelia Earhart and other pilots at the National Women's Air Derby in 1929. Together Earhart and Thaden formed the Ninety-Nines, an advocacy group for women pilots. Additionally, Louise opened a flight school for women at the Penn School of Aviation and raised the scholarship money for its first 12 students. In 1932, she set a refueling endurance record of 196 hours in the air over Long Island. In 1936, Louise became the first woman to win the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race from New York to Los Angeles. She was the 1937 recipient of the Harmon Trophy, which is the highest honor given to a female pilot. Her achievements have been honored in numerous ways, including by the community of Bentonville, where its airport now bears her name, as well as by former Governor David Pryor's declaration of August 22 as "Louise M. Thaden Day." She was posthumously inducted into the International Aerospace Hall of Fame in 1999. Louise's pioneering and competitive spirit will continue to inspire future generations of pilots and women for many years to come.

The final inductee, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Beta Pi Omega Chapter, was chartered in Little Rock in 1937. It is the oldest graduate chapter in the State of Arkansas. The chapter's 265 members regularly complete service projects and host health fairs, workshops, education programs, voter drive, and fundraisers. The group's members use their education, skill, and expertise to make an impact in the community. Beta Pi Omega has sponsored the chartering of two new Alpha Kappa Alpha chapters in the State, Gamma Alpha Chapter at Philander Smith College and Epsilon Phi Chapter at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Through the years, over 500 High School seniors and college students have received scholarships or other assistance from Beta Pi Omega. The chapter has been recognized for its programs and partnerships with the Little Rock School District, American Heart Association, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Lions Club International. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Beta Pi Omega chapter has demonstrated a true commitment to improving Arkansas for future genera-

tions of citizens in all corners of the State.

Congratulations to the 2019 Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame inductees. We are grateful for their contributions to our State and the work they have done to inspire all Arkansans to achieve great things and help their neighbors and fellow citizens through their efforts to uplift and improve their communities.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER THOMAS TOBIN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Father Thomas Tobin, of Carter County, for his leadership in the church and devotion to serving the faithful of Montana.

Father Tobin was ordained in a small church in Tipperary, Ireland, in June of 1959, shortly after, he made the trek to Montana in September of 1959. During his 38 years of service, he ministered across Big Sky Country, including in Billings, Hilger, Livingston, Big Sandy, Baker, and Ekalaka.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Tobin has been active in promoting Christian values from his local parish to the broader community.

Father Tobin has been a strong defender of the pro-life movement—regularly defending the rights of the unborn from the pulpit. He has participated in a handful of right-to-life marches and has routinely promoted pro-life activities.

During the days leading up to the 9/11 attacks, Father Tobin was in New York City visiting parishes. When the attacks unfolded, Father Tobin delayed his return home to Montana to pray and minister to the people of New York City.

In addition to his devout faith and commitment to others, Father Tobin has a profound love for our great outdoors. Those who know him best say he can often be found at a local dam or lake with a fishing pole. He also enjoys long drives in the country and taking long walks and hikes.

I am proud to honor Father Tobin as this week's Montanan of the Week. His devotion to his Catholic faith and his community is exemplary of the Montana spirit.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2156. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the Army Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) (OSS-2019-0850); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2157. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2158. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-92, "Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2159. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-93, "Firearms Safety Omnibus Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2160. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-94, "Closing of a Portion of South Dakota Avenue, N.E., Adjacent to Squares 3760 and 3766, S.O. 18-40261, Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2161. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-95, "Warehousing and Storage Eminent Domain Authority Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-96, "Power Line Undergrounding Program Certified Business Enterprise Utilization Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-97, "Children's Hospital Research and Innovation Campus Phase 1 Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2164. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-98, "St. Elizabeths East Redevelopment Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2165. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-99, "Department of Health Functions Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2166. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-107, "Mypheduh Films DBA Sankofa Video and Books Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2019"; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2167. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Electric Power Utilities" (RIN1076-AF31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2019; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2168. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments" (RIN1076-AF40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2019; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Special Report entitled "Review of Legislative Activity During the 115th Congress" (Rept. No. 116-68).

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1441. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1992. A bill to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten, to be General.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on Finance.

*Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

*Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

*Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

*Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

By Mr. HOEVEN for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 2347. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude employer contributions to student loan repayment from income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2348. A bill to restore administrative law judges to the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2349. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to eliminate the common carrier exemption for telecommunications companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2350. A bill to prohibit States from retroactively imposing a sales tax collection duty on a remote seller, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2351. A bill to promote human rights and accountability in Saudi Arabia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 2352. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify nondiscrimination rules to protect older, longer service participants in retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2353. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2354. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2355. A bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2356. A bill to provide a definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2357. A bill to establish a national goal and mechanism to achieve a trade-balancing exchange rate for the United States dollar, to impose market access charge on certain

purchases of United States assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2358. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2359. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require consideration of the assets of a household for broad-based categorical eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2360. A bill to establish an Office of Emerging Markets within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the development of small business concerns in emerging markets, including those owned by women, minorities, veterans, and those located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2361. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase lending to underserved borrowers through the largest loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2362. A bill to establish a process for United States businesses to obtain exclusions from certain duties imposed under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2363. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2364. A bill to enhance domestic marine debris response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2365. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of medical services and facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 2366. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2367. A bill to support the preparation and retention of outstanding educators in all fields to ensure a bright future for children and youth in under-resourced and underserved communities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2368. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 2369. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of grant amounts awarded under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program for construction of fully enclosed committal service shelters in certain State veterans' cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand personal saving and retirement savings coverage by enabling employees not covered by qualifying retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic IRA arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2371. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the Honor and Remember Flag created by Honor and Remember Inc., as an official symbol to recognize and honor members of the Armed Forces who died in service to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2372. A bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2373. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve obstetric care in rural areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2374. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include a prohibition on the listing of a living nonnative species as a threatened species or an endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2375. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2376. A bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2377. A bill to apply the Medicaid asset verification program to all applicants for, and recipients of, medical assistance in all States and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2378. A bill to require reductions in the direct cost of Federal regulations that are proportional to the amount of increases in the debt ceiling; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2379. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of

State Medicaid fraud and abuse control units to investigate and prosecute cases of Medicaid patient abuse and neglect in any setting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2380. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for the transformation of the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2381. A bill to require review by the Government Accountability Office of screening protocols of the Transportation Security Administration relating to breast milk and formula, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2382. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish a program to provide loans to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 2383. A bill to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchises whose franchisees use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2384. A bill to promote botanical research and botanical sciences capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2385. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, including by encouraging the provision of broadband loans and grants to increase broadband service in emerging harbor projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2386. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to surveillance in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2387. A bill establish a process by which reasonable drug prices may be determined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of significant fires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2389. A bill to provide access to counsel for children and other vulnerable populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2390. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Fed-

eral law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2391. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to impose requirements relating to the purchase of certain equity securities by issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2392. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the circumstances under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide reimbursement for emergency ambulance services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2393. A bill to promote a 21st century energy workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2394. A bill to require certain reports and briefings to Congress relating to the expiration of the New START Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2395. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2396. A bill to protect United States citizens and residents from unlawful profiling, arrest, and detention and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2397. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to State and Tribal courts in order to allow the electronic service of certain court orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2398. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to ensure privacy with respect to voter information; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2399. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve State loan eligibility for projects for innovative technology; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2401. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2402. A bill to enhance the safety of Class 3 flammable liquid transportation by rail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2403. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide loans for the acquisition of electric buses and related infrastructure; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2404. A bill to establish an expansive infrastructure program to create local jobs and raise the quality of life in every community, to launch middle class career pathways in infrastructure, and to invest in high quality American jobs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2405. A bill to establish additional protections and disclosures for students and co-signers with respect to student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2406. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Health Service Corps Rural Provider Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2407. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for individuals acting as agents or attorneys for the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim under a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs without being recognized by the Secretary for such purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2408. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a national telehealth program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2409. A bill to authorize the President to take certain actions relating to reciprocal trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2410. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the requirements for permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2411. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a rural health center innovation awards program and a rural health department enhancement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JONES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. SINEMA):

S.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to "State Relief and Empowerment Waivers"; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 294. A resolution designating August 16, 2019, as "National Airborne Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 295. A resolution designating the month of September 2019 as "Campus Fire Safety Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 296. A resolution congratulating the United States Women's National Soccer Team for winning the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 297. A resolution commending the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its significant accomplishments and contributions to the economic and social development of the Americas; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 298. A resolution concurring with the decision to withdraw the United States from the INF Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 299. A resolution designating the first week in August 2019 as "World Breastfeeding Week", and designating August 2019 as "National Breastfeeding Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITE-

HOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 300. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 301. A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the return of the Indiana Rangers; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 302. A resolution designating September 2019 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JONES, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Con. Res. 23. A concurrent resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 340, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from

Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 636

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified

personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to modify the microloan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1071

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1071, a bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify limitations on the credit for plug-in electric drive motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1134

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1134, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from nuclear energy.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide a guarantee of residency for registration of businesses of spouses of members of the uniformed services, to improve occupational license portability for military spouses through interstate compacts, and for other purposes.

S. 1522

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to improve broadband data collection, mapping, and validation to support the effective deployment of broadband services to all areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, an assessment of the total amount of nonhighway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury and transferred to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. COONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, *supra*.

S. 1721

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1721, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gay and trans panic defenses.

S. 1750

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, *supra*.

S. 1782

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1881, a bill to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to require the recording and reporting of communications between the Department of Justice and the White House relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 1953

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to include the setting of reference prices for aluminum premiums, and for other purposes.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2024, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the American History for Freedom grant program.

S. 2026

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD-VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2185

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to provide labor stand-

ards for certain energy jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2237

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, a bill to authorize the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil monetary penalties to deter violations of section 2 of the Sherman Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, *supra*.

S. 2240

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2240, a bill to promote digital citizenship and media literacy.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian tribe grants for community colleges and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2257

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2257, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2260

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2260, a bill to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to intensify stem cell research showing evidence of substantial clinical benefit to patients, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, relating to "Contributions in Exchange for State or Local Tax Credits".

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect

on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 277

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 277, a resolution remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attacks.

S. RES. 285

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 285, a resolution designating September 2019 as "School Bus Safety Month".

S. RES. 289

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 289, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that socialism poses a significant threat to freedom, liberty, and economic prosperity.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2349. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to eliminate the common carrier exemption for telecommunications companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the introduction of the Protection from Robocalling Act of 2019. This bill would address the problem of illegal robocalls and spam calls. I thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUMENTHAL for cosponsoring this legislation.

Last year, I introduced this legislation to address the nuisance of illegal robocalling.

Since then, these calls have become even more prevalent. For example, last month alone, an estimated 4.7 billion robocalls were placed in the United States—nearly one billion more than the year prior. That amounts to 153 million calls per day, or nearly 2,000 robocalls placed each second. Some of these calls are organized scams.

In one case, one robocall company called people offering to help lower

their credit card interest rates. Instead, it tricked them into giving up sensitive personal information, including their Social Security numbers.

Another company dialed millions of phone numbers on the Do Not Call registry trying to find new customers for a third-party service, contacting a single number more than 1,000 times in the same year. Robocall companies are also engaged in credit card and loan scams.

What's worse, robocalling is now endangering the health and safety of Americans by tying up emergency service lines. Tufts Medical Center in Boston received more than 4,500 illegal robocalls in the span of two hours last April. Each time the medical staff had to answer one of those robocalls could have been an instance when someone who needed life-saving help was unable to get through to a medical professional.

One reason the problem is increasing is because the cost of making and deploying these calls is decreasing. Advances in software make it possible for one person to send out thousands of identical prerecorded messages every second, more quickly and more cheaply than employing scores of human telemarketing agents.

In addition, technology is making it even easier for illegal robocallers to hide their true identity and location. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology enables robocallers to launch their call campaigns from anywhere in the world. And new technology allows illegal robocallers to disguise where they are actually calling from. This technique, known as "spoofing," tricks consumers into thinking they are receiving a local call.

The Federal Trade Commission now receives nearly 10,000 robocall complaints every day. With its broad consumer protection authority, the Commission plays a critical role in stopping illegal robocalling. But due to an historic exemption, the Commission has no enforcement authority over telecoms.

When the FTC Act was enacted in 1914, this exemption was put in place because telecoms were monopolies and subject to heavy regulation so FTC enforcement was not needed. In the decades that followed, that regulatory oversight was rolled back, while the exemption remained in place. This created an uneven playing field. A set of federal rules and regulations protecting consumers applied to most industries, but not all.

We must give the Commission the authority they need to pursue complete relief for American consumers. The Protection from Robocalling Act of 2019 removes telecoms from the common carrier exemption in the law. By eliminating this special exemption, telecoms will now have to abide by the same consumer protection standards in areas such as privacy and advertising that apply to other sectors already subject to the FTC's jurisdiction.

It's a matter of fairness, as well as common sense. There's no reason that consumer data held by a broadband service should have more protection under the law than the same data held by their wireless service.

