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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Redeemer and friend, the fountain of wisdom and strength, we borrow our heartbeats from You. Today, guide our Senators to new heights of achievement, providing them with robust health, faith for their perplexities, and light for the path ahead.

Lord, give them fulfillment as they strive to be instruments of Your providence. Supply their needs according to Your riches in glory, giving them the serenity to accept what can't be changed, the courage to change what they can, and the wisdom to know one from the other. Bring them to the end of this day with satisfied hearts and clear consciences.

We pray in Your strong 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. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 83, S. 1208.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1208) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968

with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting America's First Responders Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1201 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: " , unless the claim under this subsection has been pending for more than 1 year, in which case the amount payable shall be the amount that would be payable if the catastrophic injury occurred on the date on which the Bureau makes a final determination that the public safety officer is entitled to a benefit payment under this subsection. ";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "\$3,000" and inserting "\$6,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (h), ";

(3) in subsection (h), by inserting "and the level of the interim benefit payable immediately before such October 1 under subsection (c)" after "subsection (a)";

(4) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) The amount payable under subsection (a), with respect to the death of a public safety officer, shall be the greater of—

"(1) the amount payable under that subsection as of the date of death of the public safety officer; or

"(2) the amount that would be payable under that subsection if the death of the public safety officer occurred on the date on which the Bureau makes a final determination that the public safety officer is entitled to a benefit payment under that subsection. "; and

(5) in subsection (m), by inserting " , (b), " after "subsection (a)".

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) 'catastrophic injury' means an injury, the direct and proximate consequences of which—

"(A) permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work; or

"(B) cause an individual to become—

"(i) paraplegic;

"(ii) quadriplegic; or

"(iii) blind. ";

(2) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "at the time of the public safety officer's fatal or catastrophic injury" and inserting "as of the date of the public safety officer's death from a fatal injury or the date of determination of the public safety officer's disability from a catastrophic injury";

(3) in paragraph (4), by inserting " , including an individual who, in the capacity of the individual as such a member, engages in scene security or traffic management as the primary or only duty of the individual during emergency response" before the semicolon;

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) 'gainful work'—

"(A) means any activity usually performed for pay or profit, regardless of whether a profit is realized; and

"(B) does not include work performed in a situation in which, after an individual sustains an injury—

"(i) the individual—

"(I) re-enters the workforce; and

"(II) leaves the workforce after less than 90 days because of the inability of the individual to overcome the injury;

"(ii) because of the injury—

"(I) the individual is permitted, in carrying out work, to—

"(aa) perform at a lower standard of productivity or efficiency than other similarly situated employees;

"(bb) work irregular hours; or

"(cc) take frequent rest periods; or

"(II) the individual is only able to work within a framework of specially arranged circumstances, such as a circumstance in which 1 or more other individuals are required to assist

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



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the individual in preparing for work or traveling to and from work;

“(iii)(I) the individual practices a hobby usually performed for pay or profit, regardless of whether a profit is realized; and

“(II) the primary intent of the individual in practicing the hobby described in subclause (I)—

“(aa) is physical, mental, or emotional rehabilitation of the individual from the injury; and

“(bb) is not realization of profit; or

“(iv) the individual is given the opportunity to work—

“(I) despite the injury of the individual; and

“(II) on the basis of—

“(aa) a family relationship of the individual;

“(bb) a past association of the individual with the employer giving the individual the opportunity to work; or

“(cc) any other altruistic reason.”.

SEC. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term “covered beneficiary” means an individual who—

(A) is, or was, a child or spouse of a covered individual described in paragraph (3)(B); and

(B) would have been eligible for educational assistance under subpart 2 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) if the amendments made by section 3 of this Act had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in paragraph (3)(B)(i) of this subsection was made;

(2) the term “covered claimant” means an individual who is a claimant on the estate of a deceased covered individual—

(A) described in paragraph (3)(B); and

(B) who died on or before the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) the term “covered individual” means—

(A) a beneficiary of a benefit under the Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program that was paid—

(i) with respect to a death or disability of a public safety officer sustained as the direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty; and

(ii) during the covered period; or

(B) a public safety officer who—

(i) was determined during the covered period to be ineligible for a benefit payment under section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)); and

(ii) would have been eligible for a benefit payment under subpart L of that title due to the disability of the public safety officer if the amendments made by section 3 had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in clause (i) was made;

(4) the term “covered period” means the period—

(A) beginning on the date of enactment of title XIII of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647; 104 Stat. 4834); and

(B) ending on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting America’s First Responders Act;

(5) the term “public safety officer” has the meaning given the term in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284); and

(6) the term “Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program” means the program established under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sections 2 and 3 shall apply to a death or disability of a public safety officer sustained as the direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty—

(1) subject to subsection (c), during the covered period; or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon application of a covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant, the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall make a lump sum payment to the covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant in the amount equal to the difference, if any, between—

(A) in the case of a covered individual—

(i) the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual would have received under the Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program as of the date of the lump sum payment, if the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 had been in effect on the date on which the covered individual—

(I) received the final benefit payment under the Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program; or

(II) was determined to be ineligible for a benefit payment under section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)); and

(ii) the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual received under the Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program before the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) in the case of a covered beneficiary, the amount of the total benefit payment the covered beneficiary would have received under subpart 2 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) if the amendments made by section 3 of this Act had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section was made; and

(C) in the case of a covered claimant, the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual on whose estate the covered claimant is a claimant would have received under the Public Safety Officers’ Death Benefit Program as of the date of the lump sum payment, if the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section was made.

(2) APPLICATION.—A covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant desiring a lump sum payment under paragraph (1) shall apply to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for such lump sum payment not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1206(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10288(b)) is amended by striking “the Bureau may not” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the Bureau—

“(1) shall use all available investigative tools, including subpoenas, to—

“(A) expedite the processing of the benefit claim; and

“(B) obtain necessary information or documentation from third parties, including public agencies; and

“(2) may not abandon the benefit claim unless the Bureau has used the investigative tools available to the Bureau to obtain the necessary information or documentation, including subpoenas.”.

SEC. 6. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED OR DISABLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Section 1216(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10306(b)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 7. COLLECTION OF DATA ON KILLED OR DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Section 534(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) operate a central clearinghouse for statistics on law enforcement officers under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, including data on law enforcement officers who, while performing their duties, were—

“(A) feloniously killed;

“(B) accidentally killed;

“(C) feloniously assaulted; or

“(D) severely and permanently disabled.”.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT ON MEDICAL COSTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “disabled officer” means a public safety officer to whom a benefit is payable under subpart 1 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.) based on the permanent and total disability of the officer, as described in section 1201(b) of that subpart (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that estimates the average medical costs incurred by a disabled officer over the lifetime of the officer after sustaining the injury that caused the disability.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

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

The bill (S. 1208), as amended, was passed as follows:

(The bill (S. 1208) is printed in the RECORD of Monday, May 20, 2019.)

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam 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.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Senate voted to confirm Kenneth Lee of California to serve as a U.S. circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit. Yet another well-qualified nominee will now bring impressive legal experience and fine academic credentials to the job of upholding the rule of law as a Federal judge.

Mr. Lee is far from the only nominee to an important position whom the Senate confirmed this week.

On Tuesday we confirmed Michael Truncale of Texas to the Federal bench in the Eastern District of Texas, and today we will consider three more of

the President's abundantly qualified picks to fill vacancies in the executive branch and in the judiciary.

First, we will vote on Wendy Vitter of Louisiana, who has been nominated to be a U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Ms. Vitter's impressive legal career includes experience in private practice and a decade in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, where she handled more than 100 felony jury trials. Ms. Vitter has been favorably reported twice by our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. I would urge every one of our colleagues to vote to confirm her today.

Following the Vitter nomination, we will turn to Brian Bulatao, nominated to serve as Under Secretary of State for Management. As I have mentioned, the job description is essentially that of chief operating officer at the State Department, ensuring that tens of thousands of diplomats, civil servants, and staff are provided for and a host of important missions around the world can actually be carried out.

Fortunately, we have a strong nominee who is up to the task. Mr. Bulatao is a graduate of West Point and Harvard Business School. After service in the Army, he founded a business and worked in financial management before entering public service as chief operating officer at the CIA.

In Chairman RISC's assessment, he is "eminently qualified." Our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee certainly agree, having favorably reported his nomination with no opposition.

It has been 11 long months since the Senate first received his nomination—11 months. I am glad that today we will finally be able to put partisan delay behind us and get the nominee confirmed.

Finally, the Senate will vote today on the nomination of Jeffrey Rosen to serve as Deputy Attorney General. As I have discussed earlier in the week, the President has chosen a nominee with a rock-solid legal reputation who served with distinction as the Deputy Secretary of Transportation and who would be a clear asset to the Department of Justice and to the Nation in this new capacity.

So I would urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm each of these three well-qualified nominees for Federal service.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week I have been discussing the stark contrast between the remarkable opportunity economy that Republican policies have helped to unlock for the middle class and my Democratic colleagues' hard turn toward far-left ideas that would stifle all the progress. Our colleagues across the aisle, particularly over in the House, have given top billing to the legislation that would end Medicare as seniors know it, eliminate every private healthcare plan American families have chosen to meet their needs, and replace all of it—all of it—with a one-size-fits-all, government-run insurance system while piling heavy taxes on the middle class. And, of course, they have touted a proposal to drop an anvil—an anvil—on a high-speed U.S. economy and shove a host of new Federal rules between American citizens and their everyday life choices—all in the name of going "green."

Now, most of my colleagues across the aisle know full well what would happen if the supposed Green New Deal actually became reality. They know what winding down our affordable forms of domestic energy and the millions of jobs that support their production would do to a U.S. economy that is currently firing on all cylinders. They know what turning families' own choices about where to live, what to drive, and how to make a living into Washington, DC's official business would mean for the historic levels of job opportunities and the wage growth that we have seen over the past 2 years. All of that would come to a screeching halt.

Remember, our Democratic colleagues tried to claim this outlandish proposal—this truly outlandish proposal—was just a conversation starter from the farthest left fringes. But, then, push came to shove. Then, the

American people really saw the score because we brought the thing up for a vote. Right here on this floor we had the vote, and only 4 out of 47 Senate Democrats actually voted no. Only 4 of the 47 voted against this plan to bring our economy to a screeching halt. Forty-three of our Democratic colleagues couldn't bring themselves—couldn't bring themselves—to vote even against this—not even as Republican policies, taking the exact opposite approach, have helped the U.S. job market to drive unemployment lower than it has been in half a century—lower than it has been in half a century. They want to bring all of that to a screeching halt—not even as 19 different States have hit new record low State unemployment rates in just the year and a half since Republicans passed comprehensive tax reform.

Well, I have good news for the American people. This Republican majority is going to keep fighting for you. We will not let these far-left dreams get in the way of more progress for middle-class families.

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 to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Wendy Vitter, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, this week is National Police Week—a chance to reflect on the sacrifices of our Nation's police officers and to thank them for everything they do on our behalf.

Yesterday, I spoke on the floor about Military Appreciation Month. Like members of the military, police offi-

cers are a special breed. They willingly rush into danger and put their lives on the line for the rest of us. That is not a natural human instinct, to rush into danger. Most of us are inclined to run away from danger. But police officers do the opposite. They not only stand their ground in the face of danger; they walk into the midst of it to protect the rest of us.

A centerpiece of National Police Week is Peace Officers Memorial Day, which commemorates the sacrifices of all of those who have given their lives in the line of duty. Last year, more than 100 police officers were killed in the line of duty. It is a powerful reminder that being a police officer is a dangerous job. USA TODAY reports that 10 percent of police officers are assaulted every year—10 percent. Police officers never know what they are going to face when they respond to a call, but they go in anyway.

Serving in law enforcement can take a toll. Police officers—particularly those who specialize in investigating and responding to the worst crimes—have to see a lot of evil on a daily basis. It is yet another way they protect the rest of us. They face evil so that we don't have to. Yet, despite all they do, they don't line up to be thanked. The police officers I meet tend to minimize their contributions. "I am just doing my job" is a pretty frequent refrain.

A lot of us don't interact with the police very frequently. We don't often see the work they do to keep our towns and our cities safe. But being in Congress has given me a chance to interact with police officers on a daily basis. The U.S. Capitol Building and the congressional office buildings, where I work, are protected by the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. I see them every day, manning security checkpoints, directing traffic, standing on guard outside in the blazing Sun or the cold rain, responding to incidents, and protecting dignitaries and visitors. I know there is a lot they do that I don't see, too—the countless things that go into keeping the Capitol Complex and the thousands of people who work and visit here safe from threats.

I was in the Longworth House Office Building on September 11, 2001, when the planes hit the Pentagon and the Twin Towers. Once it became clear that our Nation was, in fact, under attack, the entire Capitol Complex was evacuated. People were rushing, running out of the buildings. Do you know who wasn't running? The Capitol Police. They weren't going anywhere until they were sure that all of us had gotten out.

Since I became whip, I have gotten to know a number of the outstanding plainclothes police officers who protect Members of leadership. It was two members of the Capitol Police security detail who stepped into the line of fire at the Republicans' baseball practice two summers ago and prevented a terrible day from becoming much worse.

Many Members of Congress are safe today because of the actions of those two police officers.

Here in the United States, we are blessed with a peace and a safety that is denied to many around the world. It is important to remember that one of the big reasons most of us are able to live free from fear is because of the countless police officers on duty around our country. They are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, ready to step between us and danger. We owe these dedicated men and women a very great debt.

As we observe Police Week, I want to say thank you. Thank you to the police officers who serve across our country. Thank you to their families, who also sacrifice so that the rest of us can live in safety. A special thank-you to the Capitol Police and the police officers who keep the peace back home in South Dakota. May God bless each of you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

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

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I come to the floor again this morning to discuss several judicial nominations considered by the Senate this week.

Earlier this week, the Senate voted to confirm Michael Truncale to the Eastern District of Texas and Kenneth Lee to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals seat in California, and today we will be voting on the nomination of Wendy Vitter to the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The Senate is considering and confirming nominees whose records indicate they are far outside the mainstream. I have worked very hard over a number of years now—I guess we are in our eighth year—working with Senator TOOMEY, to fill district court vacancies in Pennsylvania with well-qualified and experienced judges whom I believe will be able to set aside their ideologies or personal beliefs and apply the law to the cases before them. But I do not have the same confidence in many of the nominees before this body today and especially the nominees we are considering.

I will go in the order that I mentioned before—first, Michael Truncale, then Kenneth Lee, and Wendy Vitter. I believe that in all three cases, all are not mainstream conservatives. Their backgrounds and records are very political, and they have long records of advocating for certain positions on issues that may come before them as either a U.S. district court judge or an appellate judge.

First of all, Mr. Truncale has advocated strongly for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which provided healthcare coverage and critical patient protections for 20 million people

in terms of coverage and tens of millions more in terms of protection.

He said that the Affordable Care Act would “lead to the rationing of healthcare.” He has personally advocated for abolishing the Department of Education, and he used false, unfounded claims of voter fraud to support voter ID laws that disproportionately affect low-income voters and communities of color.

Second, Kenneth Lee was confirmed over the objections of both California Senators, Senator HARRIS and Senator FEINSTEIN—Senator FEINSTEIN, in this case, being the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the very committee that considers judges. Mr. Lee has a litany of writings that include offensive statements about immigrants, people of color, and LGBT Americans. He has strongly opposed affirmative action policies that help make our institutions of higher learning more diverse, and it is very possible that he may consider matters relating to these policies as a member of the Ninth Circuit.

Finally, Wendy Vitter has virtually no Federal trial court experience, has a long record of opposing contraception, and has promoted false information about the safety of oral contraceptives. These views are not only outside of the mainstream—the judicial or legal mainstream—but they are also not supported by science.

I don’t believe these nominees will be able to set aside their personal views and apply relevant precedent, and my concern is compounded by recent efforts by conservative jurists to overturn longstanding precedents. Most Americans thought that the Voting Rights Act, which for decades protected the franchise for Americans of color, particularly Black Americans, was a foundational, almost untouchable statute. But in 2013, the conservative majority of the Supreme Court, which has gotten only more conservative, moved to the right even more. That Court, the Supreme Court, gutted the protections of the Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby County v. Holder* case.

Just last year, in the *Janus* decision, the Supreme Court overturned a four-decades-old precedent in the *Abood* case that allowed public sector unions to collect nonpolitical, so-called fair share fees to cover the costs of negotiations that benefit all workers. So you have the union doing the work, and the law allowed them, for four decades, to charge other employees who benefit from the work of the union, and the Supreme Court struck that down.

Pennsylvania passed a similar law in the 1980s, which has been the law of the land in Pennsylvania for years. It was signed into law in the late 1980s by my father when he was serving as Governor, so that is an important issue in Pennsylvania for working men and women.

The conservative majority of the Supreme Court overturned the *Abood*

case, eviscerating a precedent that was relied upon by public sector unions and their governmental employers all over the country. I believe the next step by the far right and by this court and maybe by the Supreme Court and maybe in another court would be to make illegal the very right to organize for wages and benefits. I hope I am wrong about that, but I believe that is the logical next step for the right.

Just this week, a conservative majority of the Supreme Court overturned a 40-year precedent regarding States’ sovereign immunity in the courts of other States. In the last line of his dissent, Justice Breyer sounded alarm bells about this kind of judicial activism from the right, saying: “Today’s decision can only cause one to wonder which cases the court will overrule next.”

He is right. We no longer know what is civil law and what could be up for debate. We thought that *Abood* was settled law in the context of labor unions and the right to organize or an issue related to the right to organize. We thought the Voting Rights Act was settled law.

This week we mark the 65th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, a unanimous Supreme Court decision holding that segregation in our public school system, in addition to being a profound moral failure, was a violation of our Constitution. I would hope—we all would hope that *Brown v. Board of Education* would remain rock solid settled law. Yet, because of what we have seen in the last couple of years with this Court, we must stay vigilant. We cannot let civil rights that Americans fought for and earned and have cherished for decades be chipped away by extreme judicial nominees who hold insuperable political and policy preferences.

I oppose the nominees that the Senate has considered this week, and I will continue to oppose extreme nominees to our Federal courts.

I yield the floor to the distinguished Democratic leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleague Senator CASEY for, as usual, his thoughtful, erudite, on-the-money remarks—this time about judges. I am going to talk about that in a minute.

We see something happening here. We see State after State trying to repeal *Roe*. When we ask our Republican colleagues directly “Do you want to appeal *Roe*?” they are usually silent. Their votes on judges say they do, and that is what they are doing. The voters should hold them accountable. I will get to that more in a minute, but I wanted to follow up on the remarks about judges by my good friend from Pennsylvania.

IMMIGRATION

Madam President, yesterday, the Trump administration released the

outlines of its plan for immigration reform. Truth be told, the reported White House plan isn’t a serious attempt at immigration reform. If anything, it is a political document that is anti-immigration reform. It repackages the same partisan, radical, anti-immigrant policies that the administration has pushed for 2 years, all of which have struggled to earn even a simple majority in the Senate, let alone 60 votes. The hands of Stephen Miller are all over this plan, and, of course, he had a watchful eye when other administration officials came into the Republican lunch yesterday and talked about it.

The plan they put together holds immigration precisely at current levels, meaning that for every new immigrant the plan potentially lets in, it must kick one out. What kind of logic is that? What kind of harebrained logic is that—the idea that for every immigrant you help you have to hurt another? How arbitrary. How simplistic. How cruel. It is like the Procrustean bed of immigration policy.

We need immigrants in America. Our labor force is declining. If you go to businesses at the high end, the middle end, and the low end, they say their greatest problem is a lack of workers. And we come up with a policy like this? Make no mistake about it. It is cruel and inhumane, but it also hurts our economy significantly. If you don’t believe me, talk to business leaders—any business leader you know.

Shockingly, the White House’s immigration proposal fails to deal with Dreamers or the 11 million undocumented immigrants now living in the United States. The White House Press Secretary said Dreamers were “left out on purpose.” What does that say about the administration? That goes to the root of what is wrong with this administration’s approach to immigration. If they think they can repeat what they failed to do in the past, if they try to repeat it, saying “OK, we will let Dreamers in, but you accept a whole lot of bad things,” which is why immigration reform failed last time, last year, it ain’t happening. It ain’t happening.

I would say two things. If you are going to do major immigration reform through Congress, you are going to need bipartisan support. That means you sit down and talk to Democrats. Four of us on the Democratic side and four of us on the Republican side in the Gang of 8 spent hours and weeks and months together and carved together a bill that got overwhelming support from Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber and was overwhelmingly supported by the American people and still is. I think 68 percent still support comprehensive immigration reform.

But what does the White House do? Typically, they put together their own plan—Stephen Miller, chief cook and bottle washer—and they say that Democrats should support this. Ain’t happening.

No consultation, no nothing—that is not the way you would go about putting together a bill that you really want to pass. That is not the way to go about things if you really want to solve our immigration problem.

When Stephen Miller, one of the President's most virulently anti-immigrant advisers, is in the room crafting an immigration plan, it is a surefire failure. The fact that the President is announcing his bill today provides a further bit of irony because, this afternoon, the new Statue of Liberty museum opens. There is no greater symbol of Americans' openness to immigration, of the greatness of America, than the Statue of Liberty, which reaches out to people from every corner of the globe. It towers over nearby Ellis Island, where generations of hopeful strivers shuffled off boats into a new life and into a new country and helped build America into the greatest country in the world.

The White House immigration bill is an insult to our grand tradition of welcoming immigrants from all walks of life, and it is an appropriate metaphor that the President, today, is skipping the opening of the new Statue of Liberty museum, even though he is in New York, simply to go to political fundraisers. He skips real immigration reform and offers a political document, and his trip to New York embodies that ironically and metaphorically.

IRAN

Madam President, on Iran, this has been a chaotic week in the news about the Trump administration's position on Iran. We have gone from reports that the Trump administration's national security team was discussing possible troop deployments—one newspaper, the New York Times, reported 120,000—to coverage now of infighting among the President's staff about the credibility of the threat from Iran.

As usual, the signals indicate chaos coming out of the White House—individuals fighting with each other, no real plan, no real pattern, and no discussion with the American people or with the Congress.

Yesterday, personnel were evacuated from our Embassy in Iraq, and Republicans in Congress have now started to echo the same saber-rattling we typically hear from folks like Ambassador Bolton. At this moment, the only thing that is abundantly clear about the administration's Iran policy is its lack of clarity and the lack of consultation with Congress and with the American people.

Congress has not been fully informed about the intelligence. We have not been properly consulted about the administration's strategy, to the extent one exists.

More importantly, the American people deserve to know what is going on here. They are rightfully skeptical and tired of wars in the Middle East—a skepticism many of my Republican friends across the aisle don't seem to share. We need to get a better public

understanding of what President Trump and Republicans in Congress plan to do.

Yesterday, I called on Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Dunford to testify publicly before the Armed Services Committee so that the American people can at least get an idea of what is being cooked up here. We have learned, sadly, in Iraq, when things are done behind closed doors and the American people aren't fully informed, it can lead to significant foreign policy blunders. So they should come up here—General Dunford, Acting Secretary Shanahan, as well as Secretary Pompeo—and I hope that request will be granted.

HEALTHCARE

Now, Madam President, on healthcare and our friends creating the Senate graveyard, as well as the abortion bill in Alabama, the House has passed over 100 pieces of legislation, many of them with bipartisan support, only to get buried in this graveyard of a Chamber. Leader MCCONNELL, who controls the calendar, prefers to run it as a legislative graveyard.

Let's take healthcare as an example, the No. 1 issue the American people care about. Our colleagues in the House passed a modest bill to protect families from getting charged more if they have a preexisting condition. It should be bipartisan, and most Republicans—or many of the Senate Republicans say they agree with that policy when asked. Well, we have a bill that does it, and what does Leader MCCONNELL do? He just deep-sixes it and sets aside another tombstone for his legislative graveyard.

What about today's House vote on another set of healthcare bills to protect people with preexisting conditions and help them sign up for insurance? What is the fate of those bills in the Senate? Will Leader MCCONNELL sentence them to the same legislative death as all of these other proposals or will Leader MCCONNELL actually allow us to debate something of great importance to the American people, to amend it, and then vote on it? Hopefully it will pass, I believe it would.

What is Leader MCCONNELL afraid of? Is he afraid the American people will get protection from preexisting conditions? Is he afraid he might anger some special interest? Is he afraid he might anger President Trump? We have a higher obligation here.

Instead of debating those crucial pieces of legislation, Leader MCCONNELL has treated the Senate like a rubberstamp for the Trump administration's often radical nominees. For 3 straight weeks, we have only processed nominations, including several judges who are merely unqualified ideologues or merely unqualified.

This matters. The judges we have heard from are narrow. Many have offered bigoted remarks in the past, really bigoted. They are not who a judge should be. A judge is supposed to walk

in the plaintiff's shoes and the defendant's shoes, and then come up with a decision that is governed by existing law. These people are ideologues, many of them stooges and acolytes for the Federalist Society. Now we have in Alabama the most radical anti-abortion bill in the country, inviting a challenge to *Roe v. Wade* in the courts. So the effort by the Republican leader to remake the Federal judiciary into a conservative redoubt has a direct impact on these legal challenges.

If you ask most of the Republican Members in this Chamber "Are you for repealing *Roe v. Wade*, hook, line, and sinker?" they would say, no, they are not or they would mostly be silent; they would be afraid to answer. Then they vote for judges who want to do it, either frontally or by various deep cuts. When our Republican friends vote for these radical, hard-right judges, they are saying they want to repeal *Roe v. Wade*, even if they will not say it directly.

So I say to my colleagues, much as you prefer to remain silent on the Alabama Republican abortion bill, your votes for the hard-right, anti-*Roe* judges speak volumes—volumes. I would say the whole impetus of the Alabama bill is now that we have very conservative, anti-*Roe* judges on the Supreme Court, supported universally by the Members of the other side, they feel they have the boldness to introduce a bill that actually repeals *Roe* instead of just curbing it.

CHINESE TRADE POLICY

Madam President, finally, something good that I think the administration has done. I was pleased for two reasons to see the administration issue an Executive order laying the groundwork for the Commerce Department to ban all purchases of telecommunications equipment from China's State-controlled firms.

First, it was a good decision for our national security. We have long known the threat posed by foreign telecommunications companies, particularly Chinese firms like Huawei and ZTE. The tentacles of the Chinese Government are deep in these two companies. Our intelligence and defense communities, concerned about our own security here in America, have banned the use of Huawei products in the military and labeled its technology a national security threat. That is serious stuff.

So I applaud the decision to protect our networks from potential malware, foreign surveillance, and cyber espionage, and I applaud the administration. They backed off on ZTE 1 year ago, despite the overwhelming support in this Chamber for not letting ZTE sell products, but they are now doing the right thing on Huawei, which is even a greater danger than ZTE.

There is a second reason this is a good decision, aside from national security. It is called reciprocity. In America, we make great products, and time and again, when we make great

products, the Chinese don't let us sell them to China. They instead keep the product out, steal the technology, and then produce it themselves. Well, it is about time there was a little fair play—a little fair play. China, for years, has sold products—likely with stolen IP—here in the United States cheaply while denying America access to its markets.

Reciprocity matters. A lot of people say to get China to negotiate, tariffs aren't the way to go. I have made my views on that clear, but reciprocity is another way to go. If China doesn't let our best stuff in, we are not letting theirs in. Open up. Play fair. If we don't do something about China today, our economy will be second-rate 10, 15 years from now, and our children and grandchildren will suffer economically, make no mistake about it.

Telecommunications, especially 5G technology, are already a major focus of American innovation. We shouldn't let Chinese companies worm in on the cheap and put American businesses at a disadvantage. The United States, with our allies, should lead to the development of a safe, secure, and economically viable alternative to the 5G architecture of firms like Huawei that are subject to the infiltration by the Chinese Government, which has shown no qualms about stealing everything of our intellectual property that they can.

I would say to our European, Japanese, and Australian allies, stick with us on this; it will benefit everybody—everybody. China is our No. 1 global competitor, and it is about time they played fair. What was done yesterday with Huawei by Secretary Ross will help make that happen, and it is a very good decision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Missouri.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to be joined soon by my colleague and cochair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, Senator COONS, to honor the men and women who work for us every day to help protect us every day during Police Week. This is an annual event. It brings law enforcement officers to Washington from around the country and of course including my State of Missouri.

As it turns out, Police Week is really a bad week to rob a store in Washington with a town full of policemen. Just last week, several would-be robbers came out of a robbery and almost ran into a group of St. Louis area policemen and a New Jersey policeman. They immediately chased down and arrested the perpetrators of that crime.

Criminals are often not very smart, but you have to be particularly not smart to decide you are going to rob a store in Washington during Police Week. Thank goodness for those who wear blue and work to serve us and protect us every day and even do that

when they are off duty and hundreds of miles away from home. So congratulations to those officers for what they did while they are here, and nobody is very surprised by that.

When Senator COONS and I came to the Senate a little over 8 years ago, we started trying to find a law enforcement caucus to join, and found out there wasn't one, so Senator COONS said to me: Let's just start one, and we did. This is the week.

We get a chance every year to talk about, specifically, what happens this week. We look for opportunities through the year to, No. 1, honor the people who work here protecting us every day, and, No. 2, to talk about things happening in the country that affect the people who protect us and protect police and sheriff's departments. This is the time of year, frankly, when the tragic loss of family is so evident as we add people to the police memorial.

Four Missourians were added to that list this year. Deputy Sheriff Aaron Paul Roberts of the Greene County Sheriff's Office—the county I live in—died when his patrol car was swept into the Pomme de Terre River after he responded to a 911 call. Deputy Roberts had served with the Sheriff's Office for about 1 year, but he had previously served with the Willard Police Department for 4 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and by his parents.

In April of 2018, Miller County Deputy Sheriff Casey Shoemate was killed when his vehicle collided with an oncoming vehicle while responding to a structure fire. He had served with that department for about 1 year as well, but he previously worked in two other Missouri police departments. He is survived by his two children, his fiancée, his parents, and his siblings.

In March of 2018, Clinton Police Department Officer Christopher Morton was shot and killed when he and two other officers responded to a 911 call. As Officer Morton and his colleagues arrived at the scene, a man began shooting at them. The officers returned fire. They entered the building. The subject continued to fire. He fatally wounded Officer Morton and injured two of Officer Morton's colleagues whom I had a chance to visit with at that department not long after this incident.

Officer Morton had been with the Clinton Police Department for 3 years. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. military through the Missouri Army National Guard. He had been deployed to Kosovo. He had been deployed to Afghanistan. His parents and siblings, I know, worried about him there but wouldn't have, in their wildest imagination, thought he would be killed at home near his hometown when reacting to a 911 call from a house.

In March of last year, FBI Special Agent Melissa Morrow, of Kansas City, died from a brain cancer she developed following the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. She had been assigned to

the Evidence Response Team of the FBI Washington Field Office. She spent 10 weeks after that event recovering and processing evidence from the site in hazardous conditions. Melissa is survived by her parents, her sister, a niece, and a nephew.

The names of these fallen men and women were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington and to the Wall of Honor at the Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial over the last month. They will be remembered by people who benefited from and remember their bravery, their dedication, and their sacrifice.

This is a time when we honor those who serve us, particularly for lives which have been lost, but it is also the time to think about what we can do to serve them in a better way, to be sure they have the equipment they need, the resources they need, and the training they need.

I mentioned at an event earlier today that for the last 50 years, law enforcement and emergency rooms have also been, unfortunately for everybody involved, the de facto mental health delivery system in the country. Officers now take crisis intervention training to be sure they are really prepared when they are dealing with someone whose intent is not criminal, but their activities are impacted by their mental health issues and what to do in that situation so everybody is better served.

We have worked hard to see that the Regional Information Sharing System in our State, headquartered in Springfield, is properly funded. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program has the center for our region in Kansas City. Those are things that Senator COONS and I have worked together on to do our best to fund.

Two different times now, we have worked together to extend the Victims of Child Abuse Program. Last year, we again introduced the bill. I think the previous extension had been a 5-year extension, and we came to the end of that. This is the program where, at 23 centers in Missouri, people understand how to get the forensic information, the testimony they need from kids who have either been the victims of crime or witnesses of crimes.

Every law enforcement person I have talked to, Senator COONS, every prosecutor I have talked to believes that what happens at these victims of child abuse centers can't be replaced anywhere else.

Now we are working together on the National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act, a bill that the Senate passed last year, and the House didn't get to it. We want to do that again. The Law Enforcement Museum in Washington would be the beneficiary of the proceeds from that coin after the cost of the coin is paid. We are going to be working together on that.

We have worked with other colleagues. I have worked with Senator PAT ROBERTS of Kansas on the Kelsey

Smith Act. It is named after 18-year-old Kelsey Smith, who was abducted and murdered in 2007. This bill strengthens the ability of law enforcement to get the information they need, quick access to someone's cell phone to get the information of where they might still be or where they last were when they separated from that phone, if that is what happened.

Senator STABENOW and I are continuing to work on the Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act, something that every time we have support testimony on that act, it always involves law enforcement, which wants more focus on mental health courts and more focus on drug courts but particularly more focus on the ability of officers to deal with the situation in the best possible way when they come upon it. Remembering those who have fallen and continuing to work for those who stand up for us and run to the side of danger as they shield us from danger is important.

I am glad to be joined today by my good friend Senator COONS from Delaware.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is an honor and a joy for me to come to the floor today not just as the Senator representing Delaware but as the cochair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, which I am very proud to have a chance to lead with my friend and colleague Senator BLUNT from Missouri.

As you just heard, he recited some of the many ways in which we have been able to work together. Senator BLUNT, as a seasoned senior appropriator, someone who has experience in the House of Representatives and in the private sector at home, leading an educational institution, and has worked in State and local government, along with my experience in local government and the private sector—I think that has allowed us to do really good and positive things for the men and women of law enforcement.

This is National Police Week. It is an opportunity for us—not just here in the Senate but all over the country—to thank the hundreds of thousands of men and women in State and local law enforcement, as well as in Federal law enforcement agencies, who make possible the opportunity we have to enjoy our freedoms. Our basic safety, our ability to travel far and wide, to speak and live, and to praise and believe as we hope—all of this is made possible because of the ways in which our law enforcement officers guarantee those freedoms by literally putting their lives on the line for us each and every day. For that, we are eternally grateful.

The Law Enforcement Caucus, which Senator BLUNT and I founded, has held a number of engaging and important bipartisan sessions. You heard the Senator reference things like the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program and RISS, the Regional Intel-

ligence Sharing System that helps to connect resources between Federal and State and local law enforcement. We also recently had a session on sharing relationship-building models where we had folks in from Delaware and Missouri to talk about how law enforcement serves as positive role models and mentors in the community through terrific programs.

I look forward to continuing to work with my friend and colleague Senator BLUNT on these issues in the year ahead in the Law Enforcement Caucus and to talking briefly here on the floor today about how we should not just give great speeches but actually take important actions to demonstrate to the families and to the men and women of law enforcement that we care deeply about their service and about whether they come home at the end of their shift.

I serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee. On a unanimous basis, we recently advanced a series of bills that will help advance officer safety, not the least of which is making permanent the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program that has literally saved lives across the country. The capitol police—the police who protect Delaware's capitol and our courthouse—had a dramatic and personal experience with that when two law enforcement officers' lives were saved when they were shot in the line of duty, and it was only because they were wearing vests made possible by this Federal-State partnership that they survived.

I will also continue to work to support the COPS Program, which ensures that we have officers on the ground in communities large and small in Delaware, such as Cheswold, Delmar, Laurel, Ocean View, Smyrna, and my home city of Wilmington. They all have been able to hire new officers in recent years because of the COPS Program.

We are also working together on reforms to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program to ensure that families of officers who are permanently disabled or lose their lives in the line of duty receive the benefits they richly deserve.

Let me conclude by thanking and honoring a few specific officers from Delaware's law enforcement community for their service this past year. We have not had any Delawareans' names added to the Wall of Honor referenced by the Senator from Missouri, but all of us who have affection for and support the law enforcement community in Delaware know that we are simply blessed this year to have not joined that terrible roll of great honor of those who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Let me briefly thank Sergeant Paul Doherty of the Delaware State Police, who was awarded the Robert J. Seinoth Memorial Award as the 2018 Delaware Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. His investigatory work following up on a robbery

led to the apprehension of a serial, dangerous criminal who harmed other Delawareans.

Let me honor Detective Jonathan Moyer, who led the investigation of fraud and theft at Beebe Hospital in Lewes, DE.

Let me honor Detective Ryan Schmid from the Dover Police Department. He is a 6-year veteran of that department and maintained an amazing clearance rate of 84 percent in investigated burglaries, robberies, and attempted murder and solved homicide.

Lastly, let me recognize Detective Brad Cordrey, who is Delaware's Child Welfare Professional of the Year and has served under Georgetown chief of police R.L. Hughes, who said that "Brad's dedication, compassion, and tenacity to solve serious cases are unmatched."

There is so much more I could say, but given the number of my colleagues who have also come to the floor to speak, let me conclude by simply saying how grateful all of us are to the men and women of law enforcement.

During this National Police Week, let me say what a great blessing it is to be able to continue to work with my colleague Senator BLUNT of Missouri in cochairing the Law Enforcement Caucus in this Congress and hopefully for many years to come.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

IRAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Senate's failure to meet its constitutional obligation and conduct effective oversight of what seems to me and many others to be this administration's inexorable march toward war with Iran.

This week, the New York Times reported that the Trump administration is making plans to deploy 120,000 American troops to the Middle East in anticipation of a confrontation with Iran. It is no secret that some of the President's closest advisers are focused on regime change and possibly military engagement with Iran.

I was encouraged by a story in the Washington Post that was posted last night. The headline of that story read as follows: "Trump, frustrated by advisers, is not convinced the time is right to attack Iran." That was the headline in the version of the story reported by four Washington Post reporters. In pertinent part, the story indicated that the President thinks his advisers "could rush the U.S. into a military confrontation with Iran." Then it goes on to further state that "Trump prefers a diplomatic approach to resolving tensions." I am encouraged by that, but we have to be vigilant when it comes to this issue and the broader issue of the use of force.

The plans that I mentioned before referred to by the New York Times apparently were submitted by Acting Defense Secretary Shanahan. These are

the most recent in a string of actions this administration has taken, from withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, to designating the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps—the so-called IRGC—as a foreign terrorist organization, to suspending waivers that allow partner countries to continue importing Iranian oil.

I have a long record of working to fight against Iranian aggression. We all know—and we have said it often, and we should say it again—Iran is and has been the leading state sponsor of terrorism. For years, many of us, in a bipartisan way, have led efforts to confront Iran, to sanction Iran, to hold Iran accountable for its malign activity and actions in the Middle East and its actions to support terrorist organizations, whether it is Hezbollah or any other terrorist organization. We will continue that regardless of this debate.

But when the New York Times talked about that military plan, they referred to a prior engagement, a prior military conflict—the conflict in Iraq. “Echoes of Iraq War” was what the Times said. These “echoes” trigger memories and reflections of a misguided period of this body’s history in which Congress approved a U.S. invasion of Iraq based upon faulty intelligence. By the end of that long war, thousands of Americans had been killed, and many more Americans had been wounded.

In Pennsylvania alone, 197 Pennsylvanians were killed in action in the Iraq war and more than 1,200 were wounded. I haven’t even talked about the conflict in Afghanistan, where Pennsylvania lost more than 90. The last number I saw was 91 Pennsylvanians were killed in action in Afghanistan. Pennsylvania is well familiar with contributing fighting men and women to conflicts from the beginning of our Republic until this very day.

The administration’s actions on Iran also “echo” our ongoing stalemate—“stalemate” might be an understatement—regarding the authorization for use of military force—the so-called AUMF—against ISIS, for example.

If we don’t debate and vote on an AUMF as it relates to Iran or any other country or any other conflict, we are not doing our job.

For 6 years, the United States has been engaged in the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. For many years, the executive branch has relied on the 2001 authorization for use of military force to justify its fight against ISIS, as well as to justify other military engagements.

I ask Majority Leader MCCONNELL to set aside time for sustained debate and votes on a new authorization for use of military force.

Last month, Secretary of State Pompeo implied during testimony in front of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate that the 2001 AUMF to go after al-Qaida and its affiliates authorizes war with Iran. A lot of people would disagree with that. I believe that an 18-year-old authoriza-

tion needs an update—another understatement. The threats we confront today have evolved since 2001.

As this administration seeks to link al-Qaida and Iran in anticipation of a military confrontation, I am concerned over the bipartisan failure to hold both this and the prior administration to account for their constitutional overreach over congressional authority.

I commend Senator Kaine and other Senators from both parties for efforts over the last number of years to force a debate on congressional oversight over this issue.

The majority leader should allow floor time and a robust debate on congressional war powers and oversight over the Executive’s unilateral actions that send American troops overseas. The debate on the Yemen resolution and the vote—several votes, actually, on that—demonstrated that there is bipartisan concern over the use of force, but we need a broader debate than we had in the debate on the Yemen resolution.

As this administration pursues a reckless strategy with Iran, it is time for a sustained debate and vote on a new authorization for use of military force that allows our Nation to, in fact, destroy terrorists and fight threats to U.S. national security but doesn’t result in endless war. The 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force authorizing military action in Iraq and Afghanistan are outdated and must be replaced.

I will conclude with some words from Abraham Lincoln in that now-famous letter to Mrs. Bixby in which he talked about the loss of her sons’ lives in the Civil War. When they did the checks on it, it turned out to be two sons. When the President was writing, he thought she had lost five sons. But we still have families who suffer the loss of a son or a daughter in conflict—we hope not as many as two or more.

In this case, in the second paragraph, President Lincoln said “the grief of a loss so overwhelming.” He then went on to say to this grieving mother:

But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

So said President Lincoln at that time.

The words still ring true today—“the grief of a loss so overwhelming,” the memory of “the loved and lost.” It goes on to read “so costly a sacrifice.”

Every President should read this letter as he or she deliberates about the use of force that commits our sons and daughters to fight and risk their lives. When we talk about so costly a sacrifice, we all know what happened in our State. Military families in Pennsylvania, in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, endured so costly a sacrifice.

I hope President Trump will reread this letter as he deliberates our next steps with regard to Iran and our next steps with regard to the authorization for the use of military force.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

REAUTHORIZING THE BULLET-PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2379.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2379) to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

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

Mr. LEAHY. 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. LEAHY. 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. 2379) was passed.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

H.R. 2379

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this may seem like just a perfunctory thing, but I want to speak about what we just did.

The Senate passed legislation to permanently reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. This is the sixth time I have worked to reauthorize this lifesaving program since I and my Republican partner, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, of Colorado, authored the legislation to establish it more than 20 years ago.

My role in authoring this program—and my commitment to it ever since as we have reauthorized it and reauthorized it—was, in part, motivated by a horrific incident the year before Senator Nighthorse Campbell and I created it.

On August 19, 1997, a man named Carl Drega went on a killing spree along the Vermont and New Hampshire border. After hours of pursuit, Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities in Vermont and New Hampshire cornered Drega, and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, he was killed.

During the shoot-out, all of the Federal law enforcement officers involved were wearing bulletproof vests. This includes John Pfeifer, a Vermonter and a

longtime friend. His father was one of my favorite professors in college, and I remember John as a child. He was seriously wounded. In fact, at that time, then-FBI Director Louis Freeh and his family were staying with us at our home in Vermont.

We visited Officer Pfeifer, who was a U.S. Border Patrol agent, in the hospital. He was grievously wounded, but he survived and later became the Chief Patrol Agent of the sector. I have always feared—and I believe he agrees—that had it not been for his bulletproof vest, the outcome for John and his family may have been much worse.

Some of the state and local officers involved were not that fortunate. Two New Hampshire state troopers were killed. They were not wearing bulletproof vests. I don't know whether vests would have saved their lives. Let us hope they would have.

One thing I do know is that no officer should have to serve without having the benefit of wearing a bulletproof vest. That is what this is all about. I am immensely proud of this program. It is the most tangible support that all of us in Congress—both parties—can provide to our Nation's law enforcement officers.

To this day, for far too many jurisdictions, especially rural and smaller agencies, vests cost too much, and they wear out too soon. This program fills in the gap. It has provided more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies with 1.35 million vests. It has saved the lives of countless officers, several of whom have shared their stories with the Judiciary Committee, here in the Senate, during previous years. In fact, according to the Government Accountability Office, more than 3,000 officers' lives have been saved by vests since 1987. It makes me very proud to know these officers can still be with their families and their departments.

Just yesterday, my office received a call from the Union City Police Department in Georgia. Last month, one of its officers, Jerome Turner, Jr.—shown in this photograph—was shot multiple times when he responded to a call. One round hit him directly in the chest, but it did not get through his bulletproof vest. When backup arrived, Officer Turner was lying on the ground from his other injuries. He went through 6 hours of surgery, but he lived. His department called yesterday to tell me that the vest that saved his life was purchased through this program. Everybody in my office and I just applauded at that news.

My staff also had a chance to talk with Officer Turner. He is still recovering, but he said he is happy to be home with his family—his family he might never have seen again. He also said what we all know to be true—the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program is critical to ensuring officers around the country can return home to their families after their shifts.

Officer Turner knows a lot about this program. It turns out that he pre-

viously served as the chief of police in a small town in Florida, which is the Presiding Officer's State. He used this program to outfit his officers with protective vests in order to keep his officers safe while they were protecting us.

This week is National Police Week. It is a time for the Nation to honor the many brave men and women in law enforcement who have lost their lives while having served their communities. That includes the 163 officers who were lost last year—52 of them killed by gunfire. The fact that Congress has now passed legislation to permanently reauthorize this program places real meaning behind our words of tribute. The legislation also increases the funding for vests as, year after year, only a fraction of the need is met.

This program is not new, and never has been, partisan. When we started, I said that I and Ben Nighthorse Campbell, of Colorado—a Republican—started it. I am especially grateful to Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM for being the lead cosponsor of both this and the last reauthorization.

Last week, our bill was being considered by the Judiciary Committee. I have to admit I was a bit surprised and very humbled when Chairman GRAHAM called up an amendment to name the program after me and when it then got a unanimous vote from Republicans and Democrats. I am always going to be thankful, for the program is personal to me, and it is personal, certainly, to the officers who wear these vests.

I thank my many staff who have worked on this program for 22 years, including Dave Pendle, Erica Chabot, Ed Pagano, Bruce Cohen, Matt Virkstis, Kristine Lucius, Chan Park, David Carle, Jessica Berry, and many others.

I am also thankful to the entire law enforcement community, which has spoken with a single voice on this issue—a single voice. In particular I would like to thank Chuck Canterbury, Jim Pasco, and Tim Richardson with the Fraternal Order of Police—all friends of mine. The FOP has strongly supported this program from the beginning, and has been there for each of the six reauthorizations.

I would also like to thank for their support the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Tactical Officers Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association. Last, I would like to thank the sponsors of the House companion which the Senate just passed, Congressmen BILL PASCRELL and PETER KING.

Without this legislation, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program would expire next year. Once this legislation is signed into law, it will never expire. It has already saved the lives of

so many, and placed vests on the backs of well over one million officers. Now we know that millions more officers will be protected, and millions of officers like Officer Turner will be able to go home to their families.

I wonder if the Senate would allow me to tell a story.

When we were doing the reauthorization, I had asked a police officer from Pennsylvania to come and testify. He came. His parents, his wife, and his children sat behind him. He gave very moving testimony. He said the two most important things to him in life were his family and law enforcement. He told us about how, a short while before, he stopped a car at a routine traffic stop. He got out of his police car, and the person in the other car stepped out and fired four shots at him—point blank. He fell over. Others caught the person.

He said: As I was falling, I thought I would never see my family again. I had a couple of cracked ribs. They came to visit me in the hospital. I went back home with them to their love and care. Then I went back to work. This is what saved me.

He reached under the table and held up a bulletproof vest, and you could still see three large caliber slugs embedded in it.

He said: Those would have been in my heart. I never would have seen my family, and I never would have gone back to law enforcement.

At that time, I was the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. After his testimony, I asked if we could have a unanimous vote to reauthorize. It was the fastest unanimous vote I can remember in that committee.

As I said then and as I say now, this is the least Congress can do on behalf of our Nation's law enforcement officers. Obviously, I am proud to have had the legislation named after me, but I am proud of all of the Senators over the last 20-plus years—Republicans and Democrats—who have supported it. I am glad we have done it. Now it will head to the President for his signature, and I am sure the President will sign it without delay.

I see nobody else who seeks recognition.

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

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

VOTE ON VITTER NOMINATION

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

Ms. WARREN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Gillibrand	Harris
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

VOTE ON BULATAO NOMINATION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian J. Bulatao, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—92

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

NAYS—5

Blumenthal	Markey	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Gillibrand	Harris
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I am on the floor to talk about the men and women in uniform, our police officers who protect us every day. They are here in the Capitol protecting us in the Chamber. They are in Ohio protecting the citizens of Ohio, and they do it every day. They put their lives on the line for us in many cases.

This is National Police Week, a week when tens of thousands of police officers come to Washington, DC. They come to the police memorial. It has been a wonderful week because I had the opportunity to meet with law enforcement officers from Ohio, today, yesterday, and the day before. We have seen them on the streets. We have seen them in uniform. Their opportunity to come here is to talk about the important issues that relate to our law en-

forcement but also to pay tribute to their fallen colleagues.

Sadly, Ohio has lost its share of officers recently. Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty include two so far this year and four last year.

On February 2, Clermont County Detective Bill Brewer was shot and killed after responding to a call from a suicidal man who was armed at an apartment complex just east of Cincinnati, in Clermont County. Detective Brewer served at the sheriff's department for 20 years, and was widely respected.

The funeral was amazing. There was an overwhelming number of people. Grateful citizens showed up and law enforcement from our entire region and, in fact, law enforcement from even other States. At his service I had the honor of presenting his widow and young son with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol, in honor of him and in gratitude to his family.

On that day, County Sheriff Steve Leahy said of Detective Brewer:

He was an outstanding man. He was a good father, a good husband, a good friend, a good employee. He's what this country needs more of.

I agree with Sheriff Leahy.

On January 4, Colerain Township Police Officer Dale Woods was hit by a vehicle while working at the scene of an automobile accident, and he passed away 3 days later as a result of his injuries. Police Chief Mark Denney remembered Woods as a hero who once saved a baby inside a hot car and also ran into a burning building to save a blind woman. That is the type of selfless and courageous officer he was. He represented the best.

Last July, Cleveland Patrol Officer Vu Nguyen, a 25-year veteran of the department, collapsed while taking part in police training exercises. Vu was known as a people person, someone who cared a lot for his fellow citizens and always went the extra mile to help anyone who asked. His family said that was the reason he became a police officer, because he wanted a job where he could help people. That is what police officers do.

In June of last year, Mentor Police Officer Matthew Mazany was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while assisting another officer during a traffic stop. Officer Mazany had served with the Mentor Police Department for 14 years. He was beloved by his fellow officers, by his family and friends, and by his entire community.

This morning I had the opportunity to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, here in Washington, DC. I was able to see the inscribed names on the wall there of thousands of law enforcement officers we have lost over the years. If you haven't been down there, it is a powerful experience.

There were also beautiful memorials set up around those walls with wreaths, flowers, photographs, magazine articles, newspaper articles, and other information about officers whom we lost in the last year, including these two officers from Westerville, OH, who were

tragically murdered last year while serving their community and all of us.

On February 10, 2018, Westerville Police Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering were fatally shot while responding to a 911 call. Sadly, it was fatal. They had rushed to the scene. They had arrived to help. They were under fire. Officer Joering was killed at the scene. Officer Morelli died in surgery later that day.

I have had the great honor of meeting the families of both of these fallen officers—amazing women and amazing kids. Linda Morelli and Jami Joering are incredibly strong women and incredibly strong mothers. I was able to express condolences and gratitude from all Ohioans for their husbands' service.

The memorials I saw today were a moving tribute to those two police officers, two fallen officers who served their fellow Ohioans with honor. Soon their names will be inscribed on the police wall I talked about at the memorial. Their names will be inscribed there for the ages for all of us to see and so that we can all remember the ultimate sacrifice they and other officers have made for us.

We continue to hold up their families and the families of the fallen. We continue to hold them up in our prayers and to show our support and express our enduring gratitude.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this Sunday, I have the honor of joining some of the most courageous, faithful, and inspiring Texans whom I ever met for the grand opening and dedication of their new church.

These men and women are part of the congregation at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. For the vast majority of its 100-year history, this small church was adored by members of the community as a place of worship, but it didn't get much attention on the national stage. On November 5, 2017, all of that changed when a deranged shooter opened fire on their Sunday service, killing 26 parishioners—adults, teenagers, children, and an unborn baby. The church became the site of the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history.

This violent attack rocked the entire small, tight-knit town to its core. Every home, every family, and every person felt the impact of the shooter's actions, but what emerged wasn't more of the hatred and anger displayed by the shooter. Instead, Sutherland Springs became a beacon of love and hope. The day of the attack I spoke

with Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt and offered my condolences and complete support. Sheriff Tackitt told me about the day's events and said the bloody scene inside the First Baptist Church was horrific, but the response to the tragedy was instantaneous. First responders from the surrounding area, as well as State and Federal law enforcement officials, inundated Sutherland Springs with resources and help.

In the days and weeks following the attack, the support continued. Folks from across the country made their way to this small town outside of San Antonio to pay their respects, leaving flowers outside the church, singing songs of worship, and extending a caring hand to those grieving.

I joined the congregation 1 week after the shooting for their Sunday service, and it was an emotional experience, to be sure. I was there to offer what I could in terms of support and hope to this grieving community, but what happened was just the opposite. They were the ones giving me inspiration.

That day, as the associate pastor pointed out, the church smashed attendance records. It was remarkable to see not only the church community but also complete strangers embracing one another, offering a shoulder to cry on or a hand to hold.