Robocalls are a problem for everyone with a cell phone. It is a problem that is only going to get worse. And we can't expect our law enforcement agencies to keep up with today's technologies if their hands are tied.

We need to be smarter about how we approach this problem. Going after the robocallers and installing call blocking technology on phones is fine; but we need to strike at the systems that they use to perpetrate their scams if we want to see a real difference.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation that will help consumers fight back against illegal robocalling.

I yield the floor.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2360. A bill to establish an Office of Emerging Markets within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the development of small business concerns in emerging markets, including those owned by women, minorities, veterans, and those located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Unlocking Opportunities in Emerging Markets Act, which establishes an Office of Emerging Markets (OEM) within the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Capital Access to ensure that SBA's access to capital initiatives address the specific needs of entrepreneurs in underserved domestic emerging markets.

Capital is the lifeblood of small businesses, but for women, minorities, veterans and other underserved entrepreneurs, access to capital remains the key roadblock to owning and operating a successful business.

The challenges that underserved entrepreneurs face are historic and pervasive with minority and women entrepreneurs, for example, having less wealth from which to fund new businesses.

Black families have \$17,150 in wealth and Hispanic families have \$20,720 in wealth, while White families have \$171,000 in wealth. Similarly, women have \$3 in wealth for every \$10 men have.

These historical barriers are compounded by systemic inequality in the capital markets. Minority-owned business are two to three times more likely to be denied credit; more likely to avoid applying for loans, based on the belief that they will be turned down; and more likely to receive smaller loans and pay higher interest rates on the loans that they do receive. Rural businesses owners often face an uphill battle to secure funding for their startups. And women are significantly

less likely than men to be approved for a business loan and are more likely to experience funding gaps.

SBA was created to solve these very problems, but instead of being a solution, lending patterns in the agency's largest loan programs mirror these trends. During Fiscal Year 2018, only 4.5 percent of all loans approved by SBA's highest volume loan program—7(a)—went to Black entrepreneurs. Another 8.5 percent went to Hispanic entrepreneurs, while 59 percent went to white borrowers.

Despite these challenges, SBA does not have the coordinated effort required to address them. In multiple hearings in the Small Business Committee, SBA has not been able to explain how they are addressing these urgent issues. By creating OEM, and empowering a Senior Executive Service level director to lead the office, we in Congress can ensure that SBA is giving the problems that underserved entrepreneurs face the attention and resources they deserve.

Eliminating disparities in the capital markets for underserved business owners is not just the right thing to do, it will spur growth in the American economy.

In the years since the Great Recession, minority-owned small businesses have been driving the growth of small business formation in spite of the significant headwinds they face. Just imagine what they could do if SBA was laser focused on removing some of those headwinds. SBA has helped level the playing field for underserved communities in government contracting, and entrepreneurial development, but access to capital is the only major area where there is no office specific to the needs of underserved communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical piece of legislation, so SBA can begin making the concerted effort required to help more underserved entrepreneurs overcome barriers, start successful businesses, and create jobs.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2361. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase lending to underserved borrowers through the largest loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Closing the Credit Gap Act to make the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Community Advantage program permanent.

SBA created Community Advantage in 2011 to provide capital and support to small businesses that have been historically underserved by SBA's highest volume loan program, 7(a).

Community Advantage allows non-profit mission lenders like SBA micro-lenders, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and SBA 504 lenders to make 7(a) loans of up to \$250,000 to small businesses.

The program has shown year after year that it is more capable of getting capital into the hands of minority, women and veteran entrepreneurs than the 7(a) program. During Fiscal Year 2018, the most recent year for which complete data is available, only 4.5 percent of 7(a) approvals went to Black business owners compared to 12 percent of Community Advantage approvals; 9 percent of 7(a) approvals went to Hispanic borrowers compared to 17 percent in the Community Advantage program; women-owned businesses received only 18 percent of 7(a) approvals while receiving 30 percent of all Community Advantage approvals; and veterans, who only received 4 percent of 7(a) approvals, received 10 percent of approvals in the Community Advantage program.

Capital is the lifeblood of small businesses, so for many women, minority, veteran and other underserved entrepreneurs, Community Advantage is a lifeline, because the program fills a gap in traditional credit markets.

Minority-owned business are two to three times more likely to be denied credit; more likely to avoid applying for loans, based on the belief that they will be turned down; and more likely to receive smaller loans and pay higher interest rates on the loans that they do receive. Rural businesses owners often face an uphill battle to secure funding for their startups. And women are significantly less likely than men to be approved for a business loan and are more likely to experience funding gaps.

My bill will make this vital program a permanent loan product administered by SBA, and it will allow SBA to lift the cap up to \$350,000 from \$250,000 to help borrowers in more expensive regions and industries, as well as victims of abusive loan products.

My home State of Maryland has the highest concentration of minority- and women-owned businesses in the country. That designation makes me proud, but it also makes me think of the countless entrepreneurs whose dreams of business ownership or growth remain unfulfilled because they could not get financing.

If we pass the Closing the Credit Gap Act, we can empower more entrepreneurs who have the ideas but not the networks or capital needed to start and grow their businesses and create jobs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2390. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 2390

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

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF DEATH SENTENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person may be sentenced to death or put to death on or after the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law.

(b) PERSONS SENTENCED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person sentenced to death before the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law shall be resentenced.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 2400

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Cannabis Research and Information Act".

SEC. 2. CANNABIS RESEARCH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

(a) NATIONAL CANNABIS RESEARCH AGENCY.—Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 409K. NATIONAL CANNABIS RESEARCH AGENCY.

"Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Expanding Cannabis Research and Information Act, the Director of NIH, in collaboration with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall develop a national cannabis research agenda that addresses key questions and gaps in evidence, including with respect to each of the following:

"(1) The efficacy of cannabis in providing therapeutic benefits for certain priority diseases or conditions, which may include epilepsy, multiple sclerosis-related spasticity, chemotherapy-induced pain and discomfort, using cannabis as an alternative to opioid analgesics for acute or chronic pain, sleep apnea, Tourette syndrome, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and any other disease or condition determined to be appropriate and of importance by the Director.

"(2) The effect of cannabis on at-risk populations, including children, older individuals, and pregnant or breast-feeding women.

"(3) The long-term effects of cannabis use, including dose-response relationship and the connection between cannabis use and behavioral health.

"(4) The clinically appropriate modes of delivery of cannabis.

"(5) Public safety considerations related to cannabis, including—

"(A) variation in the potency of cannabis products;

"(B) youth access to and use of cannabis, including marketing, packaging, edible formulations, and flavor options that target youth;

"(C) risk factors for cannabis misuse;

"(D) impaired driving related to cannabis use; and

“(E) accidental ingestion of cannabis.”.

(b) **SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES.**—Part A of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 310B. SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES ON CANNABIS USE.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, shall carry out surveillance activities to collect population-wide data on cannabis use.

“(b) **PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary may collect, as appropriate, with respect to cannabis use—

“(A) data on—

“(i) health outcomes, including biological data;

“(ii) health care utilization, which shall include hospitalizations and utilization of emergency departments related to consumption of cannabis, including among youth;

“(iii) demographic factors associated with cannabis use;

“(iv) the variety of products and delivery modes used; and

“(v) other relevant health information to improve the understanding of cannabis use in all age groups and sub-populations; and

“(B) data through public health surveillance systems, surveys, questionnaires, and databases of health care records, including, as appropriate, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, the Monitoring the Future health survey, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, or the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (or any successor surveys).

“(2) **PRIVACY.**—Any data collected under paragraph (1) shall be collected in manner that protects personal privacy to the extent, at a minimum, that is required under applicable Federal and State law.”.

SEC. 3. RESCHEDULING OF MARIHUANA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of schedule I of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (10).

(b) **SCHEDULE III.**—Schedule III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) Marihuana.”.

SEC. 4. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANNABIS RESEARCH.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.), as amended by section 2(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 409L. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANNABIS RESEARCH.

“(a) **DESIGNATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of NIH shall designate institutions of higher education as Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research for the purpose of interdisciplinary research related to cannabis and other biomedical, behavioral, and social issues related to cannabis. No institution of higher education may be designated as a Center unless an application therefor has been submitted to, and approved by, the Director of NIH. Such an application shall be submitted in such manner and contain such information as the Director of NIH may reasonably require. The Director of NIH may not approve such an application unless—

“(A) the application contains or is supported by reasonable assurances that—

“(i) at least 1 individual employed by the applicant—

“(I) is registered under section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act to conduct research with controlled substances in schedule III of section 202(c) of that Act; and

“(II) is an active participant in the cannabis research activities of the applicant;

“(ii) the applicant has not had a registration to conduct research with controlled substances under section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act denied, revoked, or suspended under section 304 of that Act;

“(iii) the applicant has the experience, or capability, to conduct, through biomedical, behavioral, social, and related disciplines, long-term research on cannabis and to provide coordination of such research among such disciplines;

“(iv) the applicant has available to it sufficient personnel and facilities (including laboratory, reference, storage, security, and data analysis facilities) to carry out the research plan required under subparagraph (B); and

“(v) the applicant has the capacity to conduct academic courses and train students and professionals on appropriate research and knowledge of cannabis; and

“(B) the application contains a detailed 5-year plan for research relating to cannabis.

“(2) **GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.**—The Director of NIH shall ensure geographic representation across the United States in designating institutions of higher education as Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research.

“(3) **TERM OF DESIGNATION.**—A designation under this section shall be for a period of 5 years. An institution of higher education may reapply in accordance with the requirements under paragraph (1) for a subsequent designation under this section.

“(b) **CANNABIS RESEARCH.**—

“(1) **GRANTS OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of NIH may make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, Centers that have been designated under this section to expand the current and ongoing interdisciplinary research and clinical trials relating to cannabis research.

“(B) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available under a grant or cooperative agreement under subparagraph (A) may be used to address key questions and gaps in evidence addressed by the national cannabis research agenda described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 409K.

“(2) **RESEARCH RESULTS.**—The Director of NIH shall promptly disseminate research results under this subsection to relevant governmental, academic, and research entities.

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **CANNABIS.**—The term ‘cannabis’ has the meaning given the term ‘marihuana’ in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act.

“(2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.”.

(b) **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)) is amended by adding after the period at the end the following: “The Attorney General shall register under this part practitioners at Centers of Excellence in Cannabis Research designated under section 409L of the Public Health Service Act to conduct research with marihuana. No separate registration shall be required for each individual employed by a Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research who is conducting research described in subsection (a)(1) of that section and in accordance with applicable State and local laws, nor shall separate registrations be required for distinct research activities, including research activities re-

lated to distinct constituent compounds of marihuana or amended protocols. The registration shall expire on the date on which the entity is no longer designated as such a Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research under that section. A Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research registered under this part may cultivate marihuana, including any constituent component of marihuana, to conduct research under this part if the Attorney General has determined that the research to be conducted is for legitimate scientific research and is consistent with effective controls against diversion. A Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research may contract with such additional manufacturers of marihuana registered under this section to meet the needs of the Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research to the maximum extent permissible under international treaties to which the United States is a signatory and which govern marihuana. Before entering into such contract, the Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research shall submit to the Attorney General a request to enter into the contract that includes information to demonstrate the experience or capability of the contractor to conduct such cultivation and assurances that the contractor will comply with the provisions of this Act. Not later than 60 days after the date on which the request is submitted, the request shall be deemed to be approved by the Attorney General, unless the Attorney General determines that the granting of such request is inconsistent with the public interest. A Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research registered under this section may purchase or acquire commercially available marihuana for the purpose of research described in section 409L(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act in accordance with the law of the State in which the transaction occurs. No Federal funds may be used by the Center of Excellence in Cannabis Research for such purchase or acquisition.”.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2410. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the requirements for permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, in my maiden floor speech on May 9, I spoke on behalf of thousands of Mississippians suffering from consecutive months of catastrophic flooding in the South Mississippi Delta.

Today I rise again to speak on behalf of thousands of Mississippians who are still suffering from catastrophic flooding, which started in January and continues to disrupt the lives of residents in the Mississippi Delta and my State overall.

Floodwaters must recede before damages can be fully assessed, but we already know that more than 600 households have suffered severe damage, nearly 400 families have been displaced since February, and agricultural losses will likely exceed \$800 million. Much of the necessary infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and drainage culverts are beyond repair.

In June, LaTameela Taylor—13 weeks pregnant—and Darron Wilson died when their car lost control and sank into the floodwaters. Something must be done.

My colleagues might ask: How could an area more than 11 times the size of Washington, DC, remain underwater for nearly 7 months? How could floodwaters swamp more than half a million acres of homes, businesses, highways, forests, and farmlands spanning six Mississippi counties for so long?

The answer is quite simple. Similar to New Orleans, a complex system of levees and floodgates constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protected the roughly 1,446-square-mile Yazoo Backwater area in West Central Mississippi. This levee system protects the areas when the Mississippi River is high and the floodgates are closed. However, these same protections become the problem when the river is high, floodgates are closed, and excess rainfall occurs. The interior creeks and rivers have no way to drain, and the result is a bathtub-like effect.