There was perhaps no more moving occurrence than Pastor Frank Pomeroy. He and his wife lost their teenage daughter in the shooting.

One week after that occurred, he opened that service saying: "We have the freedom to choose, and rather than choose darkness like the young man did that day, we choose the light."

Coming from a man who lost 26 beloved members of his congregation, including his own daughter, those words are tough to get your brain around. When he was going through what I have no doubt was the toughest moment of his life, Pastor Pomeroy was comforting those of us in the audience and reminding us not to let evil triumph.

As more details about the shooter emerged, that message of hope was even more important to recall. We learned that the shooter had a long history of violence, and a number of red flags had been raised—school suspensions, comments about wanting to kill his superiors, animal abuse, and violence toward those closest to him. He had choked his wife, fractured his stepson's skull, and done time in military prison.

Under existing Federal laws, the shooter was prohibited from ever purchasing or possessing a firearm. It was illegal. So how did he get his hands on this weapon that he used to take 26 innocent lives?

Well, in short, it was because of a broken system. He was able to purchase four firearms because information about his criminal history was never uploaded into the National In-

stant Criminal Background Check System, also known as NICS.

In the wake of the tragedy, you always wonder, how did this happen and, more importantly, what can we possibly do to prevent something like this from happening again? Well, in this case, one answer was pretty clear. We have to fix the National Criminal Instant Background Check System so gun purchasers can't lie and buy firearms that they are already legally disqualified from purchasing or possessing.

Eleven days after the shooting, it became clear to me how this system had broken down. The Air Force had simply failed to upload this information into the background checks system so it wasn't there when this shooter bought those guns. In response, I introduced the Fix NICS Act to reform the system and ensure that all Federal agencies accurately and correctly upload these required conviction records. This legislation also encourages States and local jurisdictions, to the extent possible under the Constitution, to do exactly the same. We can't make them do it, but we can encourage them to do it and facilitate their doing so.

It has been estimated that some 7 million records, including at least 25 percent of felony convictions and a large number of convictions for misdemeanor domestic violence, are absent from NICS—7 million records, including 25 percent of felony convictions, and a large number of convictions for domestic violence were absent from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

How in the world can we expect that system to work to protect us and our communities if, in fact, the required information is not being uploaded? Each missing record represents a unique opportunity for someone like the shooter at Sutherland Springs to slip through the cracks. So we knew what we had to do to change that.

I worked with my colleagues in the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, and encouraged them to support the Fix NICS Act. I was heartened and encouraged by the bipartisan support we got. This legislation passed with 77 Members of the Senate serving as cosponsors. When the President signed this bill into law, it marked a major achievement and step forward and delivered on the promise I made to myself following Pastor Pomeroy's advice: focus on the light and not on the darkness.

I am grateful for the support of my colleagues who cosponsored and voted for this legislation, which has made our background check system stronger. It actually made it so it will work the way Congress originally intended when it created the National Instant Criminal Background Check System maintained by the FBI.

I have and will continue to work with the officials at the Department of Justice to ensure that this law is fully implemented as soon as possible.

I look forward to joining my friends at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs this week to honor those they lost and to celebrate the grand opening of their new worship center and education building.

Today I once again extend my deepest condolences to the families of those lost and to the community that continues to grieve. They have my full support, and I vow to do everything in my power to prevent this type of senseless violence from becoming the norm. No family, no congregation, no community should ever lose a loved one because of an entirely preventable crime. I hope because of this legislation, they never will.

I will just say, in conclusion on this topic, what consolation, what comfort can you give to someone grieving the loss of a loved one? I can only think of one thing; that as a result of their loss and their sacrifice, some good will come out of it. I think the only way to reconcile your grief and your loss is knowing that out of your loss, something good will come out of it. I can genuinely say that as a result of the loss of these 26 parishioners at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, we will save lives in the future. There will be lives saved and lives lived as a result of their sacrifice and what we have done working together to try to prevent those types of acts of senseless, preventable violence from occurring in the future.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, throughout our country's history, we welcomed men and women and children from other countries who are inspired by the freedoms and the prosperity made possible by our Constitution and by our democracy. Whether those immigrants crossed oceans generations ago or were more recently naturalized, we are glad they chose to bring their dreams and talents to the United States because ours, after all, is a proud nation of immigrants. I believe the contributions of those who have chosen to seek citizenship in our country have made us stronger, smarter, and the preeminent force on the world stage.

It is important to remember, as we debate immigration reform or what to do about the humanitarian crisis and security crisis on the border—it is important to remember that the United States is the most generous country in the world when it comes to legal immigration. Every year, our Nation admits more than 1 million new legal immigrants, and I am proud of that fact. I am also proud of the fact that these individuals—these 1 million individuals who immigrated to our country—do so in compliance with the laws of the land that they now call home. Perhaps one of the ultimate demonstrations of respect is recognizing the responsibilities all of us have to abide by the laws of the land.

We know our immigration system is not perfect. It has flaws. I would argue it is outdated and inefficient, and it

hasn't kept up with the needs of our economy. Our immigration system needs a fundamental review to determine what is working and what isn't so we can create a new legal immigration system that benefits both immigrants and our success as a nation.

I know there is widespread agreement in the Senate that our legal immigration system could be made better, and I hope there is enough will in Congress to have serious discussions about how to fix it.

This afternoon, the President is expected to announce his proposal to reform our legal immigration system, and I am glad he and his administration have made this a priority. I look forward to reviewing the final text of the proposal once it is available.

For those who would criticize the proposal made by the Trump administration, I believe it is incumbent on them to say what they would do to fix our broken immigration system, to improve our system of legal immigration, so we can continue to welcome immigrants from around the world who want to make America their home and truly become Americans.

Those who just sit on the sidelines and throw brickbats and criticize, I think they demean this system of legal immigration, which is really one of the great treasures of the American way of life.

I continue to be hopeful that we can work our way through this. I am glad the President is making this a priority, and I look forward to hearing more about the details of his plan.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TAX PROVISIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, some time ago, specifically February 28, I came to the Senate to visit with my colleagues about the more than two dozen tax provisions that expired at the end of 2017. That same day, I joined with Finance Committee Ranking Member WYDEN of Oregon to introduce a bill entitled "Tax Extender Disaster Relief Act of 2019" to extend these two dozen tax provisions through 2019.

I very much thank Ranking Member WYDEN for his cooperation on this effort. Actually, we have a lot of cooperation on a lot of different subjects within the Finance Committee.

Now, unfortunately, we are still waiting on House Democrats to send us a tax bill that includes those provisions so taxpayers who have relied on them can finish their 2018 tax returns. I have had some discussions with the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and I don't have any reason to believe he doesn't believe some of these extenders should be extended. I suppose because they are new to run the House of Representatives, and they have dissension within their own caucus, it takes a while to get an active group of people pushing for this particular legislation, but it ought to be easy to happen because these tax provisions have

traditionally been extended every 2 or 3 years over the last 20 years—maybe longer than that in some cases.

I remind my colleagues in the House of Representatives that taxpayers have all but run out of time. Part of my purpose in introducing the Tax Extender and Disaster Relief Act way back in February was to provide additional certainty for the current year for those businesses that have made use of these tax credits in the past.

I noted that in most cases, Congress enacted those provisions to provide an incentive for taxpayers to engage in certain actions like investment and job creation.

In February, I also reminded my colleagues that those incentives are most effective when taxpayers can rely on them during the tax year. For the most part, over the last three decades, they have had that certainty by the renewal of these tax provisions.

Regrettably, we are now one-third of the way through 2019 with no certainty for affected taxpayers in sight. I also said, in my February remarks, that my broader objective of including an extension through 2019 was so we could have some maneuvering room to examine the temporary provisions overall and try to identify longer term solutions. Through efforts in the last Congress, we identified potential long-term solutions for two of them—the short-line railroad tax credit and the biodiesel tax credit—but we have the opportunity now to do more.

While we continue to try to help taxpayers who still need to resolve their 2018 tax returns, we need to press ahead on more permanent solutions so we can end Congress's continual bad habit of waiting until the eleventh hour or months after to extend temporary tax policy.

Accordingly, today, I am announcing, along with Ranking Member WYDEN, that the Finance Committee will form several bipartisan task forces to examine the temporary tax policies. These task forces will consist of members of the Finance Committee and will focus on provisions that expired or will expire between December 31, 2017, and December 31 of this year. That is a total of 42 expiring tax provisions.

Each task force will be charged with examining temporary tax policies within one of five identified issue areas. These issue areas are: workforce and community development, health taxes, energy, business cost recovery, and a combined group consisting of individual, excise taxes, and other temporary policies.

We will ask the task forces to work with the stakeholders, other Senate offices, and interested parties to consider the original purposes of the policies and whether the need for the provisions continues today. If so, we will ask the task force to identify possible solutions that would provide long-term certainty in these areas. That may mean the credit or deduction phases out over a period of years to provide an affected

industry a glide path to self-sufficiency. In other cases, it may mean the provision could be scaled back while still providing a sufficient benefit for the affected industry or taxpayers in exchange for long-term certainty. If there is little or no case for continuing the temporary policy, the task force should consider whether the provision should be eliminated.

There may also be provisions that the task force identifies that should be extended without reform. For these provisions, the task force will have to consider whether a continued short-term extension is sufficient to achieve the policy goals, whether a longer term extension is desirable to force a future Congress to reevaluate the provision down the road, or if permanency is warranted.

This is particularly relevant for the temporary tax policies relating to healthcare. For these, we will ask the task force to focus on whether the tax policy should be extended and for what duration. Of course, we will leave the evaluation of the underlying healthcare policy to the health experts.

In all, the task forces will work to identify reform proposals, like those identified for the short-line railroad tax credit and the biodiesel tax credit last year, so we can end the policy of having Congress always kick the can down the road each time, or, as is the case with 2018, an even worse policy of doing the kicking months after the year has ended.

If Congress is going to use temporary tax policy, taxpayers should be able to count on it for the intended period. Moreover, the intended policy should be clear so that taxpayers do not fall into the trap of relying on a provision simply because Congress has created the expectation that the provisions will be consistently extended even well after the fact.

Taxpayers who have been relying on these provisions have been doing what Congress has wanted them to do. That happens to be free-market investing in certain types of property, hiring new employees, or taking other types of action. We shouldn't punish them for doing what Congress intended with these tax provisions.

Additionally, we will have a sixth task force to examine the related issue of temporary disaster tax relief. It will consider whether we should have a core set of permanent proposals so taxpayers who have suffered through devastating disasters—like with the floods, most recently, in my home State of Iowa—don't have to wait for Congress to act before they can start rebuilding their lives, their small businesses, or their farms.

We have asked the task forces to begin their work right away, and we expect them to complete their efforts by the end of June. This should provide adequate time to identify possible long-term solutions that could be enacted this year to end the annual extenders drama and provide certainty to

the taxpayers who utilize those provisions.

We will continue to work with the House of Representatives to resolve the situation with respect to the 2018 temporary policies and to provide relief for all of those affected by the disasters of 2018 and so far this year, but we shouldn't wait any longer to start laying the groundwork to deal with all of these temporary tax policies as permanently as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, for his leadership on these issues. I look forward to working with him on the assigned task forces and to working hard on very important issues that he and I have been working on in the past—from biodiesel, to energy policy, to a variety of things. I thank him for that.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. President, I come to the floor to honor the integrity, dignity, and bravery of the Federal, State, local, and Tribal police officers throughout our country who keep us safe every day.

As officers from around the Nation gather here in Washington, DC, to honor their fallen brothers and sisters and to add their names to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, I take a moment to thank the officers for their service and to pay tribute to those who have died in the line of duty.

In 2018, 159 officers nationwide were killed in the line of duty, and already this year, 41 officers throughout the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities and protect our loved ones. Two of these officers came from my home State of Washington.

Cowlitz County deputy sheriff Justin DeRosier served the people of Washington for 6 years—3 in Cowlitz County and 3 in Whitman County. He was a graduate of Kelso High School and of Washington State University. He loved going to work every day to serve and protect the people of Cowlitz County.

My thoughts and the thoughts and prayers of all Washingtonians are with his wife, Katie, his new daughter, his entire family, and the entire Cowlitz County law enforcement community.

Kittitas County sheriff's deputy Ryan Thompson served the people of Washington for 12 years. He was born in Walla Walla and graduated from Central Washington University. Whether it be with Kittitas County or in the police ranks of Central Washington University, he served his community with honor.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, his three children, his entire family, and the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department as they work through this unbelievable tragedy.

Since 2017, four other officers from Washington State have also lost their lives in the line of duty: Diego Moreno from Kent, deputy sheriff Daniel

McCartney from Pierce County, detective Derrick Focht from Kent, and chief of police Randall Scott Gibson from Kalama.

All of these men deserve a great deal of respect and gratitude for their service and for their sacrifice. All of the men and women in law enforcement deserve our respect and gratitude for their commitment and dedication to our country and for embodying the best of our Nation.

I have seen so many of the men and women of law enforcement who have come here to DC this week to participate in this memorial. It is right that we give them recognition, and it is right that we remember the sacrifice law enforcement officers make every single day on our behalf.

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

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

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

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

Mr. MANCHIN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Gillibrand	Harris
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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 Majority Leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 201.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 35.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Tim Scott, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 37.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 38.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IRAN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, years before President Trump moved to the White House, even before President Obama and his family lived there, our Nation was at odds with an isolated country ruled by a repressive leader. It wasn't long before it became clear to the United Nations and to our country's own intelligence community that the country I am speaking of was enriching uranium for the purpose of obtaining a nuclear weapon, threatening to destabilize a region of great strategic importance.

As the world was winding down from a cold war, tensions between the United States and this country were heating up. An administration that some would call naive recently attempted to deescalate tensions, taking an unprecedented step to hold out an olive branch to an unpredictable regime in hopes of reaching a momentous agreement to stop them from continuing to enrich uranium. Surprisingly, that President trusted and was willing to give unprecedented concessions, all without any reliable mechanism to verify whether the nuclear enrichment had indeed ended.

My Republican colleagues would be surprised to hear me say this today, especially today, a week after the anniversary of the U.S. decision to pull out

of the Iran nuclear deal. They are right to be surprised because I am not talking about Iran; I am talking about North Korea. I am not talking about President Barack Obama; I am talking about Donald Trump.

Donald Trump was willing to sit down with a criminal dictator and give away unprecedented concessions in the hopes that North Korea would abandon its nuclear program. On the other hand, he turned his back on Iran, a large country with a growing moderate population—roughly 75 million people, the majority of which, the last I checked, are under the age of 25—and a moderate President. Let me be really clear. There are some bad actors in Iran, and some of them are in powerful positions. But, unfortunately, the actions of this administration, unlike the actions of the last administration, the Obama administration—here is what they sought to do. They sought to diminish the extremists, the hardliners, and their sway over what happens in Iran and at the same time bolster a new generation of Iranians who are growing up, who are more moderate in nature and, frankly, who would like to have a better relationship with our country. Sadly, President Trump turned his back on Iran and looked forward to taking a different course—a different course for sure.

Unlike North Korea, Iran committed 2 years ago to unprecedented, invasive inspections under a deal called JCPOA. On July 14, 2015, after years of careful preparation, the Obama administration began implementing the JCPOA with Iran and five negotiating partners—Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China—in an effort to end Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons for years and, possibly, if we are lucky, forever. The deal was not based on trust; it was based on mistrust—mistrust.

There is a Ronald Reagan line that says: "Trust, but verify." That is not the underlying principle with the Iran deal, the JCPOA. It is mistrust, but verify. That is the theme that underlies the JCPOA.

Under that agreement, Iran was required to end uranium enrichment for nuclear purposes and would be subject to invasive inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA. To the surprise of many, they had apparently held up their end of the bargain until now.

We pulled out of the JCPOA a year ago. Our other negotiating partners stayed in, and the IAEA recently certified for the 14th time in a row—I think in February of this year—that Iran has complied with the terms of the agreement, the letter and spirit of the agreement that we pulled out of a year ago. We are the only one who has pulled out of it to date. The IAEA itself says that the inspection regime laid out by this agreement, the JCPOA, is the world's toughest—the world's toughest.

Here is the bottom line. Because of the JCPOA, Iran is much further away

from developing a nuclear weapon today than it was before the deal was signed several years ago. However, as I said earlier, we have not held up our end of the bargain. One year ago, President Trump announced that this country would unilaterally leave the JCPOA, even though the IAEA certified for the 14th time in a row, this year, that Iran has complied with the terms of the agreement. But we pulled out, leaving our allies, who committed to the deal in good faith, in the lurch.

This decision we made, I think regrettably a year ago, had consequences. Instead of celebrating continued stability provided by the Iran nuclear deal last week, Iran's President, President Rouhani, announced that Iran will begin to end its compliance with some portions of the JCPOA, including by stockpiling enriched uranium and heavy water.

As I said at that time, President Trump's decision increased the odds of armed conflict with Iran while doing nothing to constrain their other malicious activities in the region. Again, make no mistake. Not everybody in Iran wants to be our friend. Mostly young people want to be our friends, and a lot of folks who have been elected to office over there would like to have a friendly, better relationship with this country. But there are some who do not, and I fully acknowledge that.

Today, thanks to President Trump's appointment of John Bolton to be our National Security Advisor—the President's National Security Advisor—we are seeing that prediction come truer than I could have imagined.

Last month, the Trump administration designated the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a foreign terrorist organization, further antagonizing Iran. Members of the Trump administration are reportedly mulling over a plan to refuse to issue sanctions waivers to our European allies who intend to purchase oil from Iran, and the administration has reportedly drawn up plans to send 120,000 of our troops to the Middle East in response to alleged increased threats from Iran. But our allies in the region and around the world, including the French, the Brits, and the Germans, say that they have seen no such threat. All of this is happening in the absence of a Senate-confirmed Secretary of Defense.

Earlier this week, I was out for a run a couple of miles from here. If you run from the Capitol down to the Lincoln Memorial and then turn around and sort of head back this way, you run by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Whenever I run alongside the memorial, I take my left hand, and with my fingers, I touch the names of 55,000 men and women who died in that war. I served with them. I am the last Vietnam veteran serving in the Senate. They died, and many of us risked our lives over a war that was based—really, premised—on an untruth; some would say a lie.

In August 1964, then-President Lyndon Johnson announced that the North Vietnamese had engaged the U.S. Navy in the Gulf of Tonkin, and he asked Congress to pass a resolution supporting retaliatory attacks. The following day, he added these words to his request: "The United States intends no rashness and seeks no wider war." Those were his words in August 1964.

His administration went on to justify a bloody, almost decades-long war after that on the basis of that document—55,000 of my colleagues, my shipmates, my fellow marines, our soldiers, our airmen—55,000—dead.

We had a similar situation in Iraq. It did not involve the Gulf of Tonkin. It did not involve ships. It really didn't involve the Vietnamese. But there were allegations and assertions that the Iraqis were developing weapons of mass destruction. The President, the Vice President—in that case, Bush and Cheney—the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of State all asserted that the Iraqis were developing weapons of mass destruction and called on this Congress to give the President the power to respond appropriately.

There are 55,000 names on the Vietnam memorial wall. There is no wall for the 4,100 men and women who died in Iraq after Congress provided President Bush the authority to respond to the alleged, perceived threat of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. While there is no wall on which to write those 4,100 names, those names are written in graveyards in every State in this country—4,100 men, women, some young and some old, who laid down their lives on what was really based on a lie—weapons of mass destruction.

I want to say that lie was chiefly perpetrated, if I am not mistaken, by a fellow named John Bolton and that administration.

Fast forward to today. We have seen this movie before. Thanks to John Bolton's rash actions in the Mideast, I can see it happening again.

I don't want to see it happen again. I have been to too many funerals of people, servicemembers from Delaware, who died in Iraq. I don't want to go to any more. I don't want to have to visit any more spouses, children, parents, brothers, and sisters, as we have done in recent years with families who have been crushed by sorrow flowing from our engagement in Iraq.

John Bolton has agitated for war with Iran for over a decade. He even wrote an op-ed about it. The op-ed was entitled: "To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran."

Under Mr. Bolton's leadership, the Trump administration's Iran policy is becoming ever more dangerous and ever more isolated from our traditional allies. This strategy could very well plunge us into another foreign war, if not corrected.

This needless escalation is no way to conduct our foreign policy or to safeguard our national security. What is more, the administration's actions

with respect to Iran haven't just increased the odds of an armed conflict. They have also damaged the credibility of our country around the world. If the United States cannot be trusted to uphold our commitments to those with whom we negotiate, there is little reason to believe that other countries, let alone nuclear-armed ones like North Korea, would be willing to negotiate with us in good faith.

Now, there is another option here. Yesterday former U.S. Ambassador Wendy Sherman published an op-ed in the New York Times in which she wrote the following:

But war is not inevitable. President Trump campaigned on bringing troops home, not sending tens of thousands more to the Middle East. Such a deployment, although inadequate for a full-scale war, is more than foolish. War in the Middle East, as we should have learned by now, is neither swift to end nor sure to achieve its purpose.

Reformists in Iran have expressed an interest in diplomatic solutions with the United States and our allies, including a possible prisoner exchange. The foreign minister of Iran, whom I first met a dozen years or so ago at the Iranian Ambassador's residence in New York City—not the Ambassador to the United States but the Ambassador to the United Nations, a fellow name Javad Zarif. It turned out that when I met him, I was impressed with how well-spoken he was. It turns out he had gone to undergraduate school at San Francisco State, I believe, in California. He is a really smart guy. He is not only well spoken but knew a lot about America and spoke English as well as any of us in the room. He went to graduate school in Denver, CO, and he ended up here as the Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations.

Later, when Ahmadinejad left office—Ahmadinejad was a bad guy, a really bad guy, and was President of Iran before Ruhani—Ahmadinejad sent Zarif back home, got him out of the United States, got him back to Iran, and he sort of disappeared until the new elections. Ruhani emerged as the more moderate—kind of a Gorbachev-type guy, really—leader in Iran and said: Zarif, I would like you to be my foreign minister. That is like being their Secretary of State, a position that he still holds.

Not long ago, about a couple of weeks ago, in that role, he suggested that we do a prisoner swap. We hold a number of people of Iranian descent who are in this country. They hold about a half dozen or so of our folks, I think mostly with dual citizenship, in their country. Foreign Minister Zarif said: Why don't we just do a straight-out prisoner swap?

That would actually be a good start to maybe tamping down the rhetoric and to see if we can't find common ground with Iran again.

During the 8 years of previous administrations, our foreign policy was designed to strengthen the standing of the moderates in Iran and to under-

mine the power of the hard-liners in that country. Actually, it worked—not perfectly, but it worked. The elections that they conducted a couple of years ago—6 years ago—reflect that.

Sadly, this administration—I can't believe they did it intentionally, but their policy in the last just 2 years or a little over 2 years—what they have done is to undermine the effectiveness and the standing of the moderates in Iran, and they have rallied support of Iran around the extremists and around the hard-liners. It is just the opposite of what was done in the last administration.

We have to be smarter than that. We have to be smarter than this. When I think about the contrast between the Trump administration's actions in North Korea and Iran, I can't help but wonder why there is such a stark contrast? I would not trust the leader of North Korea any further than I could throw him, and for this President to embrace this guy and to trust him in ways that befuddle me—and, I think, a lot of other folks, including folks in his party—is beyond me.

But why has this administration been so determined to abrogate a carefully crafted deal that keeps Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon? Why will President Trump not work to ensure the freedom of Americans held in Iran? Well, part of the answer is provided by Thomas Friedman, a highly regarded famous journalist whose column appears from time to time in national newspapers.

Tom Friedman wrote, a year or so ago, something called the "Trump Doctrine." I think it provides an answer to the question: Why has President Trump been so determined to get us out of the JCPOA and to embrace a leader like the one we have over in North Korea?

The "Trump Doctrine" from Tom Friedman goes something like this. He said: "Obama built it, I broke it"—"I," being Trump—"you"—including us here in this body—"fix it." That is it. "Obama built it, I"—Donald Trump—"broke it—you"—the rest of us—"fix it."

I think my colleagues would agree that it would be a travesty if the President's determination to destroy President Obama's achievement—an achievement shared by others in this country and by our allies and friends in, among other places, Britain, France, and Germany—but our President's determination to destroy Barack Obama's achievement, the achievements of his administration—in this case, the Iran nuclear deal—led us into another endless war in the Middle East.

I urge President Trump, as he has done in the case of North Korea, to engage in diplomacy and ratchet down tensions with Iran, rather than engaging in needless provocation.

Mr. President, you meet with the President more than I do, but some of the times I have been with him in the last 2 years, whenever he mentions

George W. Bush, in the same breath he talks about how he got us into a war that cost us thousands of lives and has cost literally tens of billions of dollars—the Iraq war. So that would suggest to me that the idea of drawing more troops and a whole lot more money into a war with Iran has to be something you do with care.

So on this 1-year anniversary of the Trump administration's pulling out of the Iran deal—I think, foolishly doing so—I would urge the President and his advisers to think carefully about what outcomes we really seek as a country. We should be prioritizing diplomacy at this time, not escalating tensions and risking war with American lives with no coherent strategy. It is my hope that cooler heads will prevail. It is also in America's best interest that they do.

John Kennedy said a lot of things that are memorable, and one of my favorites is this: "Never negotiate out of fear, but never be afraid to negotiate." "Never negotiate out of fear, but never be afraid to negotiate." I think we would be wise to remember those words with respect to Iran.

The last thing I would say to the Presiding Officer, who is former military, is this. When I finish speaking, you are going to be succeeded by a Marine colonel who serves here from Alaska. We know people we serve with people who have given their lives up in combat in wars far away around the world.

We are very proud in Delaware. The Dover Air Force Base may be the best airlift base in the world. There are 5,000 or 6,000 people who work there, mostly uniformed, and big planes, C-5s and C-17s. Maybe it is the best airlift base in the world.

Dover Air Force Base is also home to a mortuary. A month ago, the bodies of three marines, one of whom is from Delaware, were brought back to this country. In this case, their vehicle in Afghanistan was blown up by a roadside bomb, and we lost three of them just like that. They are not the first, and, sadly, they will not be the last members of our Armed Services to come home.

For one of the marines, Christopher Slutman, his body came home to his wife Shannon and to their three daughters, ages 4, 8, and 10. I have seen this movie before. I have seen it at Dover Air Force Base with countless bodies that have come back from overseas. I think about those kids every day, and I am sure my colleagues think about the men and the women from their States who have served, in some cases, with great courage and valor. But the idea that 55,000 of those colleagues of mine who served in Vietnam in a war that was premised on a lie and 4,100 are buried in graveyards all over this country—we have to be smarter than that. We owe it to not just the families of those men and women who have died but to the ones who serve today and their families.

"Never negotiate out of fear, but never be afraid to negotiate."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am down here on the floor to do what I typically do on Thursday, which is talk about an Alaskan who is making a big difference in my State, somebody I refer to as the Alaskan of the Week.

But, you know, this is the Senate and we have debates, and we are respectful in our debates, and there is no one in the Senate I respect more than my friend from Delaware, Senator CARPER—his service in Vietnam and as a captain in the Navy. When he speaks, I listen, and I have respect. But I actually thought, very briefly—it wasn't what I was planning on doing, but I was just listening to someone I respect—I thought I would offer a bit of a counter view for those watching in the Gallery or on TV on what he just talked about.

It is a really important issue, but I just happen to respectfully disagree with most—not everything, but most—of what my colleague just mentioned. So I am just going to touch on that before I talk about an Alaskan who is doing great work.

Just listening to my colleague talk about President Trump's turning his back on Iran, the sanctions that we placed on Iran, which we all voted for here in the Senate, are antagonizing Iran. Foreign Minister Zarif is a moderate. Well, let me just touch on that. I think there is this new narrative that is starting to come out from my colleagues, and, again, I have a lot of respect for my good friend from Delaware, but about this kind of blame America first, blame Trump, as if the generals and admirals weren't advising him, and that Iran is some kind of this new innocent moderate that we are turning our back on and we are sanctioning them and antagonizing them. With all due respect to my colleague on the other of the aisle, this couldn't be further from the truth. Iran is no innocent. Iran is no innocent at all.

Iran is the biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world and has been for decades. As for the JCPOA, which my colleague is lamenting, I read that. I certainly dug into that. I have been involved in our broader Iran isolation policy for many years. That was the first major foreign policy national security agreement in U.S. history that had a bipartisan majority of Senators and a bipartisan majority of House Members who were against it—against it, not for it. That did not have support in this body—certainly not in the Senate, not in the House, and not from the American people.

So as for this myth that somehow this was this great agreement, it wasn't. It was a giveaway—billions to the largest state sponsor of terrorism, where in 10 years they are free to go develop nuclear weapons. This was not a good agreement, and this body said so. A bipartisan majority in the House and the Senate disagreed with President Obama. A partisan minority in

the House and Senate, for the first time in U.S. history, on a national security agreement of this magnitude, somehow passed it.

So there is this myth that this was supported by Congress. It wasn't. Democrats and Republicans opposed it—the majority in both Houses. And by the American people, it certainly wasn't.

Remember, this is the country that, after the deal and during the deal, continued to say what? We want to wipe Israel off the map. It is not a really nice, innocent nation saying that: We want to wipe Israel off the map. They continue to say that.

Here is the final thing. In my 4 years in the Senate, I have only heard one other U.S. Senator—Senator COTTON from Arkansas—even talk about this issue.

Starting in 2004, 2005, I was a staff officer, as a marine, to the commander of U.S. Central Command, and there was top-secret information that started to show in the region—and we were out there a lot, the Middle East—that the Iranians were supplying the Iraqi Shia militia with very sophisticated improvised explosive devices that were killing our soldiers and our marines and our sailors. The Iranians, of course, denied it. They were lying.

It all came out to be true. These were infrared tripwires, explosively formed projectiles that could punch through anything—Abrams tanks, humvees—and if you were an American soldier and you got hit by one of these, you were pretty much dead.

I asked the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in an open Armed Services Committee hearing how many American military members were killed by these Iranian IEDs, and over 2,000 was his answer—2,000. I have never heard any of my colleagues talk about that.

So the notion that Foreign Minister Zarif was a moderate when he was negotiating with Secretary Kerry is belied by the facts. This Foreign minister literally had the blood of American soldiers on his hands.

So I take these issues very seriously, like my colleague from Delaware does.

There is this notion that our allies were all for the JCPOA. They weren't. Some of our most important allies—Israel, the Gulf Arab States, which we have been allies with for decades—were adamantly opposed, and they are the closest to Iran.

So this notion that we are going to blame the administration—by the way, we keep talking about President Trump. He is getting advice from seasoned generals and admirals to reinforce our military presence in the region because they see threats.

In the media right now, there is this narrative that the President is trying to drum up a war. What about the generals? What about General Dunford, a very well respected marine and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs? Are they doing this?

I just came from reading some of the intel in the SCIF that is prompting this discussion. Of course, I can't talk about it, but I support what the administration is doing with regard to reinforcing our military capabilities in the region, and this is the reason: It sends a message to Iran that if they are going to try to do what they did in 2004, 2005, and 2006, which is kill and wound thousands of our military members, we are going to have the capability to make them pay.

I don't like seeing anyone coming through Dover Air Force Base, either, but over 2,000 of our troops were killed and wounded by these leaders of the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. The notion that somehow they are some kind of innocent country that we are antagonizing or "turning our back on" is not accurate. So watch out for the new narrative that the Iranians are the innocents and that somehow we are being provocative. What is provocative is killing our troops, which they have a long history of doing—in Lebanon, the marines—and we need to send a signal that if they are going to look at doing this again or trying to or trying to kill our diplomats, it is not going to be so easy this time.

I support what is happening there, and I hope my colleagues will.

We are going to get a briefing by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the CIA next week on this, which I think is appropriate. Let's remember who the real bad guys are. We are Americans. Yes, we have political differences, but somehow, if we start to make this narrative that Iran is the innocent and somehow the Trump guys—John Bolton, for example—are some kind of evil people—come on. Come on, really? The largest state sponsor of terrorism, responsible for killing and maiming and wounding thousands of American soldiers, the best and brightest in our country, and we are the bad guys? I don't think so.

So watch out for that narrative. I certainly hope it is not going to be something my colleagues on the other side of the aisle start getting out there. It is already in the media. You have the former negotiator for President Obama making these statements that, somehow, poor Iran; all-bad America. I am not a big "blame America first" member, and I think we need to be really careful when we talk about trying to demonize our generals, admirals, and national security advisers and make the Iranians look like they are some kind of innocents when they are not.

I wish more of my colleagues would talk about the number of dead military members killed and wounded by the Quds Force in Iran, because they never do. No one here ever talks about it. Amnesia.

(Thereupon, Mr. SCOTT of Florida assumed the Chair.)

TRIBUTE TO ANGIE FRAIZE

Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, it is Thursday afternoon, and it is the

time I get to talk about an Alaskan who has given of themselves in order to make my State the great place that it is. We call this person the Alaskan of the Week.

I like to come down to the floor—and I am not going to take a poll, but I think it is the pages' favorite speech of the week—because I get to talk about Alaska and somebody who has really made a difference for the community, the State, or maybe even the country.

I like to talk about what is going on in Alaska because I love to encourage people to come and visit our great State.

Right now, what is going on in Alaska? Well, sunset time is approaching midnight in many places across the State. In Anchorage, the Sun officially rose at 5:06 a.m. and will set at 10:42 p.m., but twilight starts at 4 a.m. and ends at midnight. So the Midnight Sun is burning bright all across Alaska. In the summer, we are hit with this frenzied energy because of this beautiful Midnight Sun in the sky. You will find many of us up late playing softball, doing yard work, fishing, painting houses, talking to our neighbors. So it is a great time to be in Alaska. I urge everybody here in the Gallery to come on up.

The Presiding Officer also has a great State to visit, the State of Florida. So go down to Florida, and then you can take the 4,000-mile trip to Alaska. You will have a great time. Make your travel plans now.

As you know, what makes my State or your State truly great is not the hours of Sun it gets—and the Presiding Officer's State does get a lot of Sun too—or its glorious mountains or sparkling seas, all of which we have in Alaska in spades; it is the people who help build strong families, strong communities, strong cities, and a strong State.

The person I want to honor today is Anchorage Police Officer Angie Fraize, our Alaskan of the Week.

I think it is very appropriate that we are celebrating our police forces across the country, all across America. There were many thousands in DC this week because they are a force for good in our communities who often go unappreciated.

I got to speak last Friday at the Anchorage police memorial ceremony, and it was a very somber event. We have a big memorial there of all the first responders and law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty in Alaska over the last 100-plus years.

As I mentioned, all jobs are important, no doubt about it, but there is something special, something noble, and something even sacred, I would say, about a job that entails protecting others and putting your life on the line to keep your fellow citizens safe.

This week, I thought it would be fitting to honor Anchorage Police Officer Fraize. She is one of more than 400 sworn police officers, brave men and

women who keep the 300,000 residents of Anchorage, AK—my hometown—safe. Let me tell you a little bit about Officer Fraize, what makes her so special, and why my friend and fellow marine, Anchorage Police Chief Justin Doll, recommended her.

Officer Fraize was raised in Butte, in Palmer, on 12 acres of land. She did not have an easy childhood. She grew up in a house with no running water and no electricity. Her father was an alcoholic who died in a motorcycle accident when she was just 12 years old, so her mom raised her and her brother by herself. Her mom was a tenacious, hard-working mother—a characteristic she clearly passed on to her daughter. She worked her way through college with her two young children to support and at the age of 40 got her degree in education from the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

This is Officer Fraize's mom. You see where she gets her good genes.

Times were tough. Money was tight. They often had to shower at the university. Their car was always breaking down. They were always struggling to make it, but they always did make ends meet—a family struggling and barely making it.

None of that dimmed Officer Fraize's dream of catching the bad guys—a dream she had since seventh grade. She graduated with honors from high school and was able to attend the University of Washington when she was only 16 years old—very smart. Her first job out of college was as a residential youth counselor working with adolescent sex offenders who had mental health issues. So right away, she was in the law enforcement area.

When her husband was offered a job with the Anchorage PD, she decided at that time that she, too, wanted to be a police officer.

Officer Fraize has had various duties in the 12 years she has worked as an Anchorage police officer. She has been a police officer, a coordinator for the academy, and now she is a recruiter particularly focused on recruiting young women and spreading the word about how great APD is. So if you want an adventure and you want to come to Alaska and you like law enforcement, give her a call.

All the jobs Officer Fraize has had require empathy. She said her life experiences have given her that empathy. Chronic alcoholics, she said, don't wake up every day choosing to drink. People who act badly don't wake up wanting to be bad people. The trick, she said, is to listen to people, to find a connection, and to see the humanity in each individual.

She is also incredibly passionate about connecting police officers with the people they protect, so she chairs a group called Anchorage Cops for Community, where the police officers interact with the public in positive ways at coffee shops, community council meetings, and public events throughout Anchorage. This gives the community a

chance to interact with officers in a positive way. It also gives police officers a chance to get their fresh perspectives from community members.

On Tuesday, for instance, the cops and firefighters got together for an eating relay at a local barbecue restaurant in Anchorage. Members of the community came out to cheer their favorite police officer and fireman. The proceeds went to Special Olympics Alaska, which is another passion of hers.

Officer Fraize is a great champion of advocating for those with special needs. She and her husband have two daughters: Italia, who is 14 years old, and Gianna, who is 10. Gianna has Down syndrome and, according to Officer Fraize, is the most popular girl in her fourth grade class. That is no surprise.

Officer Fraize is the chair of a local group that advocates for individuals with special needs, and she is also involved in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, which is a great event that so many in our community get behind. She was one of 50 police officers in America chosen to carry the torch at the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. She brought the torch home to Alaska, and she is giving it to Special Olympics in Alaska this weekend at the 2019 Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run and Pledge Drive. This is going to be a great event.

Anchorage Police Chief Justin Doll said:

We are so proud of Officer Fraize's work at the APD, and I believe the rest of Anchorage should be as well. She is the epitome of the public servant ideal that is the foundation of our relationship with the Anchorage community. I am genuinely honored to have her at APD upholding our most cherished traditions of community service.

That is the Anchorage police chief.

We are also proud of all our police officers and first responders in Alaska. We are so grateful for the work they do to keep us safe. We want them to know that we honor their jobs and their commitment to our community. We also honor their families. These are very tough jobs, and it is hard on supportive families when a wife or husband goes off every morning to a job that could involve risking their lives.

We want them to know, not just in Alaska but here in the Senate, we have their backs.

To Officer Fraize, thanks for all that you do. We are so lucky to have officers like you in Alaska, looking out for us. Thank you for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am going to take this time to speak about Russia. But if I might, following up on the point by the Senator from Alaska, first, I want to applaud the police officer you are honoring this week.

This is National Police Week. I think it is very appropriate that we recognize those who are serving our country and our community as first responders.

I want to mention two police officers specifically, both of whom gave their lives in defense of our community. These law enforcement officers were young, and they went into danger rather than running away from danger. We lost two of our officers last year.

Amy Sorrells Caprio from Baltimore County, my home jurisdiction, a member of the Baltimore County Police Department, died before reaching the age of 30, pursuing a burglary suspect who struck and killed her with the vehicle being operated by the suspect. She leaves behind a husband, parents, and sister. Our prayers are with her.

The second police officer I would like to honor is Mujahid Abdul Mumin Ramzziddin, a 51-year-old police officer from Prince George's County, MD, close to where we are right here. He was off duty, and he observed the need to help a person who was a victim of domestic violence. He went to help that person and was ultimately killed by the perpetrator.

He leaves behind a wife and four children, and our prayers are also with him.

RUSSIA

Mr. President, I rise today to address the continuously abusive nature of the Russian Government in impeding on the human rights of its people and the people across the globe. From interference in democratic processes around the globe to its malign influence in Syria, to its continued aggression against Ukraine, Mr. Putin's regime must be held accountable for its crimes.

As we all know, Vladimir Putin has been openly and willfully attacking democratic institutions and processes to corrode good governance and our values. His tools are drawn from a Soviet-era playbook but are constantly being updated with improvements. He is a pusher—constantly pushing the limits of acceptable international behavior and then going over the line. We cannot overlook the phenomenon that is unfolding across the European continent, the wider region, and now, yes, here in our Western Hemisphere.

Just a few weeks ago, Special Counsel Robert Mueller released to the public a redacted version of his report on Russia's interference in our 2016 Presidential election, revealing another one of Mr. Putin's plots to interfere with and tarnish the democratic process of a strong nation. Special Counsel Mueller described the Russian effort as taking place in a "sweeping and systematic fashion," a premeditated attack by the Kremlin.

Russia's aggression on the international stage continues to grow and is deserving of global condemnation. The United States is just one of many nations targeted by the Putin regime whose democracy was and is systematically targeted and attacked.

It certainly was not the first nation to be targeted. Reflect back to its illegal invasion of Ukraine and subsequent annexation of Crimea. Look at Russia's role in the ongoing hostilities in Eastern Europe. Consider Mr. Putin's role in Syria's civil war and support for dictator Bashar al-Assad. He murdered hundreds of thousands of citizens and assisted in the collapse the country's infrastructure. Russia has shown us time and again its disdain for international laws and norms under Mr. Putin's leadership.

After the trifecta of Russian interference in Ukraine, Syria, and our democratic Presidential election here, I partnered with nine bipartisan colleagues within the first week of the 115th Congress in January of 2017 to introduce the Countering Russian Hostilities Act. It is comprehensive sanctions legislation on Russia in response to its cyber intrusion, aggression, and destabilizing activities in the United States, Ukraine, Syria, and worldwide.

Over time, we learned that Mr. Putin's increasing aggressive behavior abroad is directly related to his need to maintain power at home.

In January of 2018, I released a Foreign Relations Committee Democratic member report that documented Mr. Putin's pattern of asymmetric warfare against democratic institutions, universal values, and the rule of law in Russia and across Europe over the last 20 years. The report details the tools the Russian Government has repeatedly deployed and perfected, as well as its techniques to attack democracies both internally and abroad.

Among many other takeaways, we learned that Mr. Putin will continue to simultaneously step up his attacks on democracies around the world while also acting to maintain power in Russia.

We have also learned that it is ultimately the Russian people who bear the brunt of Mr. Putin's international decisions. We have an obligation to support human rights around the globe, both as individuals and as a nation. Part of that obligation is ensuring that violators of international human rights are held accountable for their actions and are not given the resources they need to continue their nefarious actions.

In an effort to address these obligations, I was fortunate to work closely with the late Senator from Arizona, John McCain, on the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012. As you may know, Sergei Magnitsky was a Moscow-based lawyer who bravely uncovered deep-rooted, high-level corruption in Russia over a decade ago. Like any good lawyer, he reported his discoveries to the authorities. For doing his job, he was arrested, jailed, tortured, and killed in prison. When I learned about Sergei's life and work and the complete violation of basic human rights and rampant impunity that met the perpetrators of these crimes, I was shocked.

Originally, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act provides that anyone involved in Sergei's imprisonment, torture, or death who has not been brought to justice in Russia would be denied access to our financial system or the ability to travel to our country. The bill also targets those who have abused their power in the country to violate the human rights of anyone in Russia who disagrees with Mr. Putin's corrupt regime.

Senator McCain and I wanted to send a signal to Mr. Putin and his co-conspirators that there will be consequences for their actions and their inactions. The Sergei Magnitsky Act was, is, and will continue to be an effective tool at doing just that.

Senator McCain and I agreed that the United States must lead the world by using the power of our financial and legal institutions to hold human rights abusers and corrupt individuals across the globe accountable for their crimes. That is why we continued to work together to author the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which was signed into law in 2016. Senator McCain and I shared the critically important belief that the value of American leadership in enforcing human rights worldwide transcends party lines.

I might point out that following the U.S. example, other countries have enacted similar laws to make sure we have a blanket protection against those who commit these human rights violations.

In the past year, Global Magnitsky designations have targeted individuals around the world responsible for acts of genocide, violence, and significant corruption. My colleagues and I have called for numerous sanctions under this act, and I am pleased that the administration has acted, particularly issuing Executive order 13818, which expanded Global Magnitsky authorities. Freezing the financial assets of perpetrators and denying them visas to the United States sends a clear message: We will not stand by while individuals are stripped of their freedoms and their rights.

Unfortunately, while the Global Magnitsky legislation has proved hugely successful, we continue to witness human rights violations around the world and, more specifically, at the hands of Mr. Putin.

In recent reports, human rights groups have noted that the number of political prisoners in Russia has risen at a rapid rate over the past few years. Many of these groups are calling on the United States to impose sanctions on more Russian officials to hold them accountable for the inhumane treatment of over 250 reported political prisoners. Unfortunately, this issue of Russian political prisoners has not been the forefront of the U.S.-Russia discussions. That needs to change.

President Trump continues to treat Mr. Putin with the utmost respect, despite the Russian President's holding

almost 300 individuals hostage as political prisoners in Russia.

Most recently, the President has scheduled another formal meeting with Mr. Putin next month during the annual G20 Summit. Of course, Secretary Pompeo just met with Mr. Putin on Tuesday. Human rights must be on the agenda for such talks.

In 2016, a Russian human rights activist and a person who has dissented from Mr. Putin, Vladimir Kara-Murza, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expressing how the United States could help Russian defenders.

He stated:

Our friends in the West often ask how they can be helpful to the cause of human rights and democracy in Russia and the answer to this is very simple. Please stay true to your values. We are not asking for your support. It is our task to fight for democracy and rule of law in our country. The only thing we ask from Western leaders is that they stop supporting Mr. Putin by treating him as a respectable and worthy partner and by allowing Mr. Putin's cronies to use Western countries as havens for their looted wealth.

That is exactly what the Magnitsky Act is all about—to deny that legitimacy.

I ask that we take these words to heart. The threat that Russia poses to our global community has never been more evident. But we must remember the distinction between Mr. Putin's regime and the Russian people. The Russian people are good, freedom-seeking people who want economic security and stability for their families just as we do in the United States. This is an important distinction for us to keep in our minds and our hearts as we continue to pursue effective tools to counter Mr. Putin's threats to the international order and the values we hold so dear.

So as we work to shape U.S. policy and diplomatic strategies toward Russia, I urge my colleagues to keep in mind the aspirations of the Russian human rights defenders who risk their lives in order to advocate for a Russia free of authoritarian and abusive leaders.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, dominant in the news—on which I have expected there to be more coverage—is a matter that I think is of great urgency to the country, global security, and peace—that being the tensions that are rising in the Middle East.

I have heard a few of my colleagues speak on the floor about it today, and I have seen a lot of press report on it,

some of it absurd and some of it on point. I understand some of it. I thought there should have been more information provided to all of the Members. I am pleased to see that more will be available next week when we return. This is an item I have been talking about for a couple of weeks—of the urgent threat, potentially, that now exists from Iran against the United States, particularly in Iraq but throughout the Persian Gulf region.

First, let me talk about the threat. To understand the threat, it is important to understand how Iran operates.

Iran is an Islamic republic, meaning it has a political branch of its government—a President, a Foreign Minister, and a parliamentary body. Then it has a Supreme Leader, who ultimately governs the country. In essence, his commands overrule the political branches. That is why they call him the Supreme Leader. He is a religious figure. As part of that, it has an armed services—an army, a navy, and an air force—that protects the country, theoretically. Then it has an armed forces that is independent of the army, the navy, and the air force, and that is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, IRGC. First of all, it doesn't answer to the President; it doesn't answer to the Foreign Minister; and it doesn't answer to regular army forces. It answers directly to the Supreme Leader. A lot of times, people don't understand this. They ascribe to other countries the attributes of our own.

The President of Iran is not the commander in chief, in reality, of the IRGC. It operates completely separately. By the way, that means that the IRGC—the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—can oftentimes operate and do things that the Foreign Minister, who is the spokesperson for the Iranian Government, may not even know about. Sometimes it does.

The point is that we have to understand that dynamic. It is not the United States. Our attributes should not be assigned to them.

The IRGC has an organization within it. It has a unit called the Quds Force. The Quds Force, led by General Soleimani, is made up of experts and has developed expertise in unconventional warfare and in intelligence activities, primarily abroad. This is the organization, for example, that helped to build all of the IEDs that killed and maimed American servicemen in Iraq. This is the organization behind the Shia militias in Iraq today. This is the organization behind a lot of the efforts that support Hezbollah in Syria and in other parts of the world.

The IRGC's Quds Force is designed to do things that have some level of deniability. The IRGC Quds Force has developed an ability, in the case of conflict with the United States—and we have known this now for the better part of a decade—to attack us using proxies, meaning other groups, in order to escape and have some level of deniability. It will get some group that

it has stood up, that it has equipped, and that it has trained to attack us in retaliation for something America has done, but it can deny it. It can say: That wasn't our army. That wasn't our air force. That was this other group that did it on its own.

This is a capability we know it has built not just in the Middle East, by the way, but all over the world. We have been aware of it for a long time. It is not a secret to anyone, and it is a capability that it has increasingly perfected.

What has happened here very recently is there has been a persistent and clear stream of information—a clear indication—that has arrived to American policymakers that the IRGC, the Quds Force, and their proxies in the region pose a serious and potentially imminent threat to U.S. forces and U.S. civilians in Iraq and in the broader Middle East.

The President of the United States and the administration are confronted with this information. What is the wholly appropriate thing for them to do? The appropriate thing for them to do is to reposition military assets to the region, No. 1, to protect the Americans who are there in case they come under attack and, No. 2, to be in a position to retaliate.

The reason this is important is you hope to deter this sort of attack. What you are hoping to do is to show them that we have military capabilities in the region so that if we are attacked by their proxies at the direction of the Quds Force, we are going to respond to that forcefully. What you hope that will do, along with public messaging, is get into their heads and make them decide “We are not going to do this.” That is what has happened here, and it is wholly appropriate.

For a moment, I want you to imagine. If, in fact, an attack such as this occurred and if, God forbid, hundreds of Americans were killed, the first question everybody would have is, Why didn't we have military assets in the region to protect them? Why couldn't we get them out? That is the first question everyone around here is going to ask.

What the administration has done to pre-position military assets in the region for this potential contingency is entirely appropriate. Also appropriate is the notion that we are not going to start a war, but if we are attacked by Iran's proxies, we are going to respond against those proxies, and we are going to hold Iran responsible. It is going to pay a price for this as well. Who could disagree with the notion that if we are attacked, we have a right to defend ourselves and respond? That is the only thing that is happening here.

I am pleased that in the last day, more Members of the Senate have been made privy to this stream of information so that people can begin to see that the actions the administration has taken up to this point are not just wholly justified but are appropriate.

Yet I am concerned about some of the reactions I have seen with regard to this because I think they bode ill both for this case and for the future.

One of the first reactions I have seen is that this is not true, that they are literally making it up, that there is no such intelligence, and that it is being exaggerated. There are even some leakers—I don't know who these people are—who are lying to media outlets about the contents of this intelligence because they have axes to grind against somebody else in the administration, and they want to create embarrassment.

Look, I get this bureaucratic in-fighting, but I don't understand it when it comes to issues of national security. Even if this information is 50 percent accurate, we have an obligation to err on the side of caution, especially when American lives are on the line.

I encourage all Senators to read this information or access it through their offices and, obviously, when we have a briefing with the appropriate officials, to attend that as well, and I believe you will agree with me.

The second thing I am hearing is “Oh, this is just a path to war”—equating this to the Iraq war of over a decade ago. This is nothing like that. That was an offensive operation. That was an invasion of another country. This is not posturing for a military attack; this is military posturing for the purposes of defensive operations. As I have said repeatedly, it is very straightforward: If Iran attacks, there will be a war. If Iran does not attack, there will not be a war.

I think the most disappointing is some insinuation, including by Members of this body—publicly and privately—that somehow, we are going to provoke an attack; that elements of the American Government are going to go out and do something to get Iran to hit us so that we will have an excuse to go to war. I don't know how you prove a negative, but I find that to be wholly unsubstantiated and dangerous.

Let me tell you why this is problematic. What encourages Iran to believe it can get away with this is that it believes if one of these groups—one of the Shia militias in Iraq—attacks us, it is going to be able to say that it is “not us,” that it is some rogue group that did it. “Don't hold us responsible for it.” The more Iran thinks it can get away with that, the more likely it is to do it. So it is important that this be exposed for what it is.

The second reason Iran thinks it can get away with it is I think it believes it can exploit our political divisions. I think Iran reads these newspapers and watches the news and realizes that some percentage of Americans and, certainly, a significant percentage of Americans in politics is going to, in some way, take Iran's side on this. People are going to say that we provoked it—that this is our fault, that we did something that made Iran mad, that we created the tensions that led

to this—or that the intelligence was flawed or that it wasn't Iran but one of these other groups.

By the way, the more of that Iran reads, the likelier it is to do this. That doesn't mean I don't believe we can have a legitimate debate. I support designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization. We can have a legitimate debate about whether that should have been done but not right now. Right now, Americans potentially stand in harm's way, and they need the United States of America to be supporting efforts to defend and to protect them.

Here is what I know none of us can disagree with, I hope: No. 1, that if there is any serious indication that Americans anywhere are threatened, we must position ourselves to protect them, defend them, extract them, and retaliate if they are attacked. The second thing we should all be able to agree on is that if Americans come under attack, even if it is from a proxy force that is directed by a foreign agent like the IRGC, not only must we defend against that attack, but we must punish it with swift retaliation. That should unite us on a matter of incredible importance.

I hope all of the misinformation will stop because this matter is too important with which to play political games.

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

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

HEALTHCARE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, across America, there are 130 million individuals who have a preexisting condition. This means individuals have a diagnosis, an illness, a medical condition that without the Affordable Care Act would likely mean they were priced out of insurance because the costs associated with their illness are so high that no insurer would provide them coverage or the cost of insurance is much higher than those who don't have that illness or that condition.