Unlike New Orleans and numerous Federal flood control projects up and down the Mississippi River, there is no mechanism to remove the trapped water from the Yazoo Backwater area. Aside from evaporation, pumping is the only viable option for removing vast amounts of water that have no place to go.

This year, the Mississippi River remained above flood stage longer than anytime in recorded history. The floodgates to prevent the Mississippi River from backing up into the Yazoo Backwater area were closed in January. Above-average rainfall occurred in the months thereafter, and here we are today with a disaster on our hands.

For nearly 7 months, more than a half million acres of land—866-square-mile area—has been underwater. Little attention outside of Mississippi was paid to the lives lost, the destroyed homes, or the displaced families.

Roughly, 225,000 acres of agricultural crops have been destroyed or will go unplanted this year. Hundreds of thousands of acres of Timberland ruined. Whitetail deer, black bear, turkey, and other wildlife are starving to death and spreading the disease, as you can see from these pictures. Wetlands have become lakes. Stagnant, contaminated water continues to threaten human and environmental health. The list goes on.

Paul Hartfield, an endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said: “This is biblical proportion. Nothing like this has ever been seen.”

While he is correct in that the current situation in the South Mississippi Delta is a complete disaster—the worst backwater flood since 1973—devastating flooding in the area has become almost an annual occurrence.

This year marks the 10th time the Yazoo Backwater area has flooded since 2008, each time causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. The area residents cannot sustain this, and they certainly do not deserve this.

According to U.S. census data, roughly 35 percent of the residents of the six-

county area live in poverty. The median household income is \$31,187 per year below the national average. This perpetual flooding plagues agriculture production, which has damaged the primary economic mainstay in this region and increased unemployment. I fear what the 2020 census will reveal.

In a 1982 environmental impact statement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stated the following:

Flooding in the Yazoo Area is historic and will continue as long as pumps are not constructed to complete the flood control system for the area. The flooding will continue to damage crops, homes, roads, and other improvements in the area project.

In a 2007 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the Corps stated the following:

The no-action alternative would not eliminate any of the flood damages the area has historically experienced. Existing Yazoo Backwater flood duration and frequency would continue to adversely affect residential and nonresidential structures. Flooding would also have adverse impacts on the standard of living for residents, interrupting daily practices and travel to work, school, and church.

The Corps of Engineers was accurate in its predictions. Mississippians are living these predictions out in real life, and they have for years. It is time for the people of Mississippi to receive the level of flood protection promised to them by the Federal Government in 1941. It is time for the Corps of Engineers to complete the last remaining unconstructed feature of a 77-year flood control effort—the Yazoo Backwater pumps.

The people of Mississippi are beyond ready to see this crisis resolved. They are, frankly, extremely frustrated with the Federal Government. More than 17,000 people have signed a petition to remove an Environmental Protection Agency 2008 regulatory veto preventing construction of the pumps. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and many other State leaders and organizations have been overwhelmingly in their support and advocacy for the pumps.

I am grateful for this administration's responsiveness to Mississippi's perpetual flood problems and needs, and I will continue to work with the administration, relevant Federal Government agencies and departments to see this through.

As I continue working to provide greater predictability and regulatory certainty for Mississippians and the American public, I am committed in my capacity as a U.S. Senator to proposing commonsense reforms to the laws governing the regulation of our Nation's waters and permitting process.

For this reason, I, along with the senior Senator from Mississippi, have introduced the Flood Reduction, Wildlife Habitat, and Water Quality Improvement Act of 2019. This legislation seeks to make commonsense reforms to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Our bill mirrors the directives outlined in Executive Order No. 13807 issued by President Donald Trump on August 24, 2017, and would establish greater discipline and accountability in the environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects.

More specifically, it would prohibit EPA from vetoing a Corps of Engineers flood control project specifically authorized by Congress. This is a basic constitutional principle of separation of powers. Further, upon enactment, it would immediately nullify any prior veto determinations made by EPA if said actions had resulted in severe flooding and damage to life and property.

In closing, the arguments I have heard in opposition to this project are not valid. Pumps will save lives, property, local infrastructure, wildlife, and the environment. As we are here going about our daily lives, enjoying the comfort of the home we will return to today after work, these Mississippians are just trying to get through the next 30 minutes to keep their sanity and emotions intact. The real-life experiences Mississippians have endured over time tell the true story.

It is time for the Federal Government to make good on its promises. It is time to construct the pumps.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I congratulate the junior Senator from Mississippi, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I thank her for her leadership. She took the lead on this legislation, and I am delighted and honored to join her in this regard.

If Americans could take a moment, a few hours, to come to the South Delta of Mississippi and see for themselves what Senator HYDE-SMITH is talking about, they would understand the gravity of this situation.

She mentioned 7 months. If you are there today, you see dead wildlife floating on the floodwaters. You see coffins that had been buried that are floating on the surface of the floodwater in this area. There is no prospect of an income this year on these small farms and no prospect of a crop this year from some of the most fertile land the United States has been blessed with.

The tragedy of this is that it is entirely preventable. The prevention involves a promise that was made, as the Senator from Mississippi said, back in 1941 when this country and this Congress collectively adopted the Mississippi River and Tributaries System. That system included, up and down the river, a series of levees and flood-control structures. It also included a series of pumps. We are the only State that still, after this entire time, doesn't have our pump that has been promised to us.

There have been environmental challenges along the way—unsubstantiated, I might add. As a matter of fact, the environment is harmed, wildlife is harmed when a flood of this magnitude comes into the area, as graphically

demonstrated by some of the photographs the Senator has offered.

She mentioned the bathtub effect. Let me make sure my colleagues understand this. When the Mississippi floods, the Yazoo River backs up into the delta. As a result, we put down a floodgate, and that is designed to keep the flooded Yazoo River from backing up into this fertile farmland.

We had made a promise—or at least we thought we had a promise—to people with property 87 feet above sea level that when the floodwater behind the floodgate reaches 87, we would start pumping and pump that water back into the Mississippi River, where it has a minimal effect. This gives certainty. We know there is going to be a flood. People with property 87 feet above sea level and below know they are going to be flooded. But the promise of the pump is that if you have land that is above 87 feet, you can build a house there, you can put your business there, you can plant your crop there, and you can be certain that you will get the same protection from flooding as everybody else up and down the Mississippi River Tributary System gets. That is the promise that everybody else gets but has been foreclosed to us.

So I congratulate the Senator for thinking of this solution. That is a piece of legislation that would correct this problem. Clearly, it would also help if we simply got the Corps and the EPA to agree that the decision 10 years or so ago was made incorrectly and let us have what the rest of the system has; that is, a flood-control promise that gives us certainty that we can conduct our business, have a home, and conduct our lives as it was promised. That is all we are asking for. For 7 months this year and for weeks and months in previous years, we have been denied that.

I want to congratulate the Senator and associate myself with the remarks of the junior Senator from Mississippi and thank her for her leadership in thinking of this particular solution, which would give us a remedy, but also say that there are other ways this could be solved. We deserve the certainty that everyone else up and down the Mississippi system now has, and we deserve to have that promise made to us back in the 1940s fulfilled even at this late date.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2019, AS “NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY”

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 294

Whereas the members of the airborne forces of the Armed Forces of the United States have a long and honorable history as bold and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and to the far corners of the world;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, experiments with airborne operations by the United States began when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War;

Whereas, in July 1940, 48 volunteers began training for the Army Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump, which took place on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately before the entry of the United States into World War II validated the airborne operational concept and led to the creation of a formidable force of airborne formations that included the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions;

Whereas, included in those divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and combat service support units that served with distinction and achieved repeated success in armed hostilities during World War II;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne units during World War II prompted the evolution of those units into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the members of the United States airborne forces, including members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, and other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the modern-day airborne forces also include other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control and pararescue teams;

Whereas, of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, dozens have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with the special skills and achievements of those members, distinguishes the members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in the past, glider troops;

Whereas individuals from every State of the United States have served gallantly in the airborne forces, and each State is proud of the contributions of its paratrooper veterans during the many conflicts faced by the United States;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and

Whereas, since the airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2019, as “National Airborne Day”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 295

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and other States have tragically cut short the lives of several young people;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 people, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of those deaths occurred in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated the fire safety systems;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building occupants;

Whereas many college students live in an off-campus occupancy, fraternity or sorority house, or residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system and an automatic fire alarm system or adequate smoke alarm;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college;

Whereas educating young people in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young people engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and

Whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of September 2019 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the United States—

(A) to provide educational programs about fire safety to all college students in September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on-campus and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through—

- (i) fire safety education;
- (ii) installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms; and
- (iii) the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 296

Whereas on July 7, 2019, in Lyon, France, the United States Women's National Soccer Team (referred to in this preamble as the "USWNT") won the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup (referred to in this preamble as the "Women's World Cup");

Whereas during the Women's World Cup the USWNT finished first in its group before eliminating teams representing Spain, France, and England in the knockout stages to reach the final;

Whereas the USWNT secured a decisive 2–0 victory over the Netherlands in the final, winning the Women's World Cup championship twice in a row and becoming the first team to win the Women's World Cup 4 times;

Whereas the USWNT scored the first goal in every match it played during the Women's World Cup;

Whereas, in the final match against the Netherlands, Megan Rapinoe scored in the 61st minute and Rose Lavelle scored in the 69th minute of the match;

Whereas Crystal Dunn, Alyssa Naeher, and other members of the defensive line played key roles in preventing the Netherlands from scoring against the United States;

Whereas all 23 players on the roster should be congratulated, including captains Carli Lloyd, Alex Morgan, and Megan Rapinoe, as well as Morgan Brian, Abby Dahlkemper, Tierna Davidson, Crystal Dunn, Julie Ertz, Adrianna Franch, Ashlyn Harris, Tobin Heath, Lindsey Horan, Ali Krieger, Rose Lavelle, Allie Long, Jessica McDonald, Samantha Mewis, Alyssa Naeher, Kelley O'Hara, Christen Press, Mallory Pugh, Becky Sauerbrunn, and Emily Sonnett;

Whereas head coach Jill Ellis, the first coach to win consecutive FIFA Women's World Cup titles, displayed extraordinary

leadership in adjusting the team's starting lineup as the tournament progressed in order to promote teamwork and capitalize on the talents of each player;

Whereas Megan Rapinoe was presented with the Golden Boot award, which is awarded to the individual who scores the most goals in the tournament, and the Golden Ball award, which is awarded to the tournament's best player;

Whereas Alex Morgan was presented with the Silver Boot award, which is awarded to the individual who scores the second-most goals in the tournament, and Rose Lavelle was presented with the Bronze Ball award, which is awarded to the third-best player in the tournament;

Whereas the USWNT was bolstered by historic attacking prowess, setting all-time records for goals scored in a single game and throughout the entire Women's World Cup, as well as a strong defensive record, conceding only 3 goals over 7 games;

Whereas every participant in the Women's World Cup from nations all over the world showed the extraordinary quality and spirit of women's soccer, and will serve as an inspiration to not only women and girls, but to all people as they chase their dreams;

Whereas for decades the USWNT has been leading the fight to grow and promote women's soccer;

Whereas the USWNT is leading the fight for equal pay for female athletes; and

Whereas dedicated fans and citizens across the United States showed their unmitigated support for the USWNT as they competed in France: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the USWNT for winning the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup through spectacular skill, teamwork, and determination;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the USWNT;

(3) stands in solidarity with the women of the USWNT as they fight for equal pay; and

(4) celebrates the contributions of the millions of fans across the United States, and the world, who cheered the USWNT to victory, and made the players the best supported team in the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—COMMENDING THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF) ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR ITS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 297

Whereas December 30, 2019, marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Inter-American Foundation (referred to in this preamble as the "IAF"), an independent Federal agency in the United States that prioritizes sustainable, community-led development across Latin America and the Caribbean;

Whereas the IAF was created under section 401 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f) "to achieve conditions in the Western Hemisphere under which the dignity and the worth of each human person will be respected and under which all men will be afforded the opportunity to develop their po-

tential, to seek through gainful and productive work the fulfillment of their aspirations for a better life, and to live in justice and peace";

Whereas the IAF invests in effective grassroots solutions that promote prosperity and peace, and advance the growth of democratic institutions;

Whereas the unique development model of the IAF, applied through more than 5,000 community-led grants, has empowered millions of marginalized and underserved people in the Americas to achieve dignified livelihoods, effective civil engagement, and safer, more peaceful, and more just communities;

Whereas the IAF's model—

(1) has demonstrated that making direct grants to grassroots groups and civil society organizations in underserved and vulnerable communities is cost-effective;

(2) fosters self-reliance by requiring grantees to mobilize local resources for their own projects and by connecting them to networks of new partners;

(3) leverages additional resources from private and community partners; and

(4) incentivizes broad civic engagement and local ownership of community development;

Whereas the IAF—by investing in grassroots approaches that create businesses, jobs, and leadership opportunities in communities—reinforces the commitment of individuals to strengthening their own communities;

Whereas investments made by the IAF have created an extensive network of grassroots innovators and changemakers who—

(1) are positively disposed to the United States;

(2) are better positioned to partner with other United States Government agencies and other public and private funders; and

(3) have gone on to leadership roles at the local and national levels;

Whereas investments made by the IAF have improved the quality of life and democracy in the Americas by strengthening the capacity of individuals to participate in civic life, engage constructively with their local officials, and hold their governments accountable;

Whereas, by listening and responding to the priorities of communities and investing in projects that utilize and validate local knowledge and expertise, the IAF has fostered trust and goodwill with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean; and

Whereas the IAF's support of community-led efforts designed to increase opportunities for development and the strengthening of civil society and democratic governance has advanced the national interests of the United States and promoted democratic values across the Western Hemisphere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Inter-American Foundation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its establishment for its significant contributions to strengthening democracy, peace, and economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(2) recognizes that the bottom-up approach of the Inter-American Foundation empowers individuals in marginalized and underserved communities to be leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers in development processes;

(3) recognizes that the Inter-American Foundation advances the foreign policy of the United States Government and contributes directly to the national interests of the United States; and

(4) commits to continue to support the vital work of the Inter-American Foundation as an independent agency.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE UNITED STATES FROM THE INF TREATY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 298

Whereas, since 2014, the United States Government has found the Russian Federation to be in violation of the limitations in the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, together with the Memorandum of Understanding and Two Protocols, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the “INF Treaty”);

Whereas, per Article XV of the INF Treaty, “Each Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Treaty have jeopardized its supreme interests. It shall give notice of its decision to withdraw to the other Party six months prior to withdrawal from this Treaty.”;

Whereas, on February 2, 2019, the United States notified the Russian Federation of its intent to withdraw from the INF Treaty;

Whereas the period of six month notice, required by Article XV of the INF Treaty, will close on August 2, 2019; and

Whereas, during the six month notice period, the Russian Federation made no attempt to return to compliance with the terms of the INF Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in accordance with all powers delegated and implied to Congress, concurs with the decision to withdraw the United States from the INF Treaty; and

(2) declares that—

(A) the United States is freed and exonerated from the stipulations of the INF Treaty; and

(B) the treaty shall not be regarded as legally obligatory on the Government or citizens of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST 2019 AS “WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2019 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 299

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a baby be fed exclusively through breastfeeding for about the first 6 months after the birth of the baby, followed by continued breastfeeding as complementary foods are introduced, with con-

tinuation of breastfeeding for 1 year or longer as mutually desired by the mother and infant;

Whereas the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has designated the first week of August as “World Breastfeeding Week”, and the United States Breastfeeding Committee has designated August as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

Whereas National Breastfeeding Month focuses on how data and measurement can be used to build and reinforce the connections between breastfeeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives;

Whereas World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month provide important opportunities to address barriers to breastfeeding faced by families across the United States and around the world;

Whereas, according to the 2016 Breastfeeding Report Card of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 81.1 percent of mothers in the United States, or about 4 out of every 5 mothers in the United States, start breastfeeding their babies at the birth of their baby;

Whereas by the end of 6 months after the birth of a baby, breastfeeding rates for mothers in the United States fall to 51.8 percent, and only 22.3 percent of babies in the United States are exclusively breastfed at 6 months of age;

Whereas 2 of every 3 mothers report that they are unable to reach their personal breastfeeding goals;

Whereas there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding initiation and duration;

Whereas, in 2014, 85.7 percent of non-Hispanic White infants were breastfed, as compared to—

(1) 68.0 percent of non-Hispanic Black infants; and

(2) 79.5 percent of non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native infants;

Whereas the Healthy People 2020 objectives for breastfeeding are that—

(1) 82 percent of babies are breastfed at some time;

(2) 61 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 6 months; and

(3) 34 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 1 year;

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by new research;

Whereas a 2016 study of maternal and pediatric health outcomes and associated costs based on 2012 breastfeeding rates indicates that if 90 percent of infants were breastfed according to medical recommendations, 3,340 deaths, \$3,000,000,000 in medical costs, and \$14,200,000,000 in costs relating to premature death would be prevented annually;

Whereas the great majority of pregnant women and new mothers want to breastfeed but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings; and

Whereas a 2016 study found that universal breastfeeding—

(1) could prevent 800,000 child deaths per year across the world; and

(2) is an invaluable tool for mothers to provide essential nutrients to protect newborns against infectious diseases in developing countries; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2019 as “World Breastfeeding Week”;

(2) designates August 2019 as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

(3) supports the goals of World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month; and

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all mothers who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care insurers, employers, researchers, and government entities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 300—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 300

Whereas the week of April 1, 2019, through April 7, 2019, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2019 is “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.”;

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2019 is to recognize the contributions of public health to—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, in 2017, the life expectancy for the United States population declined for the third year in a row, and some of the leading causes of death are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems;

Whereas there is a significant difference in the health status of people living in the healthiest States compared to people living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease;

Whereas, despite significant progress in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017, the number of infant deaths in the United States greatly varies among States;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related deaths in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, and an estimated 60 percent of maternal deaths are preventable;

Whereas poisoning, including drug overdose, has become the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with the number of drug overdoses more than tripling between 1999 and 2016;

Whereas, on average, 130 people in the United States die every day from an opioid overdose;

Whereas the smoking of cigarettes is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005 to 14 percent of the population in 2017;

Whereas, according to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, between 2017 and 2018, current electronic cigarette use by students in the United States increased by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent among middle school students;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals on issues that are important to

improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas vaccination is 1 of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) the amount of health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to—

(1) a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths;

(2) a 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;

(3) a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and

(4) a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the Zika virus and measles;

(2) natural disasters; and

(3) disasters caused by human activity;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners that are not in the health sector, such as city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors have an important influence on health;

Whereas, in communities across the United States, people are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, becoming more physically active, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in improving the health of individuals in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to improve the health of people in the United States and make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest nation in the world—

(A) by providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(B) by strengthening the public health system in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 301—HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE INDIANA RANGERS

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 301

Whereas the lineage of the 151st Infantry Regiment of the Indiana National Guard dates back to the formation of the 2nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers in June 1846;

Whereas in 1968, Company D of the 151st Infantry Regiment of the Indiana National Guard was activated in preparation for deployment to Vietnam;

Whereas Company D of the 151st Infantry Regiment was commonly referred to as the “Indiana Rangers”;

Whereas in December of 1968, the Indiana Rangers were deployed to Vietnam;

Whereas the Indiana Rangers were the only Army National Guard ground maneuver unit to serve in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Indiana Rangers served in Vietnam from December of 1968 to November of 1969;

Whereas the Indiana Rangers earned more decorations during their year of service in Vietnam than any other Army infantry company during any 1-year period in the Vietnam War; and

Whereas in November of 1969, the Indiana Rangers returned to Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Indiana Rangers that served in the Vietnam War fought for the United States with bravery and honor;

(2) the Indiana Rangers and all members of the armed forces who served in the Vietnam War continue to be held in the highest possible regard by their community and the United States;

(3) we honor the service of this unit on the 50th anniversary of the return of the Indiana Rangers; and

(4) for the many that were willing to sacrifice for the United States, and the many that did not return home, the United States was preserved and will continue to prosper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 302—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 302

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character

in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight, and be mindful of, the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September 2019 as “National Child Awareness Month” would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2019 as “National Child Awareness Month”—

(1) to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of at-risk children and youth, including children and youth who—

(A) have experienced homelessness;

(B) are in the foster care system;

(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;

(D) have been impacted by violence;

(E) have experienced trauma; and

(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23—HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE FOUGHT DURING WORLD WAR II, RECOGNIZING THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN DECEMBER 1944, AND REMEMBERING THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALLIED VICTORY IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JONES, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 23

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge was the last major German offensive in Western Europe during World War II, designed to split

the Allied Forces, regain the initiative in the West, and pressure the Allies to seek a negotiated peace;

Whereas, in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, more than 650,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, and other Allied Forces defeated Germany in the Battle of the Bulge, which began December 16, 1944, and ended January 25, 1945;

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge resulted in over 89,000 United States casualties, including 19,000 soldiers killed, 47,500 wounded, and more than 23,000 captured or missing-in-action;

Whereas the Allied Forces overcame formidable obstacles that included being greatly outnumbered by the German Army, harsh weather conditions, and the treacherous and unknown terrain of the Ardennes Forest region of Belgium;

Whereas on December 17, 1944, during one of the worst atrocities of the war in Europe, the Malmedy Massacre, 84 unarmed American prisoners of war were shot by troops of the 1st SS Panzer Division;

Whereas 11 African American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were massacred by SS troops near Wereth, Belgium and were identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Moten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

Whereas the impressive leadership of Lieutenant General George S. Patton of the Third Army accelerated the success of the Allied Forces during the Battle of the Bulge;

Whereas, although Belgium lost more than 74,000 civilians during the war, in addition to many more having suffered through other atrocities that come with war, the people of Belgium persevered through the difficult period of time and rebuilt their lives the best they could after the war ended;

Whereas the success of the Allied Forces in beating back the German attack in the Battle of the Bulge made possible the final defeat and surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945;

Whereas the citizens of Belgium and Luxembourg have generously hosted thousands of United States veterans and kept the memory of the Battle of the Bulge alive through numerous memorials and museums, including the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the Battle of the Ardennes Museum, the Bastogne War Museum, and the Bastogne December Historic Walk; and

Whereas, after the Battle of the Bulge ended, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—

(1) commemorates, on December 16, 2019, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II;

(2) recognizes the valiant efforts of the various Allied Forces; and

(3) remembers the individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice, which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service was founded on August 8, 1969, and has worked in a public-private partnership to reduce food insecurity and promote nutritious diets among the people of the United States;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service partners with State and local governments, Tribal organizations, school systems, nonprofit organizations, private sector companies, and faith-based organizations—

(1) to address hunger, poverty, and nutrition; and

(2) to provide support to over 36,000,000 people in the United States who live in households that face hunger on a daily basis;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage the agricultural abundance of the United States to ensure that children, seniors, and low-income individuals and families have access to nutritious food;

Whereas the programs of the Food and Nutrition Service reach 1 in 4 people in the United States each year;

Whereas it is the mission of Food and Nutrition Service to increase food security and reduce hunger while maintaining the integrity and efficiency of programs that provide nutrition assistance to the people of the United States when those people are in need; and

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of Federal nutrition policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that Congress—

(1) recognizes the valuable historic and continued contributions of the Food and Nutrition Service and the employees of the Food and Nutrition Service to the nutrition, health, and well-being of the people of the United States;

(2) commends the partnership efforts of States, territories, local governments, Tribal organizations, school systems, nonprofit charitable organizations, private sector companies, and community-based organizations to end hunger and provide nutritious food to the people of the United States;

(3) encourages continued efforts—

(A) to educate the people of the United States on the importance of eating nutritiously; and

(B) to provide nutrition assistance to all people of the United States when those people are in need;

(4) recognizes that the Food and Nutrition Service uses the bounty of the farmers and ranchers of the United States to reduce food insecurity; and

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—

(A) ending hunger in the United States; and

(B) continuing to lead the world in ending hunger worldwide.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 933. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. VAN HOLLEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2052, to

authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles E. McGee to brigadier general in the United States Air Force.

SA 934. Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 933. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. VAN HOLLEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2052, to authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles E. McGee to brigadier general in the United States Air Force; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or allowance by reason of section 1.

SA 934. Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 302. REDUCING EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "agency" has the meaning given the term "Executive agency" under section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term "amount of the increase in the debt limit" means—

(A) the dollar amount of the increase in the debt limit specified in the Act increasing the debt limit; or

(B) in the case of a suspension of the debt limit, the amount by which the Secretary of the Treasury estimates the debt limit shall be increased at the end of the period of the suspension, which the Secretary shall submit to Congress on the date of enactment of such an Act, or in the case of section 301 of this Act, as soon as is practicable after the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) the term "debt limit" means the limitation imposed by section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code;

(4) the term "direct cost of Federal regulation" means all costs incurred by, and expenditures required of, the Federal Government in issuing and enforcing Federal regulations, rules, statements, and legislation;

(5) the term "joint resolution" means a joint resolution—

(A) reported by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate or the House of Representatives in accordance with subsection (d)(3);

(B) which does not have a preamble;

(C) the title of which is as follows: "Joint resolution relating to repeal of costly rules"; and

(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: "That the following rules shall have no force or effect: _____", the blank space being filled in with the list of major rules recommended to be repealed under subsection (d) by the committees of the House in which the joint resolution is reported;

(6) the term "major rule" means any rule that has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; and

(7) the term “suspension of the debt limit”

(A) means an Act that provides that the debt limit shall not apply for a period and that the amount of the debt limit is increased at the end of such period; and

(B) includes section 301 of this Act and any Act described in subparagraph (A) that is enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REDUCTIONS IN REGULATORY COST.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the debt limit is increased or a suspension of the debt limit takes effect, Congress shall consider, in accordance with the rules under subsection (e), legislation eliminating rules that results in a reduction of the direct cost of Federal regulation during the 10-fiscal-year period beginning with the next full fiscal year by not less than 15 percent of the amount of the increase in the debt limit.