These preexisting conditions don't discriminate. They affect Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, people who watch FOX News, people who watch MSNBC. This isn't a partisan issue; preexisting conditions affect everybody.

In my State, give or take, 522,000 people have preexisting conditions, and I talk to them every time I go back to Connecticut. I remember 2 years ago when I was walking across the State—something I do every year. I take about a week in the summer, and I walk from one end of the State to the other end—there were families who would find out on social media where I was going to be walking that day and pre-position

themselves hours ahead of time by the side of the road so they could tell me about their diagnosis. One young woman was sobbing on the side of the road in Meriden, CT, as she explained to me her lupus diagnosis and how, without the Affordable Care Act and the protections it provides her, she would not have insurance; she would not be able to afford the medications that keep her well and alive; and her life would be ruined. Those individuals are freaking out today because they have watched this President—and frankly this Republican Congress—use every power at their disposal, every tool in their toolkit to try to take away these protections for people who are sick, for people who, through no fault of their own, just have higher medical bills than the rest of us. They don't feel like they should be discriminated against or forsaken by the health insurance marketplace because of their unfortunate diagnosis.

The latest assault on people with preexisting conditions comes through an effort by the administration to allow States to sell insurance plans that don't cover basic medical needs, plans that would allow for a skimpy set of benefits to be sold out on the insurance marketplaces. Now, admittedly, that might be good news for pretty healthy people who don't want to pay for a full insurance product because they think they don't need it.

The first problem with that is you are only healthy until you are not healthy. The second bigger problem is, when all the healthy people go to these skimpy plans—sometimes called junk plans—and all the people with preexisting conditions get left behind on the regulated plans, where insurance is real, where it covers everything you need, costs go down for the healthy people, and they go through the roof for the sick people, which is the entire problem we were trying to solve in 2009 and 2010. It is, in fact, the problem the Republicans say repeatedly out on the campaign trail and back in their districts and States that they want to solve too. I don't know that I have met a Republican Senator who doesn't say that they don't think people with preexisting conditions should be discriminated against. Yet this rule the administration is proposing is going to allow States to do just that. It will allow for a "have and have not" insurance system, in which people with preexisting conditions are charged more and people without preexisting conditions are charged less.

My intention was to come down to the floor today and offer a unanimous consent request to get us on the road to solving this latest assault on people with preexisting conditions. Let me explain to you what my request was going to be. I understand there are Republican objections, and there is not the ability to object today when I make this request, so I will reserve the right to make that request until early next week.

Here is the substance of the request I was planning to make today. Last week, the House of Representatives passed a piece of legislation called the Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, and what this legislation would have done—and will do, if passed and signed by the President—is prevent HHS from taking any action to implement the administration's waivers for States to set up these junk plans, these skimpy plans.

It is in keeping with the intent of the Affordable Care Act, which is to allow flexibility for States—there is an ability under the Affordable Care Act for States to innovate and to be flexible, but the Affordable Care Act says you can't do that in a way that hurts consumers. You can't do that in a way that provides less coverage to consumers.

The rule the Trump administration is proposing, in many of our minds, is a violation of the Affordable Care Act in and of itself, which is still the law of the land, but this piece of legislation would clarify that you cannot allow for the development and widespread sale of these junk insurance plans without dramatically harming the healthcare of the 130 million Americans who have preexisting conditions.

So my intent was to ask for a unanimous consent request to bring this bill for a vote in the Senate. I will do that next week.

At some point, we have to act like we actually are the U.S. Senate. It is not enough to just say over and over again that you support people with preexisting conditions and then do nothing as the administration launches a daily, nonstop, unending, unceasing, relentless effort to destroy healthcare for people with preexisting conditions.

This is the latest assault on people with preexisting conditions, but it stands in a very long, ongoing line of actions by this administration, backed up by Republicans in the Congress, to try to reduce coverage and increase costs for people with preexisting conditions.

It started, of course, with the whole repeal effort, which would not have replaced the Affordable Care Act with anything meaningful. The bill that passed the House of Representatives would have stripped healthcare away from 30 million Americans. The tax bill that included a portion of healthcare repeal that was passed and signed by the President eliminates healthcare for 13 million Americans, and many of those have preexisting conditions.

As we speak today, the administration is readying to go to court with a whole bunch of Republican attorneys general to ask the Federal judicial system to overturn protections for people with preexisting conditions. So having failed to get the entirety of the bill repealed through the Congress, the administration now is going to court to try to get the protections for people with preexisting conditions repealed.

Once again, this Congress, this Senate is silent on that case. We have of-

fered another piece of legislation to stop that lawsuit from going forward. We don't have any takers on the Republican side. This assault is real. I didn't make it up. It is not imagined. If this court case that the Trump administration is pushing succeeds, overnight the entirety of the Affordable Care Act will be invalidated, and there is no plan to replace it.

If these junk plans go into effect—listen, maybe I will be wrong. I hope I am wrong. Maybe there will not be a flight of people to these skimpy plans, but much of the analyses I have seen suggests that will happen. If it does, there is just no way, other than for the cost to go up for everybody who is left behind on the regulated plans. I don't know about you, but when I talk to my folks living paycheck to paycheck in Connecticut, they don't have a lot of room in their budget for increased premiums for healthcare. They are maxed out as it is.

So I will stand down for now, but I will be back early next week to offer this unanimous consent request. I hope, if my colleagues turn it down, if they don't want to bring up a piece of legislation that would stop this latest regulatory assault on the Affordable Care Act, that they will come to the table with other ideas as to how to protect people with preexisting conditions from this campaign of sabotage by the administration; that they will finally recognize that this assault on the Affordable Care Act in the court system is a really awful precedent to set.

It is going to come back and bite all of us as legislators if it is successful. Without any real hope of a replacement for the Affordable Care Act, it leads to a humanitarian disaster in which 20 million to 30 million people lose insurance because of it.

This is as important as it gets. There is very little that matters to people more than their health and their healthcare, and I hope that possibly next week we can come together as a body and finally do something about the administration's attempt to take away these protections for sick people and people with complicated diagnoses all across the country.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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

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

JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Robert Wallace, of Wyoming, to be Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the

President on May 13, 2019, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 189, 192, and 194.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Jane L. Corwin, of New York, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada; Robert C. Sisson, of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada; and Lance V. Yohe, of North Dakota, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Corwin, Sisson, and Yohe nominations?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 185.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the mo-

tion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 172; 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; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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 271(e):

To be rear admiral (Lower Half)

Capt. Brendan C. McPherson
Capt. Douglas M. Schofield
Capt. Andrew M. Sugimoto
Capt. Richard V. Timme
Capt. Todd C. Wienmers

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING SEYMOUR BRYSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, basketball brought Seymour Bryson to the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1955. He had a record-setting career at the school, winning most valuable player all 4 years, setting a then-school record in scoring and holding the school's record for rebounds, which stands to this day. As remarkable as his basketball career was, Seymour went on to make his mark with more than four decades of work making SIU a better place.

Seymour was a three-degree alumnus of SIU, earning a bachelor's degree in

social work in 1959, a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1961, and a doctorate in educational psychology in 1972. At the time, he was one of three African Americans to progress from assistant professor to full professor at SIU, first African-American associate dean of a college, and the second of three African-American deans.

Generations of all ages could come to Seymour for advice. It was that kind of trust that earned him leadership roles throughout the community. He was active in a variety of roles, including president of the Carbondale chapter of the NAACP, member and chair of the Diversifying Faculty Initiative, president of the Jackson County 708 Mental Health Board, and president and member of the board of directors of the Carbondale United Way.

Seymour received numerous awards throughout his life, including the Senator Emil Jones Mentoring Award, the Introspect Access Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education, and the 2019 SIU Distinguished Alumni Award for his humanitarian impact.

His family was never far from his heart. He loved time with his grandchildren. They had wonderful trips to Dairy Queen and seeing movies together. They got their love of reading through him and their trips to bookstores. He captured much of these moments in film as an amateur photographer.

Seymour helped define what it meant to be a Saluki in his career and life. He passed away on May 5, we remember him for his service to his community.

Seymour is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Marjorie Bryson; son, Todd Bryson; daughters, Robin Bryson and Keri and her husband Stephen Burns; grandchildren, Jordan Bryson, Keric Young, Kendall Young, Adrian Bryson, Francesca Sanchez, Fernando Sanchez, and Isaiah Burns; sisters, Susie Barnes and Janice Bryson Carol and her husband Paul Henry of Carbondale, and brother, Raymond and his wife Cynthia Bryson; and a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

REMEMBERING HARVEY WELCH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it didn't feel historic at the time for Harvey Welch, but it was. Harvey, a native of Centralia, IL, came to Southern Illinois University Carbondale on a basketball scholarship and became the first Black student at the university to letter in basketball in 1951. He achieved this 3 years before the Brown v. Board ruling found school segregation unconstitutional.

Harvey played basketball at SIU from 1951 to 1954. He also was the first Black student to complete the ROTC program at the university. When he finished college, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was one of the first three Black officers to be promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Never forgetting SIU, Harvey came back to Carbondale after he retired from the Air Force in 1975. He became the first Black dean of student life at SIU and served as vice chancellor of student affairs from 1987 to 2000.

In addition to SIU, Harvey continued serving his community through the Carbondale Park District, Rotary International, and Southern Illinois Regional Social Services. His work earned him the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 2007.

SIU recognized with the Distinguished Service Award during commencement in 2018. For 22 years, students benefited not only from his leadership and wisdom, but from the Harvey and Trish Welch Scholarship Fund too.

Harvey helped define what it meant to be a Saluki. He loved hunting and golf, but his commitment to SIU and his family came first. Future generations of Salukis will continue to look up to Harvey's legacy of service and dedication.

On May 4, Harvey passed away after an extraordinary life of service to his country and his community.

Harvey is survived by his four children and their spouses: Harvey Cato Welch and Anita, Gordon Patrick Welch and Retha, Karen Annette Welch Edwards and Terry, and Brian David Welch and Petrice. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for votes on May 13, May 14, and May 15 so I could return to Hawaii to tend to a family matter.

On May 13, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the cloture motion, motion to invoke cloture: Michael J. Truncale to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

On May 14, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the nomination, Confirmation of Michael J. Truncale to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas and nay on the cloture motion, motion to invoke cloture: Kenneth Kiyul Lee to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

On May 15, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the nomination, Confirmation of Kenneth Kiyul Lee to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, nay on the cloture motion, motion to invoke cloture: Wendy Vitter to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, nay on the cloture motion, Motion to invoke cloture: Brian J. Bulatao to be an Under Secretary of State for Management, and nay on the cloture motion (motion to invoke cloture: Jeffrey A. Rosen to be Deputy Attorney General.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on roll-call vote No. 114, the confirmation of Wendy Vitter, of Louisiana, to be the United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. •

NOMINATION HOLD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am placing a hold on the nomination of David M. Satterfield, who has been nominated to serve as Ambassador to Turkey. My objection comes down to one increasingly irrefutable point: the State Department's, through Ambassador Satterfield, consistent efforts to protect the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization from liability and thereby undermine the rights of American victims of Palestinian terrorism. This stands in sharp contrast to the intent of Congress.

Last year, I introduced the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act, ATCA, in response to recent court decisions that gutted the jurisdictional reach of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1992, which I also authored. These decisions made it substantially more difficult for American victims to hold sponsors of international terrorism accountable in our nation's courts.

The ATCA expressed a clear principle: If you accept taxpayer-backed assistance or maintain a presence in the United States, then you should be answerable in our courts if you are alleged to have supported terrorism that harmed or killed Americans.

The bipartisan bill was considered through regular order, with markups in both Chambers, as a standalone bill, passed Congress without objection, and was signed into law by President Trump in October. Never once did the State Department or the administration raise a single concern.

Yet, 2 months later, at the end of the 115th Congress, the State Department began directly lobbying Congress for a "fix" to the ATCA to remove certain forms of assistance from the statute, thereby allowing defendants like the Palestinian Authority to enjoy such benefits without risk of liability. Ambassador Satterfield led the State Department team, with whom my staff attempted to negotiate in good faith over several weeks at the end of 2018 and early this year.

I offered numerous compromise proposals to the State Department, including delays of the foreign assistance provisions, a rule of construction to aid victims, and even a complete strike from the ATCA of the assistance that State Department deems so valuable. Never once, however, did State or Ambassador Satterfield demonstrate interest in supporting language that would tangibly benefit victims. Rather, my bill seemed an annoyance to State's priorities, and Ambassador

Satterfield on several occasions vocalized his concern about the law's impact on the Palestinian Authority, who have been found liable in U.S. courts for supporting terrorist attacks against Americans.

When my staff asked for any alternative ideas they would support to help victims, State's team came back empty-handed, and after I found bipartisan support for a compromise proposal, the State Department made clear to other offices that it would not support the compromise unless and until Congress expressly protects the Palestinian Authority's presence in the United States.

I refuse to assist the State Department in silencing any litigation arguments of U.S. victims of terrorism.

I also understand that recent efforts in the House of Representatives have proved futile in finding language that both benefits American victims and gets support from the State Department. I am tired of our State Department putting the interests of alleged sponsors of terrorism over those of our own citizens. The State Department should work in good faith with Congress and victims by unambiguously demonstrating its support for restoring jurisdiction over sponsors of terrorism.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, for over 50 years, our Nation has preserved an annual tradition of honoring the brave men and women of law enforcement who make the ultimate sacrifice. This act of remembrance dates back to President John F. Kennedy's designation of a "Peace Officers Memorial Day" in 1962, which has evolved over the years to become National Police Week. Police Week now includes a weeklong celebration of our law enforcement officers and recognition for their sacrifices.

Tens of thousands from the law enforcement community have descended upon Washington this week, as they gather near the National Law Enforcement Memorial to remember their colleagues and their families. The memorial was dedicated in 1991 to honor our local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The long gray walls are curved in a way that makes them appear to go on forever. Over 21,000 names are permanently inscribed into the marble walls as a reminder of the cost of maintaining a free, safe, and civil society.

On Wednesday, the 38th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service was held right outside on the West Front of the Capitol. During this solemn ceremony, the names of 228 brave men and women were read in honor of their priceless contribution to their fellow citizens.

Among those being remembered this week are six from my home State of South Carolina. Sergeant Terrence Carraway of the Florence Police Department, Detective Micheal Doty of

the York County Sheriff's Office, Corporal Dale Hallman of the Saluda County Sheriff's Office, Deputy James Kirk, Jr., of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Farrah Turner of the Florence County Sheriff's Office, and Deputy Jerry Hurd, Jr., of the Richland County Sheriff's Office will all be memorialized on those stone walls. Their names will be a perpetual reminder to future generations of the high cost of keeping South Carolinians safe. We honor them, their families, and all of the other brave men and women who died while protecting our communities.

While every officer deserves to have their story heard, I would like to call attention to Sergeant Carraway and Deputy Turner. On October 3, 2018, Florence County law enforcement executed a warrant on an individual accused of sexual assault on a child. As they arrived on scene, the officers were ambushed by the suspect's father. When the officers got out of their vehicles, the father started shooting at them. The standoff and the shooting continued for 2 long hours. Despite the danger, the officers did not retreat, but continued to fight. After all was said and done, a total of seven law enforcement personnel had been shot. Sadly, both Sergeant Carraway and Deputy Turner were mortally wounded.

I was fortunate enough to attend Sergeant Carraway's memorial service in Florence. It was a beautiful tribute to a life of service. This man was a decorated police officer, Air Force Reservist, coach, mentor, loving husband, father, and friend. Like many of those we are remembering this week, the Terrance Carraway's of the world are the foundation of America's goodness.

This is but one small example of how our law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way for the betterment of the community on a daily basis. These officers answered a call to take a suspect off the street, and it cost them their lives. It is our duty to honor and remember their contribution and their sacrifice.

Earlier this week I introduced a resolution to commemorate National Police Week. Included are the names of 159 brave men and women who answered the call of duty, but were sadly taken from us in 2018. This resolution has unanimous, bipartisan support and honors those who have given their lives in fulfilling this noble calling. I want to thank my 99 Senate colleagues who signed on as cosponsors of this measure.

In trying to grasp the essence of National Police Week, I think President George H. W. Bush summed it up best. During the groundbreaking ceremony for the National Law Enforcement Memorial in 1989, President Bush said, "The story to be carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream." I am proud to echo his words

today and, along with my colleagues, ensure the story of our heroes is told. I encourage all Americans to take a moment this week to reflect on how law enforcement positively affects their own community. These officers show up every day on behalf of their fellow citizens to serve and protect the American dream that President Bush spoke of nearly 30 years ago. Join me in remembering the fallen, and let us ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.

NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the misuse of opioids is a national crisis. Every single day, more than 130 people in this country overdose on these drugs, with tragic results.

In 2017, there were more than 70,000 drug overdose-related deaths in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. These deaths eclipsed the number that were due to guns or automobile crashes.

May 12 through 18 is National Prevention Week, which is dedicated to increasing public awareness of substance abuse disorders. Addiction exists everywhere. We have taken steps in the past to fight this epidemic.

We passed comprehensive substance abuse and treatment legislation in 2016 and again last year. However, the opioid epidemic continues to destroy lives and communities. We need to remain committed to defeat this crisis.

This week also marks the seventh anniversary of my investigation, with former Senator Baucus, into opioid manufacturers' connections to medical groups and physicians who advocated for the increased use of opioids. As senior members of the Senate Finance Committee in 2012, we sought documents and financial information from three opioid makers, in a period when deaths from opioid overdoses were skyrocketing. News reports of that time suggested that opioid makers may have initiated conflicts of interest to encourage the prescribing of opioids.

More recent news reports confirm that we had very good reason to launch this oversight work. For example, yesterday, BBC News published an article concerning opioid makers' sponsorship, in the early 2000s, of so-called educational meetings for pain specialists from the United Kingdom. The doctors, whose opioid prescribing rates were being monitored by opioid makers, were invited to New York City, where they would stay in posh hotels and attend Broadway shows at a drugmaker's expense, BBC reported. As reportedly shared by a doctor who attended one of these trips: "I feel very ashamed . . . I was just a guinea pig to promote the prescribing of a class of drug."

I remain concerned that opioid-related deaths over the last decade may have been fueled by misinformation and marketing practices embraced by drugmakers and the medical organizations to which they donated.

What I said 7 years ago remains true today: "Doctors and patients should

know if the medical literature and groups that guide [opioids'] use are paid for by the drugs' manufacturers and if so, [by] how much." As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I intend to continue my oversight work in this area, including by convening a congressional hearing later this summer.

I also believe that we need to do more to ensure that Americans have access to effective recovery treatment options. The recent arrests in multiple States of those who operated sham treatment facilities for addicts point to a problem. Moreover, we have reason to be concerned about the lack of information available to the public about the most promising treatment options available.

A related issue has been the lack of adequate, national standards of care in the addiction treatment field. That is why I joined several of my colleagues in sponsoring bipartisan legislation that calls for the development of new quality measures to improve treatment for Americans battling opioid and substance addiction. This measure directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to work with a coalition of healthcare providers to identify quality measures to be used to assess the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatment programs.

In 2016, I also supported the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA. This bipartisan measure was enacted after the Senate Judiciary Committee approved it during my tenure as chairman. It includes a number of provisions I authored.

The causes of the opioid epidemic are complicated and its effects are widespread. It is impossible to solve this national crisis overnight. We must continue our efforts at the local, State, and Federal level to break the cycle of addiction.

54TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARLY HEAD START

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the countless men and women in Alaska and across the Nation who have dedicated their talents to ensuring that young children and their parents have the tools they need to succeed. I speak of all those involved in their local Head Start and Early Head Start programs, the program directors, teachers, aides, and parent leaders.

This week marks the 54th anniversary of Head Start and the 25th anniversary of Early Head Start. Since 1964, more than 36 million children have participated in Head Start, a program that research has shown reduces intergenerational poverty by helping parents to gain parenting, work, and leadership skills and which gives young children at risk the academic, health, and nutritional services they need to build a foundation for success.

Children who attend Head Start begin school with better literacy,

numeracy, cognitive, and behavioral skills than they otherwise would have had. They are more likely to graduate and complete college. They are more likely to live healthy, productive lives as adults. Today, Head Start alumni are strong, resilient individuals who make positive contributions to their communities as doctors, nurses, athletes, parents, entrepreneurs, teachers, police officers, CEOs, authors, artists, and more.

Head Start and Early Head Start are more important now than they ever have been, helping families across the country so tragically hurt by the opioid crisis. Head Start and Early Head Start directors, teachers, aides, and parent leaders are on the frontlines, helping our most at-risk children survive and thrive in the face of the adverse childhood experiences caused by homelessness, neglect, and abuse. They are there in times of natural disaster, community violence, and personal crisis. They are helping parents and grandparents provide stable and nurturing environments. In Native communities, they are helping to revitalize languages and strengthen traditional ways of knowing and living. Our communities and the Nation as a whole are stronger because Head Start and Early Head Start programs help millions of families find their way to strength and resilience.

Head Start staff in Alaska and across the country are dedicated, innovative, caring, and motivated people who work hard each and every day to ensure that the children and families they serve have the tools they need to achieve their full potential. Beyond the voluminous research showing the positive impact of these programs, I know what they do makes a lasting difference. When I visit elementary schools across my State, principals tell me that the students who have participated in Head Start are better prepared in every way for school.

So I take this opportunity to wish every Head Start and Early Head Start staff member and participant. Happy anniversary. As a longtime supporter, I recommit to doing all I can to ensure that our Head Start and Early Head Start programs continue to make a positive difference for many more years to come.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to honor our former colleague Senator Richard Lugar, who passed away recently and whose memorial service was this week. As the longest serving Senator from his beloved Indiana, Richard Lugar dedicated 36 years of service to his State, the Senate, and our Nation. He was a dear friend and mentor who already had 22 years of Senate service when I joined the Senate.

What I remember most fondly about Senator Lugar is that he combined an extraordinary intellect with good humor. He knew so much about foreign

policy and was also so approachable that new Senators like myself never hesitated to seek his guidance.

Senator Lugar's commitment to bipartisanship guided his engagement on issues from international affairs to agriculture. He sought compromises to achieve results, regardless of the political calculus. He eschewed polarization and cautioned colleagues that, "whatever is won today through division is usually lost tomorrow." Instead he sought to foster good will to bring together opposing sides. He continued this effort after his service in the Senate with the Lugar Center, a nonprofit public policy institution that seeks to improve the quality of debate and bridge ideological divides on important issues.

It is this approach that led to great success in international affairs from South Africa to the Philippines.

Senator Lugar viewed support for democracy and development as a stabilizing force to counter international threats. Around the world, partners trusted his foreign policy expertise and judgment. Perhaps his greatest achievement was his bipartisan work with Senator Sam Nunn in developing the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to dismantle weapons of mass destruction in the former states of the Soviet Union, eliminating nuclear arms in Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. His work to limit weapons of mass destruction led to the deactivation and destruction of thousands of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. Due to Senator Lugar's vision, leadership, and bipartisan approach, we live in a safer world.

Through his contributions to international security, Senator Lugar serves as a reminder of what we can achieve if we work together to face the challenges that pose dangers to world peace and stability and, of course, to the interests of the United States and our international partners. As we reflect on his life and his lessons, I hope my colleagues will honor his legacy by building bipartisan bridges to resolve the pressing problems of today.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JESSE EDINGER

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jesse Edinger of Fort Harrison, MT, for his impact on the Lewis and Clark County and surrounding areas.

Jesse Edinger joined the U.S. Army directly after graduating high school in 1999. He attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. His first duty station was in Fort Drum, NY, where he served as a military police Patrolman, MP. Shortly after, he received orders to go to Korea. There he was immediately assigned to the United Nations Command Honor Guard, providing a variety of missions. In Korea, he met the love of his life Sunwoo. They married and transferred to Fort Riley, KS, in 2003.

Immediately after arriving Fort Riley, Jesse received orders to deploy to Iraq. In Iraq, he completed a wide range of military police battlefield functions and was able to return safely to the U.S. In 2004, Jesse left Active Duty and decided to serve his home State in the Montana Army National Guard.

After 3 years in the Guard, he was once again called back to Iraq as an MP. He spent a year there and again returned safely to his family. In 2006, he volunteered for the Montana Army National Guard honor guard team and 1 year later was hired as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the military funeral honors team. He worked hand in hand with the State coordinator to ensure fallen veterans received the most professional honors possible. He was one of Montana's first nationally certified honor guard instructors. In 2014, Jesse Edinger once again volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan as a military police investigator. After serving another yearlong deployment, he returned to his military funeral honors position at Fort Harrison, MT, where he became a certified instructor as a casualty notification officer. These officers notify next of kin and assist family members of a soldier killed in action or that has died in the line of duty. Jesse was recently promoted to the rank of master sergeant and has conducted around 1100 funeral honors missions for Montana veterans and soldiers killed in action.

For 20 years, MSG Jesse Edinger has served his country proudly and has honored the lives of more than 1,000 Montana veterans. His wife Sun also serves in the Montana Army National Guard. Together they have three children. MSG Edinger is the epitome of a military leader, and I am proud to recognize him during Military Appreciation Week.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SRI LANKAN WAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, May 18 marks the 10th anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. In May 2009, the war between the government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, ended. The civil war was a 27-year-long assault on the coexistence of the Sri Lankan people, leaving scars that remain today. Both the Sri Lankan state and the LTTE targeted dissidents and members of other ethnic communities, indiscriminately bombing places of worship, hospitals, and public transport. On this 10th anniversary, I urge the people of Sri Lanka to renew their commitment to peace, reconciliation, and accountability for human rights violations and crimes committed during the conflict. In the wake of the devastating terrorist attacks last month, the international community should also renew its commitment to supporting those Sri Lankan citizens committed to a peaceful and democratic society where the rights of all are protected under the law.

The final years of the war saw heightened intensity of fighting and soaring human rights abuses, including hundreds of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings of aid workers, arbitrary arrests, torture, and the use of child soldiers. The government labeled any reporters critical of the government's war against the LTTE as "traitors" and "terrorists," and the LTTE tolerated no dissent in areas it controlled. The last few months of fighting resulted in the deaths of as many as 40,000 civilians in the final assault against the LTTE. Victims' groups say the fates of more than 100,000 people remain unknown. UN satellite images showed that the government repeatedly and indiscriminately shelled no fire zones, where it had encouraged civilians to concentrate, and where estimates show that as many as 330,000 civilians were trapped. UN investigations determined that "gross violations" of international rights law occurred on all sides of the conflict, including the thousands of civilian deaths in the military assault that ended the rebellion. Many deaths and tens of thousands of disappearances remain unaddressed.

For many Sri Lankans, the terrorist attacks last Easter Sunday, evoked emotions reminiscent of war times. I express my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones and denounce in the strongest terms this vile attack on the Sri Lankan people. As families recovered bodies of loved ones and buried and cremated them, they felt a pain that is sadly too familiar to so many Sri Lankans. While the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday attacks sought to sow hatred between communities and bring chaos to Sri Lanka, the government bears the responsibility to respond swiftly to retaliatory attacks against Muslim communities and ensure communal harmony and national unity. To be Sri Lankan is to be Buddhist, to be Hindu, to be Muslim, and to be Christian. All these communities have the right to exercise their religious identity and to live in peace and security in Sri Lanka.