(c) ACTION BY AGENCIES.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR RULES.—If the amount of the debt limit is increased or a suspension of the debt limit takes effect, each agency shall submit to the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States a report identifying each major rule of the agency, as determined by the head of the agency.

(2) CERTIFICATION BY GAO.—After receipt of all reports required under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a report evaluating whether agencies appropriately identified major rules under paragraph (1), including whether the agencies identified major rules in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-4, or any successor thereto.

(d) ACTION BY COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of its House a list of the major rules that—

(A) are within the jurisdiction of the committee, which may include major rules identified in the report of an agency under subsection (c)(1); and

(B) the committee recommends should be repealed.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether to recommend repealing major rules within its jurisdiction, a committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives shall consider—

(A) whether the major rule achieved, or has been ineffective in achieving, the original purpose of the major rule;

(B) any adverse effects that could materialize if the major rule is repealed, in particular if those adverse effects are the reason the major rule was originally enacted;

(C) whether the costs of the major rule outweigh any benefits of the major rule to the United States;

(D) whether the major rule has become obsolete due to changes in technology, economic conditions, market practices, or any other factors; and

(E) whether the major rule overlaps with another rule.

(3) COMBINING OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of

Representatives, upon receiving recommendations from all relevant committees under paragraph (1), shall report to its House a joint resolution carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

(e) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—

(1) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon a joint resolution being reported by the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, or upon receipt of a joint resolution from the Senate, the joint resolution shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—It shall be in order, not later than 60 days after the date on which the debt limit is increased or a suspension of the debt limit takes effect, to move to proceed to consider a joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

(ii) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution—

(I) all points of order against the motion are waived;

(II) such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed to the joint resolution;

(III) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion;

(IV) the motion shall not be debatable; and

(V) a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(C) CONSIDERATION.—The House of Representatives shall establish rules for consideration of a joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

(2) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate:

(A) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon a joint resolution being reported by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, or upon receipt of a joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the joint resolution shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

(B) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

(i) TIMING.—A motion to proceed to a joint resolution is in order at any time after the resolution is placed on the calendar.

(ii) MOTION BY ANY SENATOR.—Any Senator may move to proceed to a joint resolution.

(iii) PRIVILEGE.—A motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is privileged, except that this clause shall apply only to a motion to proceed to a joint resolution reported by the Committee on the Budget under subsection (d) or to the first joint resolution placed on the calendar after passage in the House of Representatives.

(iv) DEBATE.—Debate on a motion to proceed to a joint resolution is limited to not more than 5 hours, equally divided between Senators favoring and Senators opposing the resolution.

(v) MOTION NOT AMENDABLE.—The motion to proceed to the joint resolution is not amendable. A motion to reconsider is not in order. A motion to table is not in order.

(vi) OTHER MOTIONS NOT IN ORDER.—After a motion to proceed to a joint resolution is agreed to, motions to postpone or to consider other business are not in order.

(C) MOTIONS AND APPEALS.—All motions and appeals relating to a joint resolution shall be decided by the Senate without debate.

(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION GENERALLY.—If the Senate proceeds to consideration of a joint resolution—

(i) all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived;

(ii) consideration of the joint resolution, and all amendments thereto and debatable

motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees;

(iii) a motion to postpone or a motion to commit the joint resolution is not in order; and

(iv) a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business is not in order.

(E) REQUIREMENTS FOR AMENDMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—No amendment that is not germane to the provisions of a joint resolution shall be considered.

(ii) REPEAL OF MAJOR RULES.—Notwithstanding clause (i) or any other rule, an amendment or series of amendments to a joint resolution shall always be in order if such amendment or series of amendments proposes to repeal a major rule that would result in a decrease in the direct cost of Federal regulation during the 10-fiscal-year period beginning with the next full fiscal year.

(F) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the consideration of a joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

(G) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of this subsection or the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

(3) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President takes action with respect to the joint resolution shall be disregarded in computing the period described in subsection (g).

(B) VETOES.—If the President vetoes the joint resolution—

(i) the period beginning on the date the President vetoes the joint resolution and ending on the date Congress receives the veto message with respect to the joint resolution shall be disregarded in computing the period described in subsection (g); and

(ii) consideration of a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be not more than 2 hours equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(4) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

(f) EFFECT OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A major rule shall cease to have force or effect if Congress enacts a joint resolution repealing the major rule.

(2) LIMITATION ON SUBSEQUENT RULEMAKING.—A rule that ceases to have force or effect under paragraph (1) may not be reissued in substantially the same form, and a new rule that is substantially the same as such a rule may not be issued, unless the reissued or new rule is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of the joint resolution repealing the original rule.

(g) FAILURE TO ENACT REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—On the date that is 61 days after the date on which the debt limit is increased or a suspension of the debt limit takes effect, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine whether legislation has been enacted eliminating rules that reduces the direct cost of Federal regulation during the 10-fiscal-year period described in subsection (b)(1) by not less than 15 percent of the amount of the increase in the debt limit.

(2) INSUFFICIENT REDUCTIONS.—If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that legislation has not been enacted that eliminates rules that reduces the direct cost of Federal regulation during the 10-fiscal-year period described in subsection (b)(1) by not less than 15 percent of the amount of the increase in the debt limit, effective on the date of the determination, the limitation in section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be equal to the sum of the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on the date of the determination.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 918, a bill to prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, and for other purposes, dated July 31, 2019 for the reasons as stated in the RECORD.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Sen-

ate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary, Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel, and Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury, and Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

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

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at a time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my interns Christopher Brown, Finn Carnahan, Ayden Kovel, Selma Matiashowski, Elizabeth Mears, Kaeli Peltola, Kali Spencer, Riley Vivlamore, Riley von Borstel, Nicholas Schok, and Clare Baldwin for today.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jacqueline Cottrell:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Senator Pat Roberts:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						5,023.88		5,023.88
Total			4,918.00				5,023.88		9,941.88

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, July 11, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
Australia	Dollar		2,988.00						2,988.00
Fiji	Dollar		288.79						288.79
Senator John Kennedy:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
Australia	Dollar		2,988.00						2,988.00
Fiji	Dollar		288.00						288.00
Senator John Boozman:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
Australia	Dollar		2,988.00						2,988.00
Fiji	Dollar		288.79						288.79
Shannon Hines:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
Australia	Dollar		2,988.00						2,988.00
Fiji	Dollar		288.79						288.79
Laura Friedel:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
Australia	Dollar		2,988.00						2,988.00
Fiji	Dollar		288.79						288.79
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,505.00						1,505.00
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,537.00						1,537.00
Senator Tammy Baldwin:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,537.00						1,537.00
John Tracy:									
South Korea	Won		303.45						303.45
Vietnam	Dong		1,119.64						1,119.64
John Dowd:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,439.00						1,439.00
Tim Rieser:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,439.00						1,439.00
Garrett Boyle:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,439.00						1,439.00
Blake Souter:									
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,439.00						1,439.00
Kali Farahmand:									
United States	Dollar				2,267.22				2,267.22
India	Rupee		1,897.15						1,897.15
Paul Grove:									
United States	Dollar				15,705.83				15,705.83
Niger	Franc		316.91						316.91
Burkina Faso	Franc		216.00						216.00
Mali	Franc		663.17						663.17
Germany	Euro		573.32						573.32
Adam Yezerski:									
United States	Dollar				6,206.73				6,206.73
Burkina Faso	Franc		216.00						216.00
Mali	Franc		663.16						663.16
Germany	Euro		573.32						573.32
Sarita Vanka:									
United States	Dollar				4,409.03				4,409.03
Montenegro	Euro		178.00						178.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		828.29						828.29
Ukraine	Hryvnia		617.00						617.00
Georgia	Lari		909.44						909.44
Paul Grove:									
United States	Dollar				11,674.13				11,674.13
Afghanistan	Afghani		99.00						99.00
Pakistan	Rupee		75.00						75.00
India	Rupee		930.00						930.00
Turkey	Lira		360.22						360.22
Sarita Vanka:									
United States	Dollar				12,671.13				12,671.13
Afghanistan	Afghani		99.00						99.00
Pakistan	Rupee		75.00						75.00
India	Rupee		930.00						930.00
Adam Yezerski:									
United States	Dollar				1,589.00				1,589.00
Guatemala	Quetzal		459.44						459.44
El Salvador	Dollar		440.10						440.10
Honduras	Lempira		259.03						259.03
Katherine Jackson:									
United States	Dollar				2,468.67				2,468.67
Guatemala	Quetzal		230.76						230.76
El Salvador	Dollar		440.10						440.10
Honduras	Lempira		259.03						259.03
Senator James Lankford:									
Romania	Leu		192.75						192.75
Ukraine	Hryvnia		565.02						565.02
Michelle Altman:									
Romania	Leu		225.79						225.79
Ukraine	Hryvnia		622.53						622.53
Senator John Boozman:									
Germany	Euro		200.00						200.00
Patrick Magnuson:									
Germany	Euro		200.00						200.00
Senator John Hoeven:									
United States	Dollar				7,099.03				7,099.03
France	Euro		1,143.00						1,143.00
Senator Susan Collins:									
United States	Dollar				3,906.03				3,906.03
France	Euro		1,055.55						1,055.55
Senator James Lankford:									
United States	Dollar				1,924.33				1,924.33
France	Euro		1,723.95						1,723.95
Patrick Magnuson:									
France	Euro		2,284.00						2,284.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Mike Wakefield:									
France	Euro		2,211.04						2,211.04
Senator Richard Shelby:									
France	Euro		6,017.00						6,017.00
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Senator John Kennedy:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Jonathan Graffeo:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Anne Caldwell:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Blair Taylor:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Brennen Britton:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Brian Potts:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Caroline Canfield:									
France	Euro		4,544.00						4,544.00
Charles Kieffer:									
France	Euro		4,466.00						4,466.00
Kevin McDonald:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Shannon Hines:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
John Steitz:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro						12,559.70		12,559.70
Delegation Expenses: *									
India	Rupee						441.83		441.83
Delegation Expenses: *									
Niger	Franc						99.25		99.25
Burkina Faso	Franc						596.51		596.51
Mali	Franc						1,316.21		1,316.21
Germany	Euro						361.58		361.58
Delegation Expenses: *									
Afghanistan	Afghani						7,145.60		7,145.60
Pakistan	Rupee						43.03		43.03
Delegation Expenses: *									
New Zealand	Dollar						9,470.50		9,470.50
Australia	Dollar						29,079.50		29,079.50
Fiji	Dollar						4,041.66		4,041.66
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Korea	Won						1,144.56		1,144.56
Vietnam	Dong						10,498.80		10,498.80
Delegation Expenses: *									
Hungary	Forint						400.00		400.00
Romania	Leu						1,106.39		1,106.39
Ukraine	Hryvnia						2,967.96		2,967.96
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro						661.00		661.00
Germany	Euro						2,567.73		2,567.73
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro						45,694.89		45,694.89
Delegation Expenses: *									
Montenegro	Euro						32.00		32.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia						429.47		429.47
Georgia	Lari						401.64		401.64
Delegation Expenses: *									
Guatemala	Quetzal						175.04		175.04
El Salvador	Dollar						474.67		474.67
Honduras	Lempira						444.86		444.86
Total			122,217.95		69,921.13		132,154.38		324,293.46

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jack Reed:									
United States	Dollar				12,123.00				12,123.00
Iraq	Dinar		7.55						7.55
Michael Nobilet:									
United States	Dollar				12,179.00				12,179.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		13.00						13.00
Iraq	Dinar		16.00						16.00
Mariah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				12,179.00				12,179.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		45.00						45.00
Iraq	Dinar		20.00						20.00
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
United States	Dollar				12,123.00				12,123.00
Iraq	Dinar		7.55						7.55
Bryan Maxwell:									
United States	Dollar				12,123.00				12,123.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		12.40						12.40
Iraq	Dinar		15.75						15.75
Senator Doug Jones:									
United States	Dollar				12,122.78				12,122.78
Afghanistan	Afghani		12.40						12.40
Iraq	Dinar		8.20						8.20

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Cissy Jackson:									
United States	Dollar				12,122.78				12,122.78
Afghanistan	Afghani		25.40						25.40
Iraq	Dinar		15.75						15.75
Senator Deb Fischer:									
Australia	Dollar		3,699.07						3,699.07
New Zealand	Dollar		1,284.45						1,284.45
Fiji	Dollar		368.00						368.00
Joseph Hack:									
Australia	Dollar		3,626.44						3,626.44
New Zealand	Dollar		1,264.45						1,264.45
Fiji	Dollar		368.00						368.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Australia	Dollar				4,258.77		3,497.23		7,756.00
New Zealand	Dollar						2,011.23		2,011.23
Senator Mazie Hirono:									
South Korea	Won		298.32						298.32
Vietnam	Dong		1,260.40						1,260.40
Jed D'Ercole:									
South Korea	Won		215.09						215.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,042.42						1,042.42
Senator Tim Kaine:									
South Korea	Won		302.15						302.15
Vietnam	Dong		1,238.05						1,238.05
Ryan Colvert:									
South Korea	Won		276.10						276.10
Vietnam	Dong		1,057.40						1,057.40
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Korea	Won						572.28		572.28
Vietnam	Dong						5,249.40		5,249.40
Senator Rick Scott:									
United States	Dollar				8,761.33				8,761.33
Panama	Balboa		196.33						196.33
Colombia	Peso		554.92						554.92
Argentina	Peso		603.32						603.32
Paul Bonicelli:									
United States	Dollar				8,761.33				8,761.33
Panama	Balboa		196.33						196.33
Colombia	Peso		578.18						578.18
Argentina	Peso		617.57						617.57
Christine Diaz:									
United States	Dollar				4,949.13				4,949.13
Panama	Balboa		196.33						196.33
Colombia	Peso		629.09						629.09
Argentina	Peso		609.55						609.55
Craig Carbone:									
United States	Dollar				5,591.61				5,591.61
Panama	Balboa		206.33						206.33
Colombia	Peso		594.68						594.68
Argentina	Peso		636.62						636.62
Juan Arias:									
United States	Dollar				5,591.61				5,591.61
Panama	Balboa		203.33						203.33
Colombia	Peso		542.17						542.17
Argentina	Peso		676.26						676.26
Delegation Expenses: *									
Panama	Balboa						676.01		676.01
Colombia	Peso						882.00		882.00
Argentina	Peso						1,855.92		1,855.92
Senator Tammy Duckworth:									
United States	Dollar				8,771.63				8,771.63
Iraq	Dinar		61.00						61.00
Matt Lampert:									
United States	Dollar				8,771.63				8,771.63
Aline Sredni:									
United States	Dollar				8,771.63				8,771.63
Iraq	Dinar		29.00						29.00
Sindi Abdulla:									
United States	Dollar				8,771.63				8,771.63
Senator Rick Scott:									
United States	Dollar				1,952.33				1,952.33
Colombia	Peso		476.66						476.66
Craig Carbone:									
United States	Dollar				2,183.33				2,183.33
Colombia	Peso		499.63						499.63
Juan Arias:									
United States	Dollar				2,183.83				2,183.83
Colombia	Peso		516.13						516.13
Delegation Expenses: *									
Colombia	Peso						888.00		888.00
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.:									
United States	Dollar				9,093.03				9,093.03
Japan	Yen		405.92						405.92
Singapore	Dollar		1,688.94						1,688.94
Stephen M. Smith:									
United States	Dollar				9,098.13				9,098.13
Japan	Yen		492.59						492.59
Singapore	Dollar		1,750.12						1,750.12
Senator Marsha Blackburn:									
United States	Dollar				18,887.43				18,887.43
Japan	Yen		318.41						318.41
Singapore	Dollar		1,722.28						1,722.28
Emily Manning:									
United States	Dollar				9,129.40				9,129.40
Japan	Yen		477.15						477.15
Singapore	Dollar		1,847.55						1,847.55
Senator Tammy Duckworth:									
United States	Dollar				9,092.93				9,092.93
Japan	Yen		405.92						405.92
Singapore	Dollar		1,711.69						1,711.69
Matt Lampert:									
United States	Dollar				9,092.93				9,092.93
Japan	Yen		405.92						405.92
Singapore	Dollar		1,794.70						1,794.70
Kelsey Becker:									
United States	Dollar				9,092.93				9,092.93

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Japan	Yen		405.92						405.92
Singapore	Dollar		1,794.70						1,794.70
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				4,141.33				4,141.33
Delegation Expenses:*	Yen		538.42						538.42
Japan	Yen				4,672.04		617.78		5,289.82
Singapore	Dollar				3,529.00				3,529.00
Senator Roger Wicker:									
France	Euro		2,410.00						2,410.00
Jennifer Jett:									
France	Euro		2,260.00						2,260.00
Senator Deb Fischer:									
France	Euro		1,944.37						1,944.37
Senator Martha McSally:									
France	Euro		1,940.25						1,940.25
Senator Rick Scott:									
United States	Dollar				4,244.43				4,244.43
France	Euro		457.92						457.92
Jackie Schutz Zeckman:									
France	Euro		457.92						457.92
Senator Josh Hawley:									
United States	Dollar				3,768.00				3,768.00
France	Euro		719.05						719.05
Richard Trimble:									
United States	Dollar				3,768.00				3,768.00
France	Euro		648.43						648.43
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.:									
United States	Dollar				3,906.03				3,906.03
France	Euro		532.82						532.82
Stephen M. Smith:									
France	Euro		1,567.12						1,567.12
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro				10,471.76		9,623.76		20,095.52
Senator Doug Jones:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						2,629.37		2,629.37
Total			58,361.88		276,279.72		28,502.98		363,144.58

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES INHOFF,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, July 24, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Crapo:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,601.67						1,601.67
Australia	Dollar		2,859.34						2,859.34
Fiji	Dollar		487.36						487.36
Gregg Richard:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,058.00						1,058.00
Australia	Dollar		2,476.00						2,476.00
Fiji	Dollar		313.79						313.79
Susan Wheeler:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,534.28						1,534.28
Australia	Dollar		2,902.28						2,902.28
Fiji	Dollar		203.07						203.07
Joe McKeown:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,191.64						1,191.64
Senator Tim Scott:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,191.64						1,191.64
Delegation Expenses:*									
New Zealand	Dollar						5,682.30		5,682.30
Australia	Dollar						17,447.70		17,447.70
Fiji	Dollar						2,424.99		2,424.99
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound						2,201.86		2,201.86
Total			15,819.07		0.00		27,756.85		43,575.92

Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MIKE CRAPO,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Curtis Swager:									
Singapore	Dollar		968.00						968.00
Taiwan	Dollar		335.66						335.66
Delegation Expenses:*									
Singapore	Dollar				214.66				214.66

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Taiwan	Dollar						133.67		133.67
Total			1,303.66		214.66		133.67		1,651.99

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
July 22, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				6,103.73				6,103.73
Finland	Euro		272.53						272.53
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				15,830.53				15,830.53
China	Yuan		585.25						585.25
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				15,830.53				15,830.53
China	Yuan		583.25						583.25
Delegation Expenses *									
China	Yuan					1,039.00			1,039.00
Total			1,441.03		37,764.79		1,039.00		40,244.82

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
July 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Greenland	Euro		165.71						165.71
Norway	Euro		78.65						78.65
United Kingdom	Pound		213.05		400.00				613.05
Iceland	Euro		250.00		193.34				443.34
Delegation Expenses: *									
United Kingdom	Pound					468.38			468.38
Evan Dernberger:									
France	Euro		2,255.20						2,255.20
Joseph Colby:									
France	Euro		2,239.00						2,239.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro					5,023.88			5,023.88
Total			5,201.61		593.34		5,492.26		11,287.21

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tim Scott:									
Argentina	Peso		798.60						798.60
Brazil	Real		710.39						710.39
Colombia	Peso		503.87						503.87
Delegation Expenses: *									
Argentina	Peso					374.35			374.35
Brazil	Real					2,202.86			2,202.86
Colombia	Peso					858.00			858.00
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
France	Euro		968.00						968.00
United States	Dollar				3,906.03				3,906.03
Joshua Karetny:									
France	Euro		1,612.62						1,612.62
United States	Dollar				3,906.13				3,906.13
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro					5,023.88			5,023.88
Senator Debbie Stabenow:									
South Korea	Won		251.03						251.03
Vietnam	Dong		1,287.27						1,287.27
Matthew Williams:									
South Korea	Won		215.09						215.09

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Vietnam	Dong		1,020.24						1,020.24
Delegation Expenses: *									
South Korea	Won						286.14		286.14
Vietnam	Dong						2,624.70		2,624.70
Jayne White:									
Mexico	Peso		1,117.51						1,117.51
United States	Dollar				466.88				466.88
Greta Peisch:									
Mexico	Peso		912.57						912.57
United States	Dollar				501.75				501.75
Nasim Fussell:									
Mexico	Peso		1,087.13						1,087.13
United States	Dollar				466.88				466.88
Brian Bombassaro:									
Mexico	Peso		1,067.21						1,067.21
United States	Dollar				466.88				466.88
Delegation Expenses: *									
Mexico	Peso						927.00		927.00
Total			11,551.53		9,714.55		12,296.93		33,563.01

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, July 23, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Italy	Euro		362.43						362.43
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		631.32						631.32
Rwanda	Rwandan Franc		343.47						343.47
Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar		224.00						224.00
Portugal	Euro		455.64						455.64
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Italy	Euro		326.63						326.63
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		626.76						626.76
Rwanda	Rwandan Franc		139.63						139.63
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Italy	Euros		526.63						526.63
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc		688.13						688.13
Rwanda	Rwandan Franc		200.00						200.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Cote D'Ivoire	CFA Franc						1,537.79		1,537.79
Rwanda	Rwandan Franc						1,760.46		1,760.46
Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar						508.46		508.46
Portugal	Euro						675.00		675.00
Senator John Barrasso:									
France	Euro		2,078.45						2,078.45
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
France	Euro		2,478.70						2,478.70
Debbie Yamada:									
France	Euro		2,314.12						2,314.12
Delegation Expenses: *									
France	Euro						7,535.81		7,535.81
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Japan	Yen		1,034.41						1,034.41
Korea	Won		490.71						490.71
China	Renminbi		770.03						770.03
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		351.66						351.66
United States	Dollar				8,892.68				8,892.68
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Japan	Yen		1,134.09						1,134.09
Korea	Won		540.79						540.79
China	Renminbi		790.88						790.88
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		351.52						351.52
United States	Dollar				8,892.68				8,892.68
Delegation Expenses: *									
Japan	Yen						2,004.07		2,004.07
Korea	Won						408.50		408.50
China	Renminbi						1,553.50		1,553.50
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar						446.92		446.92
Senator Cory Gardner:									
Singapore	Singapore dollar		693.00						693.00
Taiwan	Taiwan Dollar		207.67						207.67
United States	Dollar				7,623.23				7,623.23
Igor Khrestin:									
Singapore	Singapore dollar		645.00						645.00
Taiwan	Taiwan Dollar		156.66						156.66
United States	Dollar				10,287.03				10,287.03
Delegation Expenses: *									
Singapore	Singapore dollar						429.33		429.33
Taiwan	Taiwan Dollar						267.34		267.34
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Iraq	Dollar		122.22						122.22
Qatar	Dollar		633.82						633.82
United States	Dollar				8,728.53				8,728.53
Tommy Nguyen:									
Iraq	Dollar		122.22						122.22
Qatar	Dollar		434.65						434.65
United States	Dollar				8,728.53				8,728.53
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Dollar						123.63		123.63
Senator Ron Johnson:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		598.96						598.96
United States	Dollar				11,910.33				11,910.33