On January 9, 2015, the Sri Lankan people voted to unseat President Mahinda Rajapaksa. A few months later, the government of Maithripala Sirisena cosponsored United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, resolution 30/1 on "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka," ushering in what appeared to be a new era dedicated to justice and reconciliation. This enthusiasm and hope has unfortunately faded over the years. In 2017, Sri Lanka received a 2-year extension to implement the commitments in the resolution. This past March, the UNHRC adopted a new resolution again cosponsored by the government of Sri Lanka, extending the timeline to implement outstanding promises another 2 years.

Resolution 30/1 contains 36 actionable commitments. The Sri Lankan Government has fulfilled only six over a pe-

riod of 4 years. These include recent decisions to criminalize enforced disappearances, create an office on missing persons, and appointing commissioners to the office for reparations. Why did these few steps require 4 years of time?

Despite the long list of promises, there has been little to no progress in establishing a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation, and nonrecurrence. Despite commitments made by the government, Sri Lanka has not adopted constitutional reforms that would address the long held grievances of communities across the country. The government has failed to strengthen the victim and witness protection law. Security sector reforms, including repealing and replacing the Prevention of Terrorism Act, have not taken place. The lack of accountability with respect to war crimes suspects remains a serious concern. Limited legal action has been taken to prosecute and hold alleged perpetrators to account. There is a lack of trust and confidence in domestic structures, so I echo the UN Human Rights Commissioner's calls that the international community use the principle of universal jurisdiction to hold accountable those who face allegations of serious human rights violations.

Sri Lankan people deserve justice, peace, and protections. The country cannot move forward, rebuild, and prosper without a timebound plan for the government to fully implement its HRC commitments. Accountability, transitional justice, and reconciliation are hard, but left unresolved, these issues fester over time and could lead to renewed instability. Clearly, such an outcome should be avoided as it benefits no one in or outside of Sri Lanka.

The war in Sri Lanka was a terrible episode in a country with a proud past. How Sri Lanka finally decides to deal with the legacy of the conflict is critically important for its future. My hope is that the government of Sri Lanka delivers on all its stated commitments, and that the international community maintains its focus on these postwar promises. As the country contends with the impact of reprehensible violence last month, it must renew its focus on the fundamentals of an inclusive multireligious and multi-ethnic society. I call on the friends of Sri Lanka around the world to support true reconciliation and healing as those constructive elements of society work hard to chart a positive future for all of the country's people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BILL WILLIAMS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Bill Williams of Saxman, AK, a businessman, community leader, an Alaska statesman, and my friend, who died on Sunday, May 12, just short of his 76th birthday.

Bill's story exemplifies how far one can go in Alaska if one works hard and exhibits a devotion for community service. Bill was lifelong Alaskan and a graduate of Ketchikan High School. He was a longshoreman, a proud member of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. He was a business leader, serving as president of the Cape Fox Corporation, his ANCSA village corporation. He was a fisherman. He served on the Saxman City Council and was mayor of Saxman. Bill was a leader in the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Tlingit and Haida.

In 1993, Bill was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives, serving until 2004. A strong advocate for development of Alaska's natural resources and preservation of the traditional subsistence way of life, Bill distinguished himself in the Alaska Legislature. He rose to cochair the finance committee of the Alaska House of Representatives, one of the most powerful positions in the State of Alaska. Bill knew how to make deals, and because his word was his bond, he knew how to keep a deal. I proudly served alongside Bill throughout my tenure in the Alaska Legislature. He was both a friend and a mentor to me.

Tributes are pouring in from those who knew and loved Bill Williams. State Senator Bert Stedman, who is cochair of the senate finance committee in the current legislative session, had this to say about Bill: "He understood that political differences don't need to divide Alaskans. In the Capitol, he was known for keeping his words and putting Alaska's interests above politics. He took the lead on both subsistence and development issues. He was known for working with our federal delegation and governors to keep jobs in the Tongass. He was a strong voice on Alaska Native issues."

The Ketchikan Daily News, in an editorial, remembered Bill as an honorable man who represented the community and the region with quiet, steadfast dignity: "Those who met Williams would not likely forget him. He was quiet and humble, possessing eyes of both twinkling good humor and the glint of iron resolve. Others in public life learned quickly not to underestimate the good representative from Saxman."

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy has also reflected on the loss of Bill Williams this week. Governor Dunleavy said, "Real leaders do not come along very often, so it is especially tough when we lose one with the ability and character of Bill Williams. He worked both hard and smart for the constituents and communities he represented." Governor Dunleavy has ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff this week in Bill's memory.

From the central council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes, "Gunacheesh, Haw'aa to Bill for his lifelong dedication to Southeast Alaska and its people."

On behalf of my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate, I extend my condolences to Bill's wife Caryl, his family, the Saxman community, and all who hold this very special Alaskan dear in their hearts. It is a privilege to honor the late Bill Williams, an outstanding Alaskan, in the U.S. Senate today.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER PETRASKO

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Peter Petrasko, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Peter is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and Brown University in Providence, RI. He is currently pursuing his master of data science degree through Harvard Extension School. Peter is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience and has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Peter for all of the fine work he has done, and I wish for his continued success in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING STAN FURMAN

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Stan Furman, a former Arizona State senator and community leader who passed away in Phoenix, AZ, on April 1, 2019, at the age of 87. Having spent his formative years in the Vista Del Mar Orphanage in Los Angeles, Stan developed a strong sense of family. While in the orphanage, Stan worked any job he could, and caddying at the Hillcrest Country Club gave him some great stories about George Burns, Milton Berle, Jack Benny and others.

Stan served his country honorably in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 until 1956 and was stationed in Japan during the Korean war. After his service, he moved to Mexico City, where he earned a degree in business and foreign trade from Mexico City College. There, he met his soulmate and wife of 58 years, Gloria. They married in Mexico City in 1960. The couple moved to California, where Stan worked for a fabric wholesaler, and they raised three children: Diane, Philip, and Susan.

The family moved to Phoenix in 1969, where Stan opened and managed a new branch of the business. After their children left the nest, Stan and Gloria started a successful translation business, allowing them to travel to Mexico, China, Italy, Spain, and many other international destinations. Stan loved Arizona and wanted to serve his community, so he ran for the State senate in 1990. He served in the Arizona State Senate from 1991 to 1995. After he retired from elected office, he continued to serve on many boards and commissions and worked for the Arizona Corporation Commission.

In 1998, Stan was named Mediator of the Year by the Phoenix Community Mediation Program. Long active in the Arizona Civil Liberties Union, Stan served as Arizona ACLU president from 2002 to 2006 and was honored to be named Arizona Civil Libertarian of the Year in 1995. He also served for several years on the National ACLU board of directors. Stan was an avid tennis player and golfer, quick-witted, and a natural joke teller. He loved crossword puzzles, Boggle, and all word games. He immensely enjoyed playing board games and online games with his children and grandchildren. He loved going to the beach while enjoying time at the family's vacation home in Rocky Point, Mexico.

Stan is survived by his loving wife, Gloria, daughters Diane (Randy) and Susan, son Phil (Deb), grandsons Spencer, Dylan, Nate, Harrison, Alex (Jessi), Hugo and Oscar, and great-granddaughter Cheyanne. He will be dearly missed by other family members, friends, and the hundreds of people whose lives she touched. Please join me in honoring his memory.●

REMEMBERING GERALDINE "JERRY" EMMETT

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Geraldine "Jerry" Emmett, a community leader who passed away in Prescott, AZ, on April 30, 2019, at the age of 104. Jerry was a lifelong Democrat and campaigned for Arizona's first Governor, George W.P. Hunt, before she was old enough to vote. She will be fondly remembered as the oldest delegate at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, where she did several national media interviews.

While waiting tables in her family's restaurant, she met and impressed an Arizona State Teachers College—now Northern Arizona University—recruiter from Flagstaff, and received a tuition scholarship of \$14.00 per semester, allowing her to attend and graduate from ASTC in 1937 with a degree in elementary education. She began her 40-year teaching career at Kayenta on the Navajo Reservation. She also taught in Seligman, Tombstone, and Scottsdale, before finally settling in Phoenix at the Creighton School District. She taught in Phoenix for the next 30 years until her retirement, primarily at Lafayette Elementary School, Larry C. Kennedy. Evidently, her teaching career made an impression on her students, as over 60 former students attended her 100th birthday party to pay homage.

Jerry cofounded the Prescott Area Democratic Women's Club and was a regular sight at Democratic Party events with her friends Carolyn and Dawn. Her smile and stories of growing up in Depression-era Arizona will be missed.

Jerry is survived by her youngest son, Jim Emmett, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She will

be dearly missed by other family members, friends, and the hundreds of people whose lives she touched. Please join me in honoring her memory.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN MIKLOS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jonathan Miklos, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Jonathan is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where he is double majoring in political science and history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jonathan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO F. ANTHONY CLIFFORD

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize one of my constituents, F. Anthony "Tony" Clifford, who is retiring on June 22, 2019, after 50 years of Federal service as an engineer at the National Institutes of Health.

Tony has dedicated his career to helping advance NIH's mission: seeking fundamental knowledge about the nature of living systems and applying that knowledge to advance the health of all people. He has done this by working to ensure that NIH's buildings and facilities create a world-class environment for conducting biomedical research.

Throughout his service as an engineer with NIH, Tony has been committed to creating state-of-the-art research facilities. In 1969, he started his work as an NIH staff engineer. Beginning in 1992, he led the NIH facility program as director of engineering services until becoming chief engineer in the Office of the Director in 2003.

Tony holds a bachelors of mechanical engineering degree from the University of Maryland at College Park, which presented him in 2016 with the Golden Terp Award from the University's Clark School of Engineering for his 50 years of engineering practice. His numerous other awards include multiple NIH Directors and Merit Awards, the Federal Energy Award, Vice President Gore's Hammer Award, and Special Recognition by the Society of American Military Engineers.

In addition to his work in the field, Tony was instrumental in recruiting engineering interns by representing NIH at career fairs and STEM events. In this way, his impact on scientific discovery will last for years to come, as he has inspired young scientists to

pursue science and engineering employment opportunities in the government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Tony Clifford for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:17 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 312. An act to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 375. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1892. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-344, the Speaker and the President pro tempore of the Senate hereby jointly appoint the following individual to the Congressional Budget Office, effective June 3, 2019, for the term expiring January 3, 2023: Dr. Phillip Swagel, Director.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 375. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1892. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 312. An act to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2578. An act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator GARY PETERS, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental

Affairs: Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, vice Charles H. Fulghum.

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-1289. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glufosinate Ammonium; Pesticide Tolerances [Olive, Stone Fruit (crop group 12-12), Tree Nuts (crop group 14-12) and Soybean Hull]" (FRL No. 9991-49-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1291. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions" (RIN1014-AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1292. A communication from the Director of Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, five (5) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1293. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; GA and TN; Interstate Transport (Prongs 1 and 2) for the 2010 1-Hour NO₂ Standard" (FRL No. 9993-71-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1294. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Approval of Revised Statutes; Error Correction" (FRL No. 9993-58-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1295. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; OR; 2015 Ozone NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements" (FRL No. 9993-75-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1296. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No.

9993-49-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Regulation to Require Drug Pricing Transparency" (RIN0938-AT87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recognition and Deferral of Section 987 Gain or Loss" (RIN1545-BN63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1299. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fees Relating to Enrolled Agents and Enrolled Retirement Plans Agents" (RIN1545-BO38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1300. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration - 2019 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor" (Notice 2019-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1301. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling: Cash Distributions in Redemption of Stock of Former S Corporations During the Post-Termination Transition Period" (Notice 2019-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1302. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safe Harbor for Trades of Player Contracts and Draft Picks" (Notice 2019-18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1303. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limited Expansion of the Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Plans" (Notice 2019-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1304. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2019-22" (Rev. Proc. 2019-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1305. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2018 Section 45K(d)(2)(C) Reference Price" (Notice 2019-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1306. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration" (Notice 2019-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1307. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Necessary Clarifications to Normalization Requirements for Excess Tax Reserves Resulting from the Corporate Tax Rate Decrease" (Notice 2019-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1308. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maximum Values for 2019 For Use With Vehicle Cents-Per-Mile and Fleet-Average Valuation Rules" (Notice 2019-34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1309. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination and Certification under Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act relative to countries not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1310. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1311. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status of the Gulf of Mexico Bryde's Whale" (RIN0648-XD669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1312. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1313. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2018 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1315. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to Article III judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 116th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1316. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation that would amend the South Pacific Tuna Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1317. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office Biennial Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-60. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from certain federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1499. A bill to establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1500. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and enhance protections for members of the Armed Forces who are victims of a sex-related or domestic violence offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1501. A bill to modify the requirements for the longitudinal medical study of the Department of Defense on blast pressure exposure of members of the Armed Forces to assess the feasibility and advisability of uploading and sharing data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1502. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder

threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 1503. A bill to promote ethics and prevent corruption in Department of Defense contracting and other activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 1504. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1505. A bill to require prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans to report potential fraud, waste, and abuse to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER,

Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. LEE, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1506. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to permit certain individuals complying with State law to possess firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1507. A bill to include certain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the toxics release inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BRAUN,

Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1508. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1509. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to waive vehicle weight limitations for certain logging vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1510. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 1511. A bill to require a mechanism for the regular evaluation by the Air Force of justifications for the continuing maintenance of non-operational staff positions in the Air Force that require pilot expertise; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 1512. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the designation by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments of installations of the Department of Defense as "remote" or "isolated", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 1513. A bill to improve oversight of privatized military housing provided by the

Department of Defense to members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1514. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1515. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that establish a national standard for determining whether mobile and broadband services available in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1516. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen the future workforce and reduce the cost of postsecondary education by reducing rates of postsecondary remediation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1517. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1518. A bill to improve the process by which environmental documents are prepared and permits and applications are processed and regulated by Federal departments and agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 1519. A bill to address gun violence, improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, address mental illness in the criminal justice system, and end straw purchases and trafficking of illegal firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1520. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1521. A bill 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. MORAN):

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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1523. A bill to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1524. A bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion of lifelong sexual health and healthy relationships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1525. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for institutional ineligibility based on low cohort repayment rates and to require risk sharing payments of institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1526. A bill to enhance efforts to prevent sexual assault in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BURR, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

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 non-highway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury and transferred to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1528. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1529. A bill to make additional financial assets of the Government of Iran available to pay compensatory damages to the victims of terrorism sponsored by that Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1530. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to support the access of marginalized youth to sexual health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1531. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1532. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to study the role pharmaceutical benefit managers play in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1533. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1534. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of quantum computing technology to address problems associated with exposure to PFAS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1535. A bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new, long-term job creation through the establishment of an Infrastructure Financing Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1536. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support healthy aging and age-friendly communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1537. A bill to ensure America's law enforcement officers have access to lifesaving equipment needed to defend themselves and civilians from attacks by terrorists and violent criminals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1538. A bill to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 1539. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure nonprofit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1540. A bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 212. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 213. A resolution designating the week of May 19 through May 25, 2019, as "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Con. Res. 17. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the last Medal of Honor recipient of World War II, in order to honor the Greatest Generation and the more than 16,000,000 men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States from 1941 to 1945; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 155

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to improve the financial literacy of secondary school students.

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from

Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors 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. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from

Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 532, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, or the individual works in a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 due to such a relocation, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 580

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 652

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 784

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand the military student identifier program to cover students with a parent who serves in the reserve component of the Armed Forces.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) 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. 814

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 816

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 816, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 852, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of anti-Semitism for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 1003

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 1081

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1126

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1126, a bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1156, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of each military department to develop resilience plans for installations of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to approval of abbreviated new drug applications.

S. 1235

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator

from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1258

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1258, a bill to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) 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. 1392

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1392, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1401

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to establish eligibility requirements for education support professionals under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Oregon

(Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to promote affordable access to evidence-based opioid treatments under the Medicare program and require coverage of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders, opioid overdose reversal medications, and recovery support services by health plans without cost-sharing requirements.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 1429

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1429, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 1442

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1442, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to establish a program to provide assistance for education and research harbors.

S. 1480

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1480, a bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1481

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1481, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a special enrollment period for pregnant women, and for other purposes.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to protect alien minors and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to

end abuse of the asylum system and establish refugee application and processing centers outside the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1495

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the prevention of sexual assault and related offenses in the Armed Forces, to enhance protections of victims of such offenses, to improve the investigation and prosecution of such offenses, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 99

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 99, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 135, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1517. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement

as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, the U.S. infrastructure system is in critical need of an upgrade. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the U.S. system a D+ given its capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience and innovation. Any investment to improve our country's infrastructure system would create millions of new jobs, requiring millions of skilled workers to fill them.

A recent study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University estimated that a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would create 11 million new jobs. Nearly half of these would require training past the high school level. Even without a significant investment, though, infrastructure industries are already struggling to meet workforce demands. Workers in infrastructure industries are expected to retire at a 50% higher rate than the general workforce. To ensure infrastructure investments benefit businesses, workers and the economy, the U.S. must invest in the creation of a diverse pipeline of workers with skills necessary to access in-demand opportunities.

Industry and sector partnerships are a proven strategy for helping workers prepare for middle-skill jobs and helping businesses find skilled workers. Congress requires States and local areas to support the development of these partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities. According to a recent national poll, 77% of business leaders say it would help their business to create closer links between education providers and businesses to train people for the jobs for which businesses are hiring.

For workers, especially those underrepresented in infrastructure industries, support services like career counseling, child care, and transportation can often be the key to succeed in work-based learning programs. Providing these services may be outside the capacity of a business. Industry partnerships bring business together with community and human service organizations that can make these connections for workers and drastically improve their ability to succeed in training and meet business demand for skilled workers.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleague, Senator PORTMAN, the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills Act or BUILDS Act. The BUILDS Act creates a grant program that would support industry and sector partnerships working with local businesses, industry associations and organizations, labor organizations, State and local workforce boards, economic development agencies and other partners engaged in their communities to encourage industry

growth, competitiveness and collaboration to improve worker training, retention and advancement in targeted infrastructure clusters. Additionally, businesses and education providers would be connected to develop classroom curriculum to complement on-the-job learning and workers would receive support services such as mentoring and career counseling to ensure that they are successful from the pre-employment to placement in a full-time position.

Our Nation desperately needs improvements to critical infrastructure like our roads and bridges, however to do that work we must have a trained workforce that's ready to fill these good-paying jobs. Virginia businesses in the transportation, maritime, and information technology industries continue to tell me they have trouble finding job applicants with the necessary skills. This bill will help workers get the job training they need to be hired. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle consider the BUILDS Act as a necessary component to any investment in our Nation's infrastructure.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 212

Whereas Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberties, and individual rights;

Whereas from 1919 to 1920, the Sixty-Sixth Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an amendment to the Constitution to provide suffrage for women;

Whereas on May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919;

Whereas the introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamen-

tally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation;

Whereas August 18, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by three-fourths of the States, providing the support necessary under article V of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment becoming a part of the Constitution of the United States, providing for women's suffrage; and

Whereas the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) honors the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;

(3) reaffirms the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and

(4) reaffirms the desire of Congress to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 213—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 19 THROUGH MAY 25, 2019, AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 213

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 19 through May 25, 2019, as "National Public Works Week";

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE LYING IN STATE OF THE REMAINS OF THE LAST MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT OF WORLD WAR II, IN ORDER TO HONOR THE GREATEST GENERATION AND THE MORE THAN 16,000,000 MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1941 TO 1945

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 17

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. HONORING THE LAST SURVIVING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT OF WORLD WAR II.

(a) **USE OF ROTUNDA.**—The individual who is the last surviving recipient of the Medal of Honor for acts performed during World War II shall be permitted to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol upon death, if the individual (or the next of kin of the individual) so elects.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take the necessary steps to implement subsection (a).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of David Michael Satterfield, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Turkey, dated May 16, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the ses-

sion of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Bridget A. Brink, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Matthew S. Klimow, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, and John Jefferson Daigle, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde, all of the Department of State.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on pending legislation and the following nominations: Ada E. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Steven D. Grimberg, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, David John Novak, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, OCEANS, FISHERIES, AND WEATHER

The Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME EN BLOC—H.R. 312 AND H.R. 2578

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 312) to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2578) to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF POSSESSION OF BIOLOGICAL TOXINS AND AGENTS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 744 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 744), to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener's error.

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

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

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

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

S. 744

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 "Effective Prosecution of Possession of Biological Toxins and Agents Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON THE POSSESSION OF BIOLOGICAL TOXINS AND AGENTS.

Section 175b of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a)(1) No restricted" and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(a) **OFFENSE.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall be unlawful for a restricted person to—

"(A) ship, transport, or possess in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce any biological agent or toxin described in paragraph (2); or

"(B) receive any biological agent or toxin described in paragraph (2) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

"(2) **AGENTS AND TOXINS COVERED.**—A biological agent or toxin described in this paragraph is a biological agent or toxin that—

"(A) is listed as a non-overlap or overlap select biological agent or toxin under part 73 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, pursuant to section 351A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262a); and

"(B) is not excluded or exempted under part 73 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations."; and

(B) by striking "(2) Whoever" and inserting "(3) **PENALTY.**—Whoever" and adjusting the margin accordingly; and

(2) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "DEFINITIONS.—" before "In this section:".

PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS AND ADVANCING INNOVATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from

further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1379.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1379) to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Policy Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1379) was passed, as follows:

S. 1379

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References in Act.

TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY

Sec. 101. National Health Security Strategy.

TITLE II—IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Sec. 201. Improving benchmarks and standards for preparedness and response.

Sec. 202. Amendments to preparedness and response programs.

Sec. 203. Regional health care emergency preparedness and response systems.

Sec. 204. Military and civilian partnership for trauma readiness.

Sec. 205. Public health and health care system situational awareness and biosurveillance capabilities.

Sec. 206. Strengthening and supporting the public health emergency rapid response fund.

Sec. 207. Improving all-hazards preparedness and response by public health emergency volunteers.

Sec. 208. Clarifying State liability law for volunteer health care professionals.

Sec. 209. Report on adequate national blood supply.

Sec. 210. Report on the public health preparedness and response capabilities and capacities of hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities.

TITLE III—REACHING ALL COMMUNITIES

Sec. 301. Strengthening and assessing the emergency response workforce.

Sec. 302. Health system infrastructure to improve preparedness and response.

Sec. 303. Considerations for at-risk individuals.

Sec. 304. Improving emergency preparedness and response considerations for children.

Sec. 305. National advisory committees on disasters.

Sec. 306. Guidance for participation in exercises and drills.

TITLE IV—PRIORITIZING A THREAT-BASED APPROACH

Sec. 401. Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

Sec. 402. Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise.

Sec. 403. Strategic National Stockpile.

Sec. 404. Preparing for pandemic influenza, antimicrobial resistance, and other significant threats.

Sec. 405. Reporting on the Federal Select Agent Program.

TITLE V—INCREASING COMMUNICATION IN MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 501. Medical countermeasure budget plan.

Sec. 502. Material threat and medical countermeasure notifications.

Sec. 503. Availability of regulatory management plans.

Sec. 504. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund.

Sec. 505. Additional strategies for combating antibiotic resistance.

TITLE VI—ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

Sec. 601. Administration of countermeasures.

Sec. 602. Updating definitions of other transactions.

Sec. 603. Medical countermeasure master files.

Sec. 604. Animal rule report.

Sec. 605. Review of the benefits of genomic engineering technologies and their potential role in national security.

Sec. 606. Report on vaccines development.

Sec. 607. Strengthening mosquito abatement for safety and health.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Reauthorizations and extensions.

Sec. 702. Location of materials in the stockpile.

Sec. 703. Cybersecurity.

Sec. 704. Strategy and report.

Sec. 705. Technical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES IN ACT.

Except as otherwise specified, amendments made by this Act to a section or other provision of law are amendments to such section or other provision of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY

SEC. 101. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY.

Section 2802 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2014” and inserting “2018”; and

(ii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “Such National Health Security Strategy shall describe potential emergency health security threats and identify the process for achieving the prepared-

ness goals described in subsection (b) to be prepared to identify and respond to such threats and shall be consistent with the national preparedness goal (as described in section 504(a)(19) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002), the National Incident Management System (as defined in section 501(7) of such Act), and the National Response Plan developed pursuant to section 504 of such Act, or any successor plan.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end of the second sentence the following: “, and an analysis of any changes to the evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards under sections 319C–1 and 319C–2”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “2009” and inserting “2022”; and

(ii) by inserting “(including gaps in the environmental health and animal health workforces, as applicable), describing the status of such workforce” after “gaps in such workforce”;

(iii) by striking “and identifying strategies” and inserting “identifying strategies”; and

(iv) by inserting before the period at the end “, and identifying current capabilities to meet the requirements of section 2803”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and investigation” and inserting “investigation, and related information technology activities”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and decontamination” and inserting “decontamination, relevant health care services and supplies, and transportation and disposal of medical waste”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Response to environmental hazards.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “including mental health” and inserting “including pharmacies, mental health facilities,”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “or exposures to agents that could cause a public health emergency” before the period;

(C) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and other applicable compacts” after “Compact”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) ZOONOTIC DISEASE, FOOD, AND AGRICULTURE.—Improving coordination among Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial entities (including through consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture) to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks of plant or animal disease (including zoonotic disease) that could compromise national security resulting from a deliberate attack, a naturally occurring threat, the intentional adulteration of food, or other public health threats, taking into account interactions between animal health, human health, and animals’ and humans’ shared environment as directly related to public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as applicable.

“(10) GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.—Assessing current or potential health security threats from abroad to inform domestic public health preparedness and response capabilities.”.

TITLE II—IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SEC. 201. IMPROVING BENCHMARKS AND STANDARDS FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

(a) EVALUATING MEASURABLE EVIDENCE-BASED BENCHMARKS AND OBJECTIVE STANDARDS.—Section 319C–1 (42 U.S.C. 247d–3a) is amended by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards required under subsection (g). Such evaluation shall be submitted to the congressional committees of jurisdiction together with the National Health Security Strategy under section 2802, at such time as such strategy is submitted.

“(2) CONTENT.—The evaluation under this paragraph shall include—

“(A) a review of evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards, and associated metrics and targets;

“(B) a discussion of changes to any evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards, and the effect of such changes on the ability to track whether entities are meeting or making progress toward the goals under this section and, to the extent practicable, the applicable goals of the National Health Security Strategy under section 2802;

“(C) a description of amounts received by eligible entities described in subsection (b) and section 319C-2(b), and amounts received by subrecipients and the effect of such funding on meeting evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards; and

“(D) recommendations, as applicable and appropriate, to improve evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards to more accurately assess the ability of entities receiving awards under this section to better achieve the goals under this section and section 2802.”