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Lydia Westlake:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		635.59						635.59
United States	Dollar				12,645.33				12,645.33
Delegation Expenses: *									
Ukraine	Hryvnia					217.81			217.81
Senator Ron Johnson:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		7.55						7.55
Slovak Republic	Euro		394.40						394.40
United States	Dollar				12,230.53				12,230.53
Lydia Westlake:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		7.55						7.55
Slovak Republic	Euro		412.17						412.17
United States	Dollar				12,230.53				12,230.53
Delegation Expenses: *									
Czech Republic	Koruna					403.55			403.55
Slovak Republic	Euro					347.84			347.84
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Cyprus	Euro		1,596.45						1,596.45
Greece	Euro		847.31						847.31
United States	Dollar				12,335.83				12,335.83
Damian Murphy:									
Cyprus	Euro		1,151.31						1,151.31
Greece	Euro		1,567.84						1,567.84
United States	Dollar				13,181.83				13,181.83
Delegation Expenses: *									
Cyprus	Euro					390.81			390.81
Greece	Euro					1,847.00			1,847.00
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Israel	Dollar		775.00						775.00
Jordan	Dollar		877.75						877.75
United States	Dollar				13,018.00				13,018.00
Jessica Ellledge:									
Israel	Dollar		960.00						960.00
Jordan	Dollar		676.75						676.75
United States	Dollar				13,018.00				13,018.00
Senator Mitt Romney:									
Israel	Dollar		785.00						785.00
Jordan	Dollar		1,281.90						1,281.90
United States	Dollar				13,217.13				13,217.13
Mitt Waldrup:									
Israel	Dollar		785.00						785.00
Jordan	Dollar		1,281.90						1,281.90
United States	Dollar				13,217.13				13,217.13
Delegation Expenses: *									
Israel	Dollar					4,863.49			4,863.49
Jordan	Dollar					2,451.16			2,451.16
Iraq	Dollar					15,132.00			15,132.00
Senator Rob Portman:									
Korea	Won		424.18						424.18
Vietnam	Dong		1,541.67						1,541.67
Wayne Jones:									
Korea	Won		326.09						326.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,419.00						1,419.00
Senator Tom Udall:									
Korea	Won		426.09						426.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,637.00						1,637.00
Matthew Padilla:									
Korea	Won		426.09						426.09
Vietnam	Dong		1,539.00						1,539.00
Delegation Expenses: *									
Korea	Won					572.28			572.28
Vietnam	Dong					5,249.40			5,249.40
Senator Rob Portman:									
United Kingdom	Euro		1,297.49						1,297.49
Ukraine	Hryvnia		534.97						534.97
United States	Dollar				5,939.93				5,939.93
Mark Isakowitz:									
United Kingdom	Euro		1,194.40						1,194.40
Ukraine	Hryvnia		342.49						342.49
United States	Dollar				9,480.33				9,480.33
Delegation Expenses: *									
United Kingdom	DEuro					194.05			194.05
Ukraine	Hryvnia					2,232.69			2,232.69
Sarah Arkin:									
Qatar	Riyal		1,067.32						1,067.32
Oman	Riyal		870.13						870.13
United States	Dollar				6,373.46				6,373.46
Delegation Expenses: *									
Qatar	Riyal					178.58			178.58
Oman	Riyal					178.07			178.07
Christopher Barr:									
Egypt	Dollar		837.67						837.67
Tunisia	Dollar		387.00						387.00
United States	Dollar				5,922.83				5,922.83
Delegation Expenses: *									
Egypt	Dollar					37.79			37.79
Tunisia	Dollar					99.44			99.44
Joan Condon:									
Mozambique	Metical		1,245.60						1,245.60
South Africa	Rand		247.75						247.75
United States	Dollar				7,707.85				7,707.85
Margaret Dougherty:									
Mozambique	Metical		1,245.60						1,245.60
South Africa	Rand		247.75						247.75
United States	Dollar				7,707.85				7,707.85
Delegation Expenses: *									
Mozambique	Metical					1,958.47			1,958.47
Brian Cullen:									
Kenya	Shilling		909.50						909.50
United States	Dollar				7,259.73				7,259.73
Heather Flynn:									
Ethiopia	Birr		1,777.05						1,777.05
Kenya	Shilling		982.50						982.50
United States	Dollar				7,383.43				7,383.43
Delegation Expenses: *									
Kenya	Shilling					1,000.00			1,000.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Keller:									
Italy	Euro		1,451.00						1,451.00
Belgium	Euro		631.60						631.60
United States	Dollar				2,807.33				2,807.33
Charlotte Oldham-Moore:									
Ethiopia	Birr		2,313.10						2,313.10
United States	Dollar				7,469.53				7,469.53
Margot Hecht:									
Ethiopia	Birr		2,616.71						2,616.71
United States	Dollar				7,469.53				7,469.53
Delegation Expenses: *									
Ethiopia	Birr						644.24		644.24
Christopher Socha:									
Oman	Rial		791.17						791.17
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,053.60						1,053.60
United States	Dollar				6,300.49				6,300.49
Delegation Expenses: *									
Oman	Rial						121.44		121.44
Christopher Socha:									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		1,112.00						1,112.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,820.00						1,820.00
United States	Dollar				4,251.13				4,251.13
Lara Crouch:									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		1,001.00						1,001.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,327.20						1,327.20
United States	Dollar				4,216.13				4,216.13
Delegation Expenses: *									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar						1,304.85		1,304.85
Rolfe Michael Schiffer:									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		1,112.00						1,112.00
Thailand	Bhat		237.52						237.52
Malaysia	Rupiah		574.41						574.41
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,525.50						1,525.50
Japan	Yen				95.18				95.18
United States	Dollar				6,817.83				6,817.83
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Thailand	Bhat		176.00						176.00
Malaysia	Rinngit		364.26						364.26
Singapore	Dollar		1,526.00						1,526.00
United States	Dollar				7,400.83				7,400.83
Megan Bartley:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		2,388.53						2,388.53
Japan	Yen				48.00				48.00
United States	Dollar				6,001.63				6,001.63
Delegation Expenses: *									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar						318.88		318.88
Thailand	Bhat						173.16		173.16
Malaysia	Rupiah						26.43		26.43
Lowell Schwartz:									
Canada	Dollar		539.28						539.28
United States	Dollar				1,861.57				1,861.57
Brandon Yoder:									
Canada	Dollaro		602.90						602.90
United States	Dollar				1,861.57				1,861.57
Hannah Thoburn:									
Germany	Euros		895.75						895.75
Belgium	Euros		367.79						367.79
United States	Dollar				2,627.63				2,627.63
Delegation Expenses: *									
Germany	Euros						892.17		892.17
Montenegro	Euros						57.00		57.00
Total:			79,871.33		297,161.11		58,143.41		435,175.85

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Maggie Hassan:									
United States	Dollar				7,782.28				7,782.28
Japan	Yen		1,249.68						1,249.68
South Korea	Won		502.00						502.00
China	Renminbi		492.00						492.00
Taiwan	New Dollar		526.05						526.05
David Christie:									
United States	Dollar				7,782.28				7,782.28
Japan	Yen		1,167.88						1,167.88
South Korea	Won		602.00						602.00
China	Renminbi		458.00						458.00
Taiwan	New Dollar		426.05						426.05
Delegation Expenses:									
Japan	Yen						2,004.07		2,004.07
South Korea	Won						408.51		408.51
China	Renminbi						1,553.50		1,553.50
Taiwan	New Dollar						446.93		446.93
Megan Reiss:									
United States	Dollar				11,902.63				11,902.63
Israel	Shekel		656.00						656.00
Jordan	Dinar		857.00						857.00
Iraq	Dinar								
Delegation Expenses: *									
Israel	Shekel						1,215.87		1,215.87
Jordan	Dinar						612.79		612.79

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Iraq	Dinar								
Senator Maggie Hassan:									
France	Euro		2,280.25						2,280.25
Senator Jacky Rosen:									
France	Euro		2,240.28						2,240.28
Meg Platt:									
France	Euro		4,228.30						4,228.30
Robert Waisanen:									
France	Euro		4,276.41						4,276.41
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						10,047.76		10,047.76
Total			19,961.90		27,467.19		16,289.43		63,718.52

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,
July 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,537.00						1,537.00
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Chris Mewett:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,537.00						1,537.00
South Korea	Won		401.09						401.09
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Italy	Euro		187.00						187.00
Cote D'Ivoire	Franc		815.13						815.13
Rwanda	Franc		248.00						248.00
Tunisia	Dinar		338.35						338.35
Portugal	Euro		220.00						220.00
Senator Ben Sasse:									
Italy	Euro		187.00						187.00
Cote D'Ivoire	Franc		815.13						815.13
Rwanda	Franc		248.30						248.30
Tunisia	Dinar		338.35						338.35
Portugal	Euro		220.00						220.00
Alice James:									
Italy	Euro		187.00						187.00
Cote D'Ivoire	Franc		815.13						815.13
Rwanda	Franc		248.30						248.30
Tunisia	Dinar		338.35						338.35
Portugal	Euro		220.00						220.00
Matt Rinkus:									
Italy	Euro		187.00						187.00
Cote D'Ivoire	Franc		815.13						815.13
Rwanda	Franc		248.00						248.00
Tunisia	Dinar		338.35						338.35
Portugal	Euro		220.00						220.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Vietnam	Dong						2,624.70		2,624.70
South Korea	Won						286.14		286.14
Cote D'Ivoire	Franc						2,392.12		2,392.12
Rwanda	Franc						2,053.84		2,053.84
Tunisia	Dinar						2,033.84		2,033.84
Portugal	Euro						2,700.00		2,700.00
Total			11,110.70				12,090.64		23,201.34

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, July 15, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Cleary:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						2,511.94		2,511.94
Total			2,459.00				2,511.94		4,970.94

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
France	Euro		3,440.00						3,440.00
Senator John Boozman:									
France	Euro		2,284.00						2,284.00
Adam Reese:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Patrick McGuigan:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Robyn Engibous:									
France	Euro		2,459.00						2,459.00
Tommy Nguyen:									
France	Euro		2,943.00						2,943.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						15,071.64		15,071.64
Total			16,044.00				15,071.64		31,115.64

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, July 23, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Robert Karem:									
United States	Dollar				14,694.03				14,694.03
Azerbaijan	Manat		455.36						455.36
Georgia	Lari		569.92						569.92
Turkey	Lira		764.08						764.08
Anmol Jay Khosla:									
United States	Dollar				466.88				466.88
Mexico	Dollar		1,142.00						1,142.00
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
France	Euro		4,335.91						4,335.91
Total			7,267.27		15,160.91				22,428.18

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, July 29, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Brian Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				8,607.93				8,607.93
Iraq	Dollar		122.00						122.00
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar				5,545.63				5,545.63
Georgia	Lari		666.16						666.16
Turkey	Lira		756.58						756.58
Robert Gardner:									
United States	Dollar				466.75				466.75
Mexico	Dollar		1,110.00						1,110.00
Gary Myrick:									
France	Euro		4,541.00						4,541.00
Total			7,195.74		14,620.31				21,816.05

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, July 26, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Donald Bergin:									
Panama	Balboa		484.00						484.00
Mexico	Peso		1,085.35						1,085.35
United States	Dollar				2,909.63				2,909.63
Scott Reber:									
Panama	Balboa		435.62						435.62
Mexico	Peso		786.20						786.20
United States	Dollar				2,909.63				2,909.63
Kelly Lieupo:									
Panama	Balboa		299.00						299.00
Mexico	Peso		1,066.52						1,066.52

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				2,909.63				2,909.63
Eduardo Hilera:									
Panama	Balboa		433.62						433.62
Mexico	Peso		801.39						801.39
United States	Dollar				2,909.63				2,909.63
Total			5,391.70		11,638.52				17,030.22

*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN,
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, July 10, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 370 and 393; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statement related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Melvin W. Bouboulis
Rear Adm. (lh) Donna L. Cottrell
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael J. Johnston
Rear Adm. (lh) Eric C. Jones
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael P. Ryan

The following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 309(b):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Rear Adm. Todd C. Wiemers

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 376 through 380, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Mary F. O'Brien

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ronald J. Place

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert T. Wooldridge, II

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Marine Forces reserve, and appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps Reserve while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8084:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David G. Bellon

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN653 AIR FORCE nominations (198) beginning MARK C. ALDERMAN, and ending DENEAN V. E. ZOZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN868 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert K. Rankin, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN869 AIR FORCE nomination of Judy A. Rattan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN871 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning GAYLAN A. GRAY, and ending JOR-

DAN H. LINDEKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN872 AIR FORCE nominations (134) beginning HANS ERIC ANKER, and ending BRIAN DOUGLAS ZULLO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN907 AIR FORCE nomination of John W. Poulter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN908 AIR FORCE nomination of Thomas D. Ausherman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN909 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning EDWARD J. BRENNAN, and ending KENNETH A. STREMMEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN910 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning LAUREN A. BAKER, and ending JESSE W. JOHNSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN911 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning JONATHAN D. BARNES, and ending JEREMIAH P. SEXTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

PN873 ARMY nomination of Larry D. Crowder, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN874 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JASON B. BARIATTI, and ending MARK A. PATTERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN875 ARMY nomination of Roger M. Lewis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN876 ARMY nominations (2) beginning THELMA D. CUMMINGS, and ending KYUNGKUN LEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN912 ARMY nomination of Joshua S. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN913 ARMY nomination of Joseph P. Blakeney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN914 ARMY nomination of Patrick D. Clary, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN915 ARMY nomination of Marie P. Corpuz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN916 ARMY nomination of Ernest M. Dorema, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN917 ARMY nomination of Simone M. Edwards, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN918 ARMY nomination of Luciano G. Mizerani, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN919 ARMY nomination of Rochelle S. Pressley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN920 ARMY nomination of Howard G. Rice, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN921 ARMY nomination of Virginia L. Egli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN922 ARMY nomination of Darren K. Purcell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN923 ARMY nominations (317) beginning JOSEPH R. ADAMS, and ending LIANG ZHOU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN924 ARMY nominations (93) beginning RYAN H. ALLRED, and ending ANNA YOO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN925 ARMY nominations (46) beginning KEITH J. ANDREWS, and ending JEFFREY T. WHORTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN880 MARINE CORPS nomination of Timothy K. Gallagher, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN881 MARINE CORPS nomination of Kyle A. Ugone, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN882 MARINE CORPS nomination of Sean M. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN884 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher D. McLin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

IN THE NAVY

PN877 NAVY nomination of Christopher M. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN878 NAVY nomination of Benny P. Volkmann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN879 NAVY nomination of Eric A. Polonsky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN926 NAVY nominations (132) beginning VINCENT L. ACKERMAN, and ending JAMES L. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN927 NAVY nominations (37) beginning RICARDO M. ABAKAH, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN928 NAVY nominations (56) beginning ALEXANDER ALDANA, and ending ROBERT J. WISHMEYER, which nominations

were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN929 NAVY nominations (22) beginning TIMOTHY G. BOYLE, and ending DELICIA G. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN930 NAVY nominations (21) beginning AARON T. ALLISON, and ending KRISTIN B. WHITEHOUSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN931 NAVY nominations (17) beginning RYAN B. BARENG, and ending TIMOTHY A. SPRINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN932 NAVY nominations (61) beginning KEVIN L. ALBERT, and ending JAMES H. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN933 NAVY nominations (38) beginning ARTURO ALVARADO, JR., and ending ELIZABETH M. ZULOAGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar Nos. 408, 409, 410, and 412, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate resume then legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Minister:

Jennifer M. Adams
Jeffrey N. Bakken
Susan F. Fine
Susan Kosinski Fritz
Lawrence Hardy, II
Sarah-Ann Lynch

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for Global Media, Broadcasting Board of Governors, for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service to the class indicated: Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

William S. Martin

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service of the United States Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General, for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Christine Byrne

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, as a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Counselor:

Robert Mason

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Minister:

James J. Higgiston
Bobby G. Richey, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN787-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (264) beginning Uchenna Nnayeugo Agu, and ending Jaime Alber Zea Cifuentes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN788-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (102) beginning Jennifer Ann Amos, and ending Michael L. Mahoney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN789 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (117) beginning Allison Margaret Bartels, and ending Yang Q. Zhou, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN790 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (81) beginning Vanessa L. Adams, and ending Lyndsey K. Yoshino-Spencer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN791 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (68) beginning Sonja Joy Andersen, and ending Sandra M. Zuniga Guzman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 300, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE INDIANA RANGERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 301, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 301) honoring the 50th anniversary of the return of the Indiana Rangers.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 301) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 24, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CREATING ADVANCED STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR CONSTITUENTS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 127, H.R. 1079.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1079) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 1079) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 776.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 776) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

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

The bill (H.R. 776) was passed.