(b) EVALUATING THE PARTNERSHIP FOR STATE AND REGIONAL HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS.—Section 319C-2(i)(1) (42 U.S.C. 247-3b(i)(1)) is amended by striking “section 319C-1(g), (i), and (j)” and inserting “section 319C-1(g), (i), (j), and (k)”.

SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS TO PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS.

(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPROVING STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY.—Section 319C-1 (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” after “the Secretary”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

(A) in clause (vi), by inserting “, including public health agencies with specific expertise that may be relevant to public health security, such as environmental health agencies,” after “stakeholders”;

(B) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (ix) as clauses (viii) through (x);

(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) a description of how, as applicable, such entity may integrate information to account for individuals with behavioral health needs following a public health emergency;”;

(D) in clause (ix), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(xi) a description of how the entity will partner with health care facilities, including hospitals and nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, to promote and improve public health preparedness and response; and

“(xii) a description of how, as appropriate and practicable, the entity will include critical infrastructure partners, such as utility companies within the entity’s jurisdiction, in planning pursuant to this subparagraph to help ensure that critical infrastructure will remain functioning during, or return to function as soon as practicable after, a public health emergency.”

(b) EXCEPTION RELATING TO APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 319C-1(g) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a(g)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Beginning with fiscal year 2009” and inserting “Beginning with fiscal year 2019”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “for the immediately preceding fiscal year” and inserting “for either of the 2 immediately preceding fiscal years”; and

(II) by striking “2008” and inserting “2018”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts described in this paragraph are the following amounts that are payable to an entity for activities described in this section or section 319C-2:

“(i) For no more than one of each of the first 2 fiscal years immediately following a fiscal year in which an entity experienced a failure described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (5), an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount the entity was eligible to receive for the respective fiscal year.

“(ii) For no more than one of the first 2 fiscal years immediately following the third consecutive fiscal year in which an entity experienced such a failure, in lieu of applying clause (i), an amount equal to 15 percent of the amount the entity was eligible to receive for the respective fiscal year.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to cooperative agreements awarded on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) PARTNERSHIP FOR STATE AND REGIONAL HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS TO IMPROVE SURGE CAPACITY.—Section 319C-2 (42 U.S.C. 247d-3b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response,” after “The Secretary”; and

(B) by striking “preparedness for public health emergencies” and inserting “preparedness for, and response to, public health emergencies in accordance with subsection (c)”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking “partnership consisting of” and inserting “coalition that includes”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) one or more emergency medical service organizations or emergency management organizations; and”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “partnership” each place it appears and inserting “coalition”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “medical preparedness” and inserting “preparedness and response”;

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “partnership” and inserting “coalition”;

(5) in subsection (g)(2)—

(A) by striking “Partnerships” and inserting “Coalitions”;

(B) by striking “partnerships” and inserting “coalitions”; and

(C) by inserting “and response” after “preparedness”; and

(6) in subsection (i)(1)—

(A) by striking “An entity” and inserting “A coalition”; and

(B) by striking “such partnership” and inserting “such coalition”.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY GRANTS AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 319C-1(h)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a(h)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “\$641,900,000 for fiscal year 2014” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$685,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 for

awards pursuant to paragraph (3) (subject to the authority of the Secretary to make awards pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5)).”

(e) PARTNERSHIP FOR STATE AND REGIONAL HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 319C-2(j) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3b(j)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of carrying out this section and section 319C-3, in accordance with subparagraph (B), there is authorized to be appropriated \$385,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

“(B) RESERVATION OF AMOUNTS FOR REGIONAL SYSTEMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), of the amount appropriated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may reserve up to 5 percent for the purpose of carrying out section 319C-3.

“(ii) RESERVATION CONTINGENT ON CONTINUED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THIS SECTION.—If for fiscal year 2019 or a subsequent fiscal year, the amount appropriated under subparagraph (A) is such that, after application of clause (i), the amount remaining for the purpose of carrying out this section would be less than the amount available for such purpose for the previous fiscal year, the amount that may be reserved under clause (i) shall be reduced such that the amount remaining for the purpose of carrying out this section is not less than the amount available for such purpose for the previous fiscal year.

“(iii) SUNSET.—The authority to reserve amounts under clause (i) shall expire on September 30, 2023.”

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1) for a fiscal year” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A) for a fiscal year and not reserved for the purpose described in paragraph (1)(B)(i)”;

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “paragraph (1) and not reserved under paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A) and not reserved under paragraph (1)(B)(i) or (2)”.

SEC. 203. REGIONAL HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title III (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319C-2 the following:

“SEC. 319C-3. GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS.

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to identify and provide guidelines for regional systems of hospitals, health care facilities, and other public and private sector entities, with varying levels of capability to treat patients and increase medical surge capacity during, in advance of, and immediately following a public health emergency, including threats posed by one or more chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents, including emerging infectious diseases.

“(b) GUIDELINES.—The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials, shall, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section—

“(1) identify and develop a set of guidelines relating to practices and protocols for all-hazards public health emergency preparedness and response for hospitals and health care facilities to provide appropriate patient care during, in advance of, or immediately following, a public health emergency, resulting from one or more chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents, including emerging infectious diseases (which may include existing practices, such as trauma care and medical surge capacity and capabilities), with respect to—

“(A) a regional approach to identifying hospitals and health care facilities based on varying capabilities and capacity to treat patients affected by such emergency, including—

“(i) the manner in which the system will coordinate with and integrate the partnerships and health care coalitions established under section 319C-2(b); and

“(ii) informing and educating appropriate first responders and health care supply chain partners of the regional emergency preparedness and response capabilities and medical surge capacity of such hospitals and health care facilities in the community;

“(B) physical and technological infrastructure, laboratory capacity, staffing, blood supply, and other supply chain needs, taking into account resiliency, geographic considerations, and rural considerations;

“(C) protocols or best practices for the safety and personal protection of workers who handle human remains and health care workers (including with respect to protective equipment and supplies, waste management processes, and decontamination), sharing of specialized experience among the health care workforce, behavioral health, psychological resilience, and training of the workforce, as applicable;

“(D) in a manner that allows for disease containment (within the meaning of section 2802(b)(2)(B)), coordinated medical triage, treatment, and transportation of patients, based on patient medical need (including patients in rural areas), to the appropriate hospitals or health care facilities within the regional system or, as applicable and appropriate, between systems in different States or regions; and

“(E) the needs of children and other at-risk individuals;

“(2) make such guidelines available on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services in a manner that does not compromise national security; and

“(3) update such guidelines as appropriate, including based on input received pursuant to subsections (c) and (e) and information resulting from applicable reports required under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (including any amendments made by such Act), to address new and emerging public health threats.

“(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In identifying, developing, and updating guidelines under subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall—

“(1) include input from hospitals and health care facilities (including health care coalitions under section 319C-2), State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and health care or subject matter experts (including experts with relevant expertise in chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats, including emerging infectious diseases), as the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate, to meet the goals under section 2802(b)(3);

“(2) consult and engage with appropriate health care providers and professionals, including physicians, nurses, first responders, health care facilities (including hospitals, primary care clinics, community health cen-

ters, mental health facilities, ambulatory care facilities, and dental health facilities), pharmacies, emergency medical providers, trauma care providers, environmental health agencies, public health laboratories, poison control centers, blood banks, tissue banks, and other experts that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate, to meet the goals under section 2802(b)(3);

“(3) consider feedback related to financial implications for hospitals, health care facilities, public health agencies, laboratories, blood banks, tissue banks, and other entities engaged in regional preparedness planning to implement and follow such guidelines, as applicable; and

“(4) consider financial requirements and potential incentives for entities to prepare for, and respond to, public health emergencies as part of the regional health care emergency preparedness and response system.

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, may provide technical assistance and consultation toward meeting the guidelines described in subsection (b).

“(e) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR REGIONAL HEALTH CARE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response may establish a demonstration project pursuant to the development and implementation of guidelines under subsection (b) to award grants to improve medical surge capacity for all hazards, build and integrate regional medical response capabilities, improve specialty care expertise for all-hazards response, and coordinate medical preparedness and response across State, local, Tribal, territorial, and regional jurisdictions.

“(2) SUNSET.—The authority under this subsection shall expire on September 30, 2023.”

(b) GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this subsection as the “Comptroller General”) shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, a report on the extent to which hospitals and health care facilities have implemented the recommended guidelines under section 319C-3(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by subsection (a)), including an analysis and evaluation of any challenges hospitals or health care facilities experienced in implementing such guidelines.

(2) CONTENT.—The Comptroller General shall include in the report under paragraph (1)—

(A) data on the preparedness and response capabilities that have been informed by the guidelines under section 319C-3(b) of the Public Health Service Act to improve regional emergency health care preparedness and response capability, including hospital and health care facility capacity and medical surge capabilities to prepare for, and respond to, public health emergencies; and

(B) recommendations to reduce gaps in incentives for regional health partners, including hospitals and health care facilities, to improve capacity and medical surge capabilities to prepare for, and respond to, public health emergencies, consistent with subsection (a), which may include consideration of facilities participating in programs under

section 319C-2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-3b) or in programs under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (including innovative health care delivery and payment models), and input from private sector financial institutions.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Comptroller General shall consult with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response;

(B) the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(C) the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

(D) the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use;

(E) the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; and

(F) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 319C-2(i)(1) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3b(i)(1)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “In submitting reports under this paragraph, a coalition shall include information on the progress that the coalition has made toward the implementation of section 319C-3 (or barriers to progress, if any).”

(d) NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY INCORPORATION OF REGIONALIZED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.—Subparagraph (G) of section 2802(b)(3) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(G) Optimizing a coordinated and flexible approach to the emergency response and medical surge capacity of hospitals, other health care facilities, critical care, trauma care (which may include trauma centers), and emergency medical systems.”

(e) IMPROVING STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY.—

(1) STATE AND LOCAL SECURITY.—Section 319C-1(e) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a(e)) is amended by striking “, and local emergency plans,” and inserting “, local emergency plans, and any regional health care emergency preparedness and response system established pursuant to the applicable guidelines under section 319C-3.”

(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 319C-2(d)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3b(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting “;”;

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) among one or more facilities in a regional health care emergency system under section 319C-3; and”.

SEC. 204. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR TRAUMA READINESS

Title XII (42 U.S.C. 300d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

“PART I—MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR TRAUMA READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

“SEC. 1291. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR TRAUMA READINESS GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) MILITARY TRAUMA TEAM PLACEMENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall award grants to not more than 20 eligible high-acuity trauma centers to enable military trauma teams to provide, on a full-time basis, trauma care and related acute care at such trauma centers.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—In the case of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) to an eligible high-acuity trauma center, such grant—

“(A) shall be for a period of at least 3 years and not more than 5 years (and may be renewed at the end of such period); and

“(B) shall be in an amount that does not exceed \$1,000,000 per year.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, funds available to the Secretary for obligation for a grant under this subsection shall remain available for expenditure for 100 days after the last day of the performance period of such grant.

“(b) MILITARY TRAUMA CARE PROVIDER PLACEMENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall award grants to eligible trauma centers to enable military trauma care providers to provide trauma care and related acute care at such trauma centers.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—In the case of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) to an eligible trauma center, such grant—

“(A) shall be for a period of at least 1 year and not more than 3 years (and may be renewed at the end of such period); and

“(B) shall be in an amount that does not exceed, in a year—

“(i) \$100,000 for each military trauma care provider that is a physician at such eligible trauma center; and

“(ii) \$50,000 for each other military trauma care provider at such eligible trauma center.

“(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) DEPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.—As a condition of receipt of a grant under this section, a grant recipient shall agree to allow military trauma care providers providing care pursuant to such grant to—

“(A) be deployed by the Secretary of Defense for military operations, for training, or for response to a mass casualty incident; and

“(B) be deployed by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, for response to a public health emergency pursuant to section 319.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this section to an eligible trauma center may be used to train and incorporate military trauma care providers into such trauma center, including incorporation into operational exercises and training drills related to public health emergencies, expenditures for malpractice insurance, office space, information technology, specialty education and supervision, trauma programs, research, and applicable license fees for such military trauma care providers.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any other provision of law that preempts State licensing requirements for health care professionals, including with respect to military trauma care providers.

“(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Each eligible trauma center or eligible high-acuity trauma center awarded a grant under subsection (a) or (b) for a year shall submit to the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense a report for such year that includes information on—

“(A) the number and types of trauma cases managed by military trauma teams or military trauma care providers pursuant to such grant during such year;

“(B) the ability to maintain the integration of the military trauma providers or teams of providers as part of the trauma center, including the financial effect of such grant on the trauma center;

“(C) the educational effect on resident trainees in centers where military trauma teams are assigned;

“(D) any research conducted during such year supported by such grant; and

“(E) any other information required by the Secretaries for the purpose of evaluating the effect of such grant.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not less than once every 2 years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction that includes information on the effect of placing military trauma care providers in trauma centers awarded grants under this section on—

“(A) maintaining military trauma care providers' readiness and ability to respond to and treat battlefield injuries;

“(B) providing health care to civilian trauma patients in urban and rural settings;

“(C) the capability of trauma centers and military trauma care providers to increase medical surge capacity, including as a result of a large-scale event;

“(D) the ability of grant recipients to maintain the integration of the military trauma providers or teams of providers as part of the trauma center;

“(E) efforts to incorporate military trauma care providers into operational exercises and training and drills for public health emergencies; and

“(F) the capability of military trauma care providers to participate as part of a medical response during or in advance of a public health emergency, as determined by the Secretary, or a mass casualty incident.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part:

“(1) ELIGIBLE HIGH-ACUITY TRAUMA CENTER.—The term ‘eligible high-acuity trauma center’ means a Level I trauma center that satisfies each of the following:

“(A) Such trauma center has an agreement with the Secretary of Defense to enable military trauma teams to provide trauma care and related acute care at such trauma center.

“(B) At least 20 percent of patients treated at such trauma center in the most recent 3-month period for which data are available are treated for a major trauma at such trauma center.

“(C) Such trauma center utilizes a risk-adjusted benchmarking system and metrics to measure performance, quality, and patient outcomes.

“(D) Such trauma center is an academic training center—

“(i) affiliated with a medical school;

“(ii) that maintains residency programs and fellowships in critical trauma specialties and subspecialties, and provides education and supervision of military trauma team members according to those specialties and subspecialties; and

“(iii) that undertakes research in the prevention and treatment of traumatic injury.

“(E) Such trauma center serves as a medical and public health preparedness and response leader for its community, such as by participating in a partnership for State and regional hospital preparedness established under section 319C-2 or 319C-3.

“(2) ELIGIBLE TRAUMA CENTER.—The term ‘eligible trauma center’ means a Level I, II, or III trauma center that satisfies each of the following:

“(A) Such trauma center has an agreement with the Secretary of Defense to enable military trauma care providers to provide trauma care and related acute care at such trauma center.

“(B) Such trauma center utilizes a risk-adjusted benchmarking system and metrics to measure performance, quality, and patient outcomes.

“(C) Such trauma center demonstrates a need for integrated military trauma care providers to maintain or improve the trauma clinical capability of such trauma center.

“(3) MAJOR TRAUMA.—The term ‘major trauma’ means an injury that is greater than or equal to 15 on the injury severity score.

“(4) MILITARY TRAUMA TEAM.—The term ‘military trauma team’ means a complete military trauma team consisting of military trauma care providers.

“(5) MILITARY TRAUMA CARE PROVIDER.—The term ‘military trauma care provider’ means a member of the Armed Forces who furnishes emergency, critical care, and other trauma acute care services (including a physician, surgeon, physician assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner, respiratory therapist, flight paramedic, combat medic, or enlisted medical technician) or other military trauma care provider as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$11,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”

SEC. 205. PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND BIOSURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES.

(a) FACILITIES, CAPACITIES, AND BIOSURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES.—Section 319D (42 U.S.C. 247d-4) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “RE-VITALIZING” and inserting “FACILITIES AND CAPACITIES OF”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “FACILITIES; CAPACITIES” and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and improved” and inserting “, improved, and appropriately maintained”;

(C) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “expand, enhance, and improve” and inserting “expand, improve, enhance, and appropriately maintain”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) STUDY OF RESOURCES FOR FACILITIES AND CAPACITIES.—Not later than June 1, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on Federal spending in fiscal years 2013 through 2018 for activities authorized under this subsection. Such study shall include a review and assessment of obligations and expenditures directly related to each activity under paragraphs (2) and (3), including a specific accounting of, and delineation between, obligations and expenditures incurred for the construction, renovation, equipping, and security upgrades of facilities and associated contracts under this subsection, and the obligations and expenditures incurred to establish and improve the situational awareness and biosurveillance network under subsection (b), and shall identify the agency or agencies incurring such obligations and expenditures.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “NATIONAL” and inserting “ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “immunization information systems,” after “centers,”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “develop a plan to, and” after “The Secretary shall”; and

(ii) by inserting “and in a form readily usable for analytical approaches” after “in a secure manner”; and

(D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary, in cooperation with health care providers, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials, and relevant Federal

agencies (including the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the National Institute of Standards and Technology), shall, as necessary, adopt technical and reporting standards, including standards for interoperability as defined by section 3000, for networks under paragraph (1) and update such standards as necessary. Such standards shall be made available on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, in a manner that does not compromise national security.

“(B) DEFERENCE TO STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—In adopting and implementing standards under this subsection and subsection (c), the Secretary shall give deference to standards published by standards development organizations and voluntary consensus-based standards entities.”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013, the Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”;

(ii) by inserting “, and improve as applicable and appropriate,” after “shall establish”;

(iii) by striking “of rapid” and inserting “of, rapid”;

(iv) by striking “such connectivity” and inserting “such interoperability”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In establishing and improving the network under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) facilitate coordination among agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services that provide, or have the potential to provide, information and data to, and analyses for, the situational awareness and biosurveillance network under paragraph (1), including coordination among relevant agencies related to health care services, the facilitation of health information exchange (including the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology), and public health emergency preparedness and response; and

“(B) consult with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce (and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology), the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines appropriate.”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(ii) in clause (iv), as so redesignated—

(I) by inserting “immunization information systems,” after “poison control,”; and

(II) by striking “and clinical laboratories” and inserting “, clinical laboratories, and public environmental health agencies”;

(iii) by striking “The network” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The network”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REVIEW.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 and every 6 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the elements described in subparagraph (A). Such review shall include a discussion of the addition of any elements pursuant to clause (v), including elements added to advancing new technologies, and identify any challenges in the incorporation of elements under subparagraph (A). The Secretary shall provide such review to the congressional committees of jurisdiction.”;

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(ii) by striking “In establishing” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In establishing”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PUBLIC MEETING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary shall convene a public meeting for purposes of discussing and providing input on the potential goals, functions, and uses of the network described in paragraph (1) and incorporating the elements described in paragraph (3)(A).

“(ii) EXPERTS.—The public meeting shall include representatives of relevant Federal agencies (including representatives from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the National Institute of Standards and Technology); State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials; stakeholders with expertise in biosurveillance and situational awareness; stakeholders with expertise in capabilities relevant to biosurveillance and situational awareness, such as experts in informatics and data analytics (including experts in prediction, modeling, or forecasting); and other representatives as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(iii) TOPICS.—Such public meeting shall include a discussion of—

“(I) data elements, including minimal or essential data elements, that are voluntarily provided for such network, which may include elements from public health and public and private health care entities, to the extent practicable;

“(II) standards and implementation specifications that may improve the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data during a public health emergency;

“(III) strategies to encourage the access, exchange, and use of information;

“(IV) considerations for State, local, Tribal, and territorial capabilities and infrastructure related to data exchange and interoperability;

“(V) privacy and security protections provided at the Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial levels, and by nongovernmental stakeholders; and

“(VI) opportunities for the incorporation of innovative technologies to improve the network.”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (A), as so designated by clause (ii)—

(I) in clause (i), as so redesignated—

(aa) by striking “as determined” and inserting “as adopted”; and

(bb) by inserting “and the National Institute of Standards and Technology” after “Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology”;

(II) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) pilot test standards and implementation specifications, consistent with the process described in section 3002(b)(3)(C), which State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health entities may utilize, on a voluntary basis, as a part of the network.”;

(E) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(F) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional committees of jurisdiction a coordinated strategy and an accompanying implementation plan that—

“(i) is informed by the public meeting under paragraph (5)(B);

“(ii) includes a review and assessment of existing capabilities of the network and related infrastructure, including input provided by the public meeting under paragraph (5)(B);

“(iii) identifies and demonstrates the measurable steps the Secretary will carry out to—

“(I) develop, implement, and evaluate the network described in paragraph (1), utilizing elements described in paragraph (3)(A);

“(II) modernize and enhance biosurveillance activities, including strategies to include innovative technologies and analytical approaches (including prediction and forecasting for pandemics and all-hazards) from public and private entities;

“(III) improve information sharing, coordination, and communication among disparate biosurveillance systems supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, including the identification of methods to improve accountability, better utilize resources and workforce capabilities, and incorporate innovative technologies within and across agencies; and

“(IV) test and evaluate capabilities of the interoperable network of systems to improve situational awareness and biosurveillance capabilities;

“(iv) includes performance measures and the metrics by which performance measures will be assessed with respect to the measurable steps under clause (iii); and

“(v) establishes dates by which each measurable step under clause (iii) will be implemented.

“(B) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 and on an annual basis thereafter, in accordance with the strategy and implementation plan under this paragraph, the Secretary shall, taking into account recommendations provided by the National Biodefense Science Board, develop a budget plan based on the strategy and implementation plan under this section. Such budget plan shall include—

“(i) a summary of resources previously expended to establish, improve, and utilize the nationwide public health situational awareness and biosurveillance network under paragraph (1);

“(ii) estimates of costs and resources needed to establish and improve the network under paragraph (1) according to the strategy and implementation plan under subparagraph (A);

“(iii) the identification of gaps and inefficiencies in nationwide public health situational awareness and biosurveillance capabilities, resources, and authorities needed to address such gaps; and

“(iv) a strategy to minimize and address such gaps and improve inefficiencies.”;

(G) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(taking into account zoonotic disease, including gaps in scientific understanding of the interactions between human, animal, and environmental health)” after “human health”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “and gaps in surveillance programs” after “surveillance programs”; and

(II) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “, animal health organizations related to zoonotic disease,” after “health care entities”; and

(II) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) provide recommendations to the Secretary on policies and procedures to complete the steps described in this paragraph in a manner that is consistent with section 2802.”; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND BIOSURVEILLANCE AS A NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITY.**—The Secretary, on a periodic basis as applicable and appropriate, shall meet with the Director of National Intelligence to inform the development and capabilities of the nationwide public health situational awareness and biosurveillance network.”;

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “environmental health agencies,” after “public health agencies,”; and

(ii) by inserting “immunization programs,” after “poison control centers,”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) an implementation plan that may include measurable steps to achieve the purposes described in paragraph (1).”;

(C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may provide technical assistance to States, localities, Tribes, and territories or a consortium of States, localities, Tribes, and territories receiving an award under this subsection regarding interoperability and the technical standards set forth by the Secretary.”;

(6) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) **PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.**—

“(1) **SPECIALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.**—In addition to any other personnel authorities, to carry out subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary may—

“(A) appoint highly qualified individuals to scientific or professional positions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, not to exceed 30 such employees at any time (specific to positions authorized by this subsection), with expertise in capabilities relevant to biosurveillance and situational awareness, such as experts in informatics and data analytics (including experts in prediction, modeling, or forecasting), and other related scientific or technical fields; and

“(B) compensate individuals appointed under subparagraph (A) in the same manner and subject to the same terms and conditions in which individuals appointed under 9903 of title 5, United States Code, are compensated, without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

“(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—The Secretary shall exercise the authority under paragraph (1) in a manner that is consistent with the limitations described in section 319F–1(e)(2).

“(g) **TIMELINE.**—The Secretary shall accomplish the purposes under subsections (b) and (c) no later than September 30, 2023, and shall provide a justification to the congressional committees of jurisdiction for any missed or delayed implementation of meas-

urable steps identified under subsection (c)(6)(A)(iii).

“(h) **INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an independent evaluation and submit to the Secretary and the congressional committees of jurisdiction a report concerning the activities conducted under subsections (b) and (c), and provide recommendations, as applicable and appropriate, on necessary improvements to the biosurveillance and situational awareness network.”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (i) of section 319D (42 U.S.C. 247d–4), as redesignated by subsection (a)(6), is amended by striking “\$138,300,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$161,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”.

(c) **BIOLOGICAL THREAT DETECTION REPORT.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the state of Federal biological threat detection efforts, including the following:

(1) An identification of technological, operational, and programmatic successes and failures of domestic detection programs supported by Federal departments and agencies for intentionally introduced or accidentally released biological threat agents and naturally occurring infectious diseases.

(2) A description of Federal efforts to facilitate the exchange of information related to the information described in paragraph (1) among Federal departments and agencies that utilize biological threat detection technology.

(3) A description of the capabilities of detection systems in use by Federal departments and agencies including the capability to—

(A) rapidly detect, identify, characterize, and confirm the presence of biological threat agents;

(B) recover live biological agents from collection devices;

(C) determine the geographical distribution of biological agents;

(D) determine the extent of environmental contamination and persistence of biological agents; and

(E) provide advanced molecular diagnostics to State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health and other laboratories that support biological threat detection activities.

(4) A description of Federal interagency coordination related to biological threat detection.

(5) A description of efforts by Federal departments and agencies that utilize biological threat detection technology to collaborate with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health laboratories and other users of biological threat detection systems, including collaboration regarding the development of—

(A) biological threat detection requirements or standards;

(B) a standardized integration strategy;

(C) training requirements or guidelines;

(D) guidelines for a coordinated public health response, including preparedness capabilities, and, as applicable, for coordina-

tion with public health surveillance systems; and

(E) a coordinated environmental remediation plan, as applicable.

(6) Recommendations related to research, advanced research, development, and procurement for Federal departments and agencies to improve and enhance biological threat detection systems, including recommendations on the transfer of biological threat detection technology among Federal departments and agencies, as necessary and appropriate.

SEC. 206. STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RAPID RESPONSE FUND.

Section 319 (42 U.S.C. 247d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting “or if the Secretary determines there is the significant potential for a public health emergency, to allow the Secretary to rapidly respond to the immediate needs resulting from such public health emergency or potential public health emergency” before the period; and

(ii) by inserting “The Secretary shall plan for the expedited distribution of funds to appropriate agencies and entities.” after the first sentence;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **USES.**—The Secretary may use amounts in the Fund established under paragraph (1), to—

“(A) facilitate coordination between and among Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial entities and public and private health care entities that the Secretary determines may be affected by a public health emergency or potential public health emergency referred to in paragraph (1) (including communication of such entities with relevant international entities, as applicable);

“(B) make grants, provide for awards, enter into contracts, and conduct supportive investigations pertaining to a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, including further supporting programs under section 319C–1, 319C–2, or 319C–3;

“(C) facilitate and accelerate, as applicable, advanced research and development of security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–2), qualified countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–1), or qualified pandemic or epidemic products (as defined in section 319F–3), that are applicable to the public health emergency or potential public health emergency under paragraph (1);

“(D) strengthen biosurveillance capabilities and laboratory capacity to identify, collect, and analyze information regarding such public health emergency or potential public health emergency, including the systems under section 319D;

“(E) support initial emergency operations and assets related to preparation and deployment of intermittent disaster response personnel under section 2812 and the Medical Reserve Corps under section 2813; and

“(F) carry out other activities, as the Secretary determines applicable and appropriate.”; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so redesignated, the following:

“(4) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, shall conduct a review of the Fund under this section and provide recommendations to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations of the

Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives on policies to improve such Fund for the uses described in paragraph (2).