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

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

NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 302, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 302) designating September 2019 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and

recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 302) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3877 under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, August 1, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL L. KARBLE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. COLIN J. KILRAIN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

PETER J. AHN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANTHONY S. GAMBOA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANTHONY C. BIVINS II
EDWIN J. CRUZ
NATHAN A. ESTES
NATHAN D. GLANDON
JENNIFER D. HEFNER
LEIF A. HILLSHAPE
STEVE LARIN
SAMUEL A. MCCURRY
JON M. MELIFERAS
CLINTON J. MUERY
CARL J. PRICE
WASEEM S. SAED
STACEY J. WADSLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

BENJAMIN AHN
JONATHAN M. AVERILL
PETER S. BAHNG
VINCENT A. BAIN
ANSELMO BRILLON
TIMOTHY L. BROOKS
DARRELL V. BURRISS
YUEN S. CABALLEJO
JAMES CHOI
BRADY D. FREDERICK
ROBERT W. FRY
ANTONIO GARCIA MENDEZ
DOMENIC GROTTI
VINCENT L. HARDY
ROBERT S. HEARON, JR.
BRYAN J. HEDRICK
JASON W. HENEISE
DANIEL A. HERRING
PATRICK K. HESTER
ROBERT M. HOLSINGER
TIMOTHY D. ICE
GERALD S. INGRAM
DANIEL T. ISFAN
ANTHONY D. KELLEY
JOEL A. KELLEY
PATRICK KIHU
HYOSEOK KIM
JAE KIM
JOSHUA H. KIM
STEPHEN J. KIM
BRYAN S. KIMBLE
TERRI J. KING
WILLIAM H. KING
MOSHE LANS
JUNGU LEE
RYAN P. LEWIS
JOONHYUK LIM
STEVEN LOVE
ALFRED E. MATTHEWS
REBECCA J. MCMICHAEL
THOMAS MILLER
JAMES J. MITCHEM
ERIC C. MOLER
CARLOS A. MOLINA
IK J. MOON
GEORGEL OANCA
ARKADIUSZ Z. OCHALEK
LOREN R. OMER
CALVIN PARK
ROBERT D. PATTERSON
JOEL W. PAYNE
JEREMY T. PICKENS
JONATHAN PORTER
LUCAS V. REES
JEREMY M. RHODES
ALVARO F. RIVERA
PAUL J. ROMAN
JOSEPH W. SALEM
MATTHIAS E. SCHUBERT
TIMOTHY M. SHEPHERD
WILLIAM D. SILVA
LOREN G. SINK
JACOB R. SNELL
JEREMIAH D. SNYDER
RICKY E. TRULL
FOLAUGA TUPUOLA
ALISON L. WARD
KEVIN G. WHITE
MICHAEL E. WHITE
VIVIAN K. YANQUOIWEST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SPENCER W. ROBINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

ROBERT B. LACKEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KRISTA M. KLEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DENIS J. MCDONNELL
JEFFREY C. NICHOLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

SHAWN D. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHOWDRY M. BASHIR
WENDELL W. BECTON
SCOTT A. BIER
GORDON M. HUGHES
BRADLEY S. KING
RICKY C. N. KUE
KEVIN G. PETTUS
TAYLOR L. SAWYER
MARK P. SHASHIKANT
RICHARD M. SLUSHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

APOLLA A. BENITO
ROGER B. BENTON
DAVID G. BOYD
MATTHEW I. DIAL
JASON J. MAEDER
DAVID L. MESSERLI
REBECCA J. OLDHAM
VALERIE L. PETROSKY
DIRK B. REMENSNYDER
MICHAEL E. TERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THOMAS W. BINGAMON
WILLIAM M. FOX III
JANIE L. HOWARD
DERRICK D. KOOKER
EDWIN L. LEAVITT
JOHN W. MERRELL
CONRAD J. ROSS
TRAVIS J. WEISZHAAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TONYA L. EHLERT
RANDALL F. HEDEGAARD
CHARLES C. HWANG
WILLIAM D. KILLGORE
ALBERT L. KOGER
JIMMY LEE
KATHERINE A. MARR
PATRICK M. MCNUTT
MICHAEL W. OSBORNE
ROBERT D. PAYNE
CHRISTOPHER R. PILAND
LISA L. SPAHR
KIRK J. WEPPLER
ARVE A. WIKSTROM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN S. HATLER
GABRIEL P. OWENS
RICHARD V. TEA
WILLIAM B. WALKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT G. BONIFACIO
RANCE P. ERWIN
PAUL J. HOLLIER
BRADLEY A. KEOUGH
HEATHER S. SHUEY
MICHAEL T. SIMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BARBARA S. ANTUS

ANGELA J. BRAITHWOOD
JEFFREY S. CHEEK
JOHN L. ENGLISH
MONICA M. LAW
ERIN M. MERRYWEATHER
JEAN V. MOVINGCOLLINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOYCE C. ANACKER
STEVEN P. BOGDANOFF
JOSEPH D. CHRISTENSEN
CAMERON H. CONKIN
CLINT E. RAU
JASON I. REVESTIR
BYRON J. THOMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRUCE J. BRITTON
BRIAN P. FRIEDLAND
JOEL GRANT
THOMAS W. HRABAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JASON A. FOREMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ALEXANDRA E. WEISKOPF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TRACY A. BALL
JEFFERY R. BORDERS
JOHN G. BROOKS
LOLITA E. CHING
BERNADETTE D. CHRISTMAS
CYNTHIA R. COPP
JENNIFER L. DROGE
JOHN J. EVAN
TAMARA K. GREENWELL
ROBERT L. GREGG
GRANVILLE E. HENDERSON
JOHN E. LEE
ROBERT L. MCCARY
DEBORAH A. MCKINNEY
ANGELINA C. MCMURRAY
MELISSA L. MITRAVICH
YEE L. ONG
LAURA L. PORTER
TINA M. POWELL
GRETCHEN A. RITTER
KAREN M. SMITH
JULIE A. VANCE
DONNA E. WARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LAUREL A. KAPPEDAL
RHONDA B. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANNA L. ALDANA
CRAIG S. COLAS
GUERSCHON DE LAURENT
VERONICA D. RAY
BEN B. ROSS
JOSEPH S. SEILER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KARL ANDERSON
SHANE ANDERSON
MATTHEW D. BACCHETTA
ROBERT BEJNAROWICZ
CHAD L. BENDER
JOHN G. BENITEZ
JAMES F. BENSON, JR.
PETER B. CHASE
JOHN CHOVANES
JASON E. COHEN
ROY R. DANKS
KAREN L. DELLAGIUSTINA
CHARLES T. DODSON
ERIN FLAHERTY
JAMES W. GRAHAM
SCOTT M. HARRINGTON
PENELOPE J. HARRIS
WAYNE J. HARSHA
KEDRON R. HEADS
ALAN F. HELMBOLD
MARK M. JACKSON

RODGER D. JACKSON
 ERNEST JAMES III
 SUZANNA C. JAMISON
 MATTHEW B. JOHNSON
 SAMEER D. KHATRI
 LOREN M. KIRCHNER
 RAJA S. KOLLI
 JEANETTE P. KUIZON
 PAUL C. KUO
 HERBERT P. KWON
 STEPHEN A. LAWSON
 SARA M. LOKSTAD
 ARGELIO L. LOPEZROCA
 VINCENT J. MASE, JR.
 JUDE J. MOMODU
 VANCE J. MOSS
 YULIUS MUSTAFA
 JENNIFER D. NGUYEN
 VIVEK P. PADHA
 JEFFREY T. PARKER
 ANTHONY R. PLUNKETT
 EDWARD J. RAMIREZ
 MARTHA S. ROELLIG
 ANTHONY D. RUDD
 GIRISH SETHURAMAN
 ROY F. THOMAS
 JEFFREY M. TIEDE
 THADDEUS F. VERNON
 GREGORY A. WATSON
 SAUL J. E. WEINREB
 ROBERT R. WESTERMAYER II
 CLAUDE R. WORKMAN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

NATHAN P. DMOCHOWSKI

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 31, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

KARIN J. IMMERGUT, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON.
 JOHN MILTON YOUNGE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MARK T. PITTMAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

JEFFREY VINCENT BROWN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

BRANTLEY STARR, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

JASON K. PULLIAM, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

MARTHA MARIA PACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

MARY M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

WILLIAM SHAW STICKMAN IV, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(D):

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MELVIN W. BOUBOULIS
 REAR ADM. (LH) DONNA L. COTTRELL
 REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. JOHNSTON
 REAR ADM. (LH) ERIC C. JONES
 REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL P. RYAN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARY F. O'BRIEN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRYAN P. FENTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RONALD J. PLACE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT T. WOOLDRIDGE II

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8084:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID G. BELLON

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 309(B):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

REAR ADM. TODD C. WIEMERS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KELLY CRAFT, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SARAH-ANN LYNCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF WILLIAM S. MARTIN.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINE BYRNE AND ENDING WITH ROBERT MASON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES J. HIGGISTON AND ENDING WITH BOBBY G. RICHEY, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK C. ALDERMAN AND ENDING WITH DENEAN V. E. ZOZO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 29, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBERT K. RANKIN, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JUDY A. RATTAN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GAYLAN A. GRAY AND ENDING WITH JORDAN H. LINDEKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 18, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HANS ERIC ANKER AND ENDING WITH BRIAN DOUGLAS ZULLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 18, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN W. POULTER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF THOMAS D. AUSERMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD J. BRENNAN AND ENDING WITH KENNETH A. STREMMEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAUREN A. BAKER AND ENDING WITH JESSE W. JOHNSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN D. BARNES AND ENDING WITH JEREMIAH P. SEXTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF LARRY D. CROWDER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON B. BARIATTI AND ENDING WITH MARK A. PATTERSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 18, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROGER M. LEWIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THELMA D. CUMMINGS AND ENDING WITH KYUNGKUN LEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 18, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA S. ANDERSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH P. BLAKENEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PATRICK D. CLARY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARIE P. CORPUZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERNEST M. DOREMA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SIMONE M. EDWARDS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LUCIANO G. MIZERANI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROCHELLE S. PRESSLEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HOWARD G. RICE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF VIRGINIA L. EGLI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DARREN K. PURCELL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH R. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH LIANG ZHOU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN H. ALLRED AND ENDING WITH ANNA YOO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEITH J. ANDREWS AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY T. WHORTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY K. GALLAGHER, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KYLE A. UGONE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SEAN M. WILLIAMS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER D. MCILIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BENNY P. VOLKMAN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ERIC A. POLONSKY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VINCENT L. ACKERMAN AND ENDING WITH JAMES L. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICARDO M. ABAKAH AND ENDING WITH YU ZHENG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ALDANA AND ENDING WITH ROBERT J. WISHMEYER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY G. BOYLE AND ENDING WITH DELICIA G. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AARON T. ALLISON AND ENDING WITH KRISTIN B. WHITEHOUSE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN B. BARENG AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY A. SPRINGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN L. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH JAMES H. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARTURO ALVARADO, JR. AND ENDING WITH ELIZABETH M. ZULOAGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 8, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH UCHENNA NNAYELUGO AGU AND ENDING WITH JAIME ALBER ZEA CIFUENTES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER ANN AMOS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL L. MAHONEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALLISON MARGARET BARTELS AND ENDING WITH YANG Q. ZHOU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VANESSA L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH LINDSEY K. YOSHINO-SPENCER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SONJA JOY ANDERSEN AND ENDING WITH SANDRA M. ZUNIGA GUZMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 21, 2019.