“(5) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(A) conduct a review of the Fund under this section, including its uses and the resources available in the Fund; and

“(B) submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on such review, including recommendations related to such review, as applicable.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting “rapidly respond to public health emergencies or potential public health emergencies and” after “used to”; and

(B) by striking “section.” and inserting “Act or funds otherwise provided for emergency response.”.

SEC. 207. IMPROVING ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319I (42 U.S.C. 247d–7b) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “HEALTH PROFESSIONS VOLUNTEERS” and inserting “VOLUNTEER HEALTH PROFESSIONAL”;

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: “Such health care professionals may include members of the National Disaster Medical System, members of the Medical Reserve Corps, and individual health care professionals.”;

(3) in subsection (i), by adding at the end the following: “In order to inform the development of such mechanisms by States, the Secretary shall make available information and material provided by States that have developed mechanisms to waive the application of licensing requirements to applicable health professionals seeking to provide medical services during a public health emergency. Such information shall be made publicly available in a manner that does not compromise national security.”; and

(4) in subsection (k), by striking “2014 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

(b) ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN.—Section 319C–1(b)(2)(A)(iv) (42 U.S.C. 247d–3a(b)(2)(A)(iv)) is amended to read as follows: “(iv) a description of the mechanism the entity will implement to utilize the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or other mutual aid agreement, for medical and public health mutual aid, and, as appropriate, the activities such entity will implement pursuant to section 319I to improve enrollment and coordination of volunteer health care professionals seeking to provide medical services during a public health emergency, which may include—

“(I) providing a public method of communication for purposes of volunteer coordination (such as a phone number);

“(II) providing for optional registration to participate in volunteer services during processes related to State medical licensing, registration, or certification or renewal of such licensing, registration, or certification; or

“(III) other mechanisms as the State determines appropriate.”.

SEC. 208. CLARIFYING STATE LIABILITY LAW FOR VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 224 the following:

“SEC. 225. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ASSISTING DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

“(a) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care professional who is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps under section 2813 or who is included in the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals under section 319I and who—

“(1) is responding—

“(A) to a public health emergency determined under section 319(a), during the initial period of not more than 90 days (as determined by the Secretary) of the public health emergency determination (excluding any period covered by a renewal of such determination); or

“(B) to a major disaster or an emergency as declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621) during the initial period of such declaration;

“(2) is alleged to be liable for an act or omission—

“(A) during the initial period of a determination or declaration described in paragraph (1) and related to the treatment of individuals in need of health care services due to such public health emergency, major disaster, or emergency;

“(B) in the State or States for which such determination or declaration is made;

“(C) in the health care professional’s capacity as a member of the Medical Reserve Corps or a professional included in the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals under section 319I; and

“(D) in the course of providing services that are within the scope of the license, registration, or certification of the professional, as defined by the State of licensure, registration, or certification; and

“(3) prior to the rendering of such act or omission, was authorized by the State’s authorization of deploying such State’s Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals described in section 319I or the Medical Reserve Corps established under section 2813, to provide health care services,

shall be subject only to the State liability laws of the State in which such act or omission occurred, in the same manner and to the same extent as a similar health care professional who is a resident of such State would be subject to such State laws, except with respect to the licensure, registration, and certification of such individual.

“(b) VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect an individual’s right to protections under the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

“(c) PREEMPTION.—This section shall supersede the laws of any State that would subject a health care professional described in subsection (a) to the liability laws of any State other than the State liability laws to which such individual is subject pursuant to such subsection.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘health care professional’ means an individual licensed, registered, or certified under Federal or State laws or regulations to provide health care services.

“(2) The term ‘health care services’ means any services provided by a health care professional, or by any individual working under the supervision of a health care professional, that relate to—

“(A) the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any human disease or impairment; or

“(B) the assessment or care of the health of human beings.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019.

“(2) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to a claim for harm only if the act or omission that caused such harm occurred on or after the effective date described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of—

(1) the number of health care providers who register under the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals under section 319I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–7b) in advance to provide services during a public health emergency;

(2) the number of health care providers who are credentialed to provide services during the period of a public health emergency declaration, including those who are credentialed through programs established in the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals under such section 319I and those credentialed by authorities within the State in which the emergency occurred;

(3) the average time to verify the credentials of a health care provider during the period of a public health emergency declaration, including the average time pursuant to the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals under such section 319I and for an individual’s credentials to be verified by an authority within the State; and

(4) the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals program in States, including whether physician or medical groups, associations, or other relevant provider organizations utilize such program for purposes of volunteering during public health emergencies.

SEC. 209. REPORT ON ADEQUATE NATIONAL BLOOD SUPPLY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report containing recommendations related to maintaining an adequate national blood supply, including—

(1) challenges associated with the continuous recruitment of blood donors (including those newly eligible to donate);

(2) ensuring the adequacy of the blood supply in the case of public health emergencies;

(3) implementation of the transfusion transmission monitoring system; and

(4) other measures to promote safety and innovation, such as the development, use, or implementation of new technologies, processes, and procedures to improve the safety and reliability of the blood supply.

SEC. 210. REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES OF HOSPITALS, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity to conduct a study regarding the public health preparedness and response capabilities and medical surge capacities of hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities to prepare for,

and respond to, public health emergencies, including natural disasters.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the entity shall consult with Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials (as appropriate), and health care providers and facilities with experience in public health preparedness and response activities.

(3) EVALUATION.—The study under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an evaluation of the current benchmarks and objective standards, as applicable, related to programs that support hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities, and their effect on improving public health preparedness and response capabilities and medical surge capacities, including the Hospital Preparedness Program, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreements, and the Regional Health Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems under section 319C-3 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 203);

(B) the identification of gaps in preparedness, including with respect to such benchmarks and objective standards, such as those identified during recent public health emergencies, for hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities to address future potential public health threats;

(C) an evaluation of coordination efforts between the recipients of Federal funding for programs described in subparagraph (A) and entities with expertise in emergency power systems and other critical infrastructure partners during a public health emergency, to ensure a functioning critical infrastructure, to the greatest extent practicable, during a public health emergency;

(D) an evaluation of coordination efforts between the recipients of Federal funding for programs described in subparagraph (A) and environmental health agencies with expertise in emergency preparedness and response planning for hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities; and

(E) an evaluation of current public health preparedness and response capabilities and medical surge capacities related to at-risk individuals during public health emergencies, including an identification of gaps in such preparedness as they relate to such individuals.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The agreement under subsection (a) shall require the entity to submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the congressional committees of jurisdiction, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, a report on the results of the study conducted pursuant to this section.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe the findings and conclusions of the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (a); and

(B) provide recommendations for improving public health preparedness and response capability and medical surge capacity for hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities, including—

(i) improving the existing benchmarks and objective standards for the Federal grant programs described in subsection (a)(3)(A) or developing new benchmarks and standards for such programs; and

(ii) identifying best practices for improving public health preparedness and response programs and medical surge capacity at hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities, including recommendations for the evaluation under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (a)(3).

TITLE III—REACHING ALL COMMUNITIES

SEC. 301. STRENGTHENING AND ASSESSING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKFORCE.

(a) NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.—

(1) STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.—Clause (ii) of section 2812(a)(3)(A) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(a)(3)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) be present at locations, and for limited periods of time, specified by the Secretary on the basis that the Secretary has determined that a location is at risk of a public health emergency during the time specified, or there is a significant potential for a public health emergency.”.

(2) REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.—Section 2812(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) JOINT REVIEW AND MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(A) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct a joint review of the National Disaster Medical System. Such review shall include—

“(i) an evaluation of medical surge capacity, as described in section 2803(a);

“(ii) an assessment of the available workforce of the intermittent disaster response personnel described in subsection (c);

“(iii) the capacity of the workforce described in clause (ii) to respond to all hazards, including capacity to simultaneously respond to multiple public health emergencies and the capacity to respond to a nationwide public health emergency;

“(iv) the effectiveness of efforts to recruit, retain, and train such workforce; and

“(v) gaps that may exist in such workforce and recommendations for addressing such gaps.

“(B) UPDATES.—As part of the National Health Security Strategy under section 2802, the Secretary shall update the findings from the review under subparagraph (A) and provide recommendations to modify the policies of the National Disaster Medical System as necessary.”.

(3) NOTIFICATION OF SHORTAGE.—Section 2812(c) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines the number of intermittent disaster-response personnel of the National Disaster Medical System is insufficient to address a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional committees of jurisdiction a notification detailing—

“(A) the impact such shortage could have on meeting public health needs and emergency medical personnel needs during a public health emergency; and

“(B) any identified measures to address such shortage.

“(4) CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that the number of intermittent disaster response personnel within the National Disaster Medical System under this section is insufficient to address a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, the Secretary may appoint candidates directly to personnel positions for intermittent disaster response within such system. The Secretary shall provide updates on the number of vacant or unfilled positions within such system to the congressional committees of jurisdiction each quarter for which this authority is in effect.

“(B) SUNSET.—The authority under this paragraph shall expire on September 30, 2021.”.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2812(g) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(g)) is amended by striking “\$52,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$57,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”.

(b) VOLUNTEER MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2813(a) (42 U.S.C. 42 U.S.C. 300hh-15(a)) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting “The Secretary may appoint a Director to head the Corps and oversee the activities of the Corps chapters that exist at the State, local, Tribal, and territorial levels.”.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2813(i) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-15(i)) is amended by striking “2014 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

(c) STRENGTHENING THE EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.—Section 317F (42 U.S.C. Sec. 247b-7) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “or preparedness and response activities, including rapid response to public health emergencies and significant public health threats” after “conduct prevention activities”; and

(ii) by striking “\$35,000” and inserting “\$50,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “3 years” and inserting “2 years”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “For the purpose of carrying out this section” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, except as described in paragraph (2)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE SERVICE PROGRAM.—For purposes of carrying out this section with respect to qualified health professionals serving in the Epidemic Intelligence Service, as authorized under section 317G, there is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

(d) SERVICE BENEFIT FOR NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2812(c) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(c)), as amended by subsection (a)(3), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) SERVICE BENEFIT.—Individuals appointed to serve under this subsection shall be considered eligible for benefits under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. The Secretary shall provide notification to any eligible individual of any effect such designation may have on other benefits for which such individual is eligible, including benefits from private entities.”.

(2) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS.—Section 1204(9) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284(9)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) an individual appointed to the National Disaster Medical System under section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11) who is performing official duties of the Department of Health and Human Services, if those official duties are—

“(i) related to responding to a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, or other activities for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has

activated such National Disaster Medical System; and

“(ii) determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to be hazardous.”.

(3) **SUNSET.**—The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall cease to have force or effect on October 1, 2021.

(e) **MISSION READINESS REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this subsection as the “Comptroller General”) shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report on the medical surge capacity of the United States in the event of a public health emergency, including the capacity and capability of the current health care workforce to prepare for, and respond to, the full range of public health emergencies or potential public health emergencies, and recommendations to address any gaps identified in such workforce.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The Comptroller General shall include in the report under paragraph (1)—

(A) the number of health care providers who have volunteered to provide health care services during a public health emergency, including members of the National Disaster Medical System, the Disaster Medical Assistant Teams, the Medical Reserve Corps, and other volunteer health care professionals in the verification network pursuant to section 319I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7b);

(B) the capacity of the workforce described in subparagraph (A) to respond to a public health emergency or potential public health emergency, including the capacity to respond to multiple concurrent public health emergencies and the capacity to respond to a nationwide public health emergency;

(C) the preparedness and response capabilities and mission readiness of the workforce described in subparagraph (A) taking into account areas of health care expertise and considerations for at-risk individuals (as defined in section 2802(b)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1(b)(4)(B)));

(D) an assessment of the effectiveness of efforts to recruit, retain, and train such workforce; and

(E) identification of gaps that may exist in such workforce and recommendations for addressing such gaps, the extent to which the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response plans to address such gaps, and any recommendations from the Comptroller General to address such gaps.

SEC. 302. HEALTH SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

(a) **COORDINATION OF PREPAREDNESS.**—Section 2811(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10(b)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such logistical support shall include working with other relevant Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials and private sector entities to identify the critical infrastructure assets, systems, and networks needed for the proper functioning of the health care and public health sectors that need to be maintained through any emergency or disaster, including entities capable of assisting with, responding to, and mitigating the effect of a public health emergency, including a public health emergency determined by the Secretary pursuant to section 319(a) or an emergency or major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act or the National Emergencies Act, including by establishing meth-

ods to exchange critical information and deliver products consumed or used to preserve, protect, or sustain life, health, or safety, and sharing of specialized expertise.”.

(b) **MANUFACTURING CAPACITY.**—Section 2811(d)(2)(C) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10(d)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting “, and ancillary medical supplies to assist with the utilization of such countermeasures or products,” after “products”.

(c) **EVALUATION OF BARRIERS TO RAPID DELIVERY OF MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES.**—

(1) **RAPID DELIVERY STUDY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response may conduct a study on issues that have the potential to adversely affect the handling and rapid delivery of medical countermeasures to individuals during public health emergencies occurring in the United States.

(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall notify the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate if the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response does not plan to conduct the study under paragraph (1) and shall provide such committees a summary explanation for such decision.

(3) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response conducts the study under paragraph (1), such Assistant Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate containing the findings of such study.

SEC. 303. CONSIDERATIONS FOR AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS.

(a) **AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY.**—Section 2802(b)(4)(B) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1(b)(4)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “this section and sections 319C-1, 319F, and 319L,” and inserting “this Act,”; and

(2) by striking “special” and inserting “access or functional”.

(b) **COUNTERMEASURE CONSIDERATIONS.**—Section 319L(c)(6) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(c)(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking “elderly” and inserting “older adults”; and

(2) by inserting “with relevant characteristics that warrant consideration during the process of researching and developing such countermeasures and products” before the period.

(c) **BIOSURVEILLANCE OF EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS.**—Section 2814 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) facilitate coordination to ensure that, in implementing the situational awareness and biosurveillance network under section 319D, the Secretary considers incorporating data and information from Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials and entities relevant to detecting emerging public health threats that may affect at-risk individuals, such as pregnant and postpartum women and infants, including adverse health outcomes of such populations related to such emerging public health threats.”.

SEC. 304. IMPROVING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHILDREN.

Part B of title III (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319D the following:

“SEC. 319D-1. CHILDREN’S PREPAREDNESS UNIT.

“(a) **ENHANCING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILDREN.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Director’), shall maintain an internal team of experts, to be known as the Children’s Preparedness Unit (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Unit’), to work collaboratively to provide guidance on the considerations for, and the specific needs of, children before, during, and after public health emergencies. The Unit shall inform the Director regarding emergency preparedness and response efforts pertaining to children at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(b) **EXPERTISE.**—The team described in subsection (a) shall include one or more pediatricians, which may be a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, and may also include behavioral scientists, child psychologists, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, health communications staff, and individuals with other areas of expertise, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(c) **DUTIES.**—The team described in subsection (a) may—

“(1) assist State, local, Tribal, and territorial emergency planning and response activities related to children, which may include developing, identifying, and sharing best practices;

“(2) provide technical assistance, training, and consultation to Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health officials to improve preparedness and response capabilities with respect to the needs of children, including providing such technical assistance, training, and consultation to eligible entities in order to support the achievement of measurable evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards applicable to sections 319C-1 and 319C-2;

“(3) improve the utilization of methods to incorporate the needs of children in planning for and responding to a public health emergency, including public awareness of such methods;

“(4) coordinate with, and improve, public-private partnerships, such as health care coalitions pursuant to sections 319C-2 and 319C-3, to address gaps and inefficiencies in emergency preparedness and response efforts for children;

“(5) provide expertise and input during the development of guidance and clinical recommendations to address the needs of children when preparing for, and responding to, public health emergencies, including pursuant to section 319C-3; and

“(6) carry out other duties related to preparedness and response activities for children, as the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

SEC. 305. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON DISASTERS.

(a) **REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS.**—Section 2811A (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “, mental and behavioral,” after “medical”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “15” and inserting “25”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **REQUIRED NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with such other heads of Federal agencies as may be appropriate, shall appoint to the Advisory Committee under paragraph (1) at least 13 individuals, including—

“(A) at least 2 non-Federal professionals with expertise in pediatric medical disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery;

“(B) at least 2 representatives from State, local, Tribal, or territorial agencies with expertise in pediatric disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery;

“(C) at least 4 members representing health care professionals, which may include members with expertise in pediatric emergency medicine; pediatric trauma, critical care, or surgery; the treatment of pediatric patients affected by chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents, including emerging infectious diseases; pediatric mental or behavioral health related to children affected by a public health emergency; or pediatric primary care; and

“(D) other members as the Secretary determines appropriate, of whom—

“(i) at least one such member shall represent a children’s hospital;

“(ii) at least one such member shall be an individual with expertise in schools or child care settings;

“(iii) at least one such member shall be an individual with expertise in children and youth with special health care needs; and

“(iv) at least one such member shall be an individual with expertise in the needs of parents or family caregivers, including the parents or caregivers of children with disabilities.

“(3) **FEDERAL MEMBERS.**—The Advisory Committee under paragraph (1) shall include the following Federal members or their designees (who may be nonvoting members, as determined by the Secretary):

“(A) The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

“(B) The Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

“(C) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(D) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

“(E) The Director of the National Institutes of Health.

“(F) The Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families.

“(G) The Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

“(H) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(I) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living.

“(J) The Secretary of Education.

“(K) Representatives from such Federal agencies (such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Department of Homeland Security) as the Secretary determines appropriate to fulfill the duties of the Advisory Committee under subsections (b) and (c).

“(4) **TERM OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each member of the Advisory Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall serve for a term of 3 years, except that the Secretary may adjust the terms of the Advisory Committee appointees serving on the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, or appointees who are initially appointed after such date of enactment, in order to provide for a staggered term of appointment for all members.

“(5) **CONSECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS; MAXIMUM TERMS.**—A member appointed under paragraph (2) may serve not more than 3 terms on the Advisory Committee, and not more than two of such terms may be served consecutively.”;

(3) in subsection (e), by adding at the end “At least one meeting per year shall be an in-person meeting.”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g);

(5) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall coordinate duties and activities authorized

under this section in accordance with section 2811D.”; and

(6) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

(b) **AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SENIORS AND DISASTERS.**—Subtitle B of title XXVIII (42 U.S.C. 300hh et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 2811A the following:

“**SEC. 2811B. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SENIORS AND DISASTERS.**

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the National Advisory Committee on Seniors and Disasters (referred to in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) provide advice and consultation with respect to the activities carried out pursuant to section 2814, as applicable and appropriate;

“(2) evaluate and provide input with respect to the medical and public health needs of seniors related to preparation for, response to, and recovery from all-hazards emergencies; and

“(3) provide advice and consultation with respect to State emergency preparedness and response activities relating to seniors, including related drills and exercises pursuant to the preparedness goals under section 2802(b).

“(c) **ADDITIONAL DUTIES.**—The Advisory Committee may provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary with respect to seniors and the medical and public health grants and cooperative agreements as applicable to preparedness and response activities under this title and title III.

“(d) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with such other heads of agencies as appropriate, shall appoint not more than 17 members to the Advisory Committee. In appointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure that the total membership of the Advisory Committee is an odd number.

“(2) **REQUIRED MEMBERS.**—The Advisory Committee shall include Federal members or their designees (who may be nonvoting members, as determined by the Secretary) and non-Federal members, as follows:

“(A) The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

“(B) The Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

“(C) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(D) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

“(E) The Director of the National Institutes of Health.

“(F) The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“(G) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living.

“(H) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(I) The Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(J) At least 2 non-Federal health care professionals with expertise in geriatric medical disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery.

“(K) At least 2 representatives of State, local, Tribal, or territorial agencies with expertise in geriatric disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery.

“(L) Representatives of such other Federal agencies (such as the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security) as the Secretary determines necessary to fulfill the duties of the Advisory Committee.

“(e) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than bian-

nually. At least one meeting per year shall be an in-person meeting.

“(f) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall coordinate duties and activities authorized under this section in accordance with section 2811D.

“(g) **SUNSET.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2023.

“(2) **EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE.**—Not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a recommendation on whether the Advisory Committee should be extended.”.

(c) **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS.**—Subtitle B of title XXVIII (42 U.S.C. 300hh et seq.), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by inserting after section 2811B the following:

“**SEC. 2811C. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISASTERS.**

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish a national advisory committee to be known as the National Advisory Committee on Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters (referred to in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) provide advice and consultation with respect to activities carried out pursuant to section 2814, as applicable and appropriate;

“(2) evaluate and provide input with respect to the medical, public health, and accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities related to preparation for, response to, and recovery from all-hazards emergencies; and

“(3) provide advice and consultation with respect to State emergency preparedness and response activities, including related drills and exercises pursuant to the preparedness goals under section 2802(b).

“(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with such other heads of agencies and departments as appropriate, shall appoint not more than 17 members to the Advisory Committee. In appointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure that the total membership of the Advisory Committee is an odd number.

“(2) **REQUIRED MEMBERS.**—The Advisory Committee shall include Federal members or their designees (who may be nonvoting members, as determined by the Secretary) and non-Federal members, as follows:

“(A) The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

“(B) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living.

“(C) The Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

“(D) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(E) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

“(F) The Director of the National Institutes of Health.

“(G) The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(H) The Chair of the National Council on Disability.

“(I) The Chair of the United States Access Board.

“(J) The Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(K) At least 2 non-Federal health care professionals with expertise in disability accessibility before, during, and after disasters, medical and mass care disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery.

“(L) At least 2 representatives from State, local, Tribal, or territorial agencies with expertise in disaster planning, preparedness,

response, or recovery for individuals with disabilities.

“(M) At least 2 individuals with a disability with expertise in disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery for individuals with disabilities.

“(d) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than biannually. At least one meeting per year shall be an in-person meeting.

“(e) DISABILITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘disability’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

“(f) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate duties and activities authorized under this section in accordance with section 2811D.

“(g) SUNSET.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2023.

“(2) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a recommendation on whether the Advisory Committee should be extended.”.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATION.—Subtitle B of title XXVIII (42 U.S.C. 300hh et seq.), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by inserting after section 2811C the following:

“SEC. 2811D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate duties and activities authorized under sections 2811A, 2811B, and 2811C, and make efforts to reduce unnecessary or duplicative reporting, or unnecessary duplicative meetings and recommendations under such sections, as practicable. Members of the advisory committees authorized under such sections, or their designees, shall annually meet to coordinate any recommendations, as appropriate, that may be similar, duplicative, or overlapping with respect to addressing the needs of children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities during public health emergencies. If such coordination occurs through an in-person meeting, it shall not be considered the required in-person meetings under any of sections 2811A(e), 2811B(e), or 2811C(d).

“(b) COORDINATION AND ALIGNMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the employee designated pursuant to section 2814, shall align preparedness and response programs or activities to address similar, dual, or overlapping needs of children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, and any challenges in preparing for and responding to such needs.

“(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall annually notify the congressional committees of jurisdiction regarding the steps taken to coordinate, as appropriate, the recommendations under this section, and provide a summary description of such coordination.”.

SEC. 306. GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES AND DRILLS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue final guidance regarding the ability of personnel funded by programs authorized under this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) to participate in drills and operational exercises related to all-hazards medical and public health preparedness and response. Such drills and operational exercises may include activities that incorporate medical surge capacity planning, medical countermeasure distribution and administration, and preparing for and responding to identified threats for that region. Such personnel may include State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health department or agency personnel funded under this Act (including the amendments made by this Act). The Sec-

retary shall consult with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other applicable Federal departments and agencies as necessary and appropriate in the development of such guidance. The Secretary shall make the guidance available on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services.

TITLE IV—PRIORITIZING A THREAT-BASED APPROACH

SEC. 401. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

Section 2811(b) (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “utilize experience related to public health emergency preparedness and response, biodefense, medical countermeasures, and other relevant topics to” after “shall”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following:

“(I) THREAT AWARENESS.—Coordinate with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and other relevant Federal officials, such as the Secretary of Agriculture, to maintain a current assessment of national security threats and inform preparedness and response capabilities based on the range of the threats that have the potential to result in a public health emergency.”.

SEC. 402. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ENTERPRISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXVIII is amended by inserting after section 2811 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10) the following:

“SEC. 2811–1. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ENTERPRISE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (referred to in this section as the ‘PHEMCE’). The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall serve as chair of the PHEMCE.

“(b) MEMBERS.—The PHEMCE shall include each of the following members, or the designee of such members:

“(1) The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

“(2) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(3) The Director of the National Institutes of Health.

“(4) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

“(5) The Secretary of Defense.

“(6) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(7) The Secretary of Agriculture.

“(8) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(9) The Director of National Intelligence.

“(10) Representatives of any other Federal agency, which may include the Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Director of the Strategic National Stockpile, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The functions of the PHEMCE shall include the following:

“(A) Utilize a process to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding research, advanced research, development, procurement, stockpiling, deployment, distribution, and utilization with respect to countermeasures, as defined in section 319F–2(c), including prioritization based on the health security needs of the United States. Such recommendations shall be informed by, when available and practicable, the National

Health Security Strategy pursuant to section 2802, the Strategic National Stockpile needs pursuant to section 319F–2, and assessments of current national security threats, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, including emerging infectious diseases. In the event that members of the PHEMCE do not agree upon a recommendation, the Secretary shall provide a determination regarding such recommendation.

“(B) Identify national health security needs, including gaps in public health preparedness and response related to countermeasures and challenges to addressing such needs (including any regulatory challenges), and support alignment of countermeasure procurement with recommendations to address such needs under subparagraph (A).

“(C) Assist the Secretary in developing strategies related to logistics, deployment, distribution, dispensing, and use of countermeasures that may be applicable to the activities of the strategic national stockpile under section 319F–2(a).

“(D) Provide consultation for the development of the strategy and implementation plan under section 2811(d).

“(2) INPUT.—In carrying out subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), the PHEMCE shall solicit and consider input from State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments or officials, as appropriate.”.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ENTERPRISE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Section 2811(d) (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter” and inserting “Not later than March 15, 2020, and biennially thereafter”; and

(B) by striking “Director of the Biomedical” and all that follows through “Food and Drugs” and inserting “Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise established under section 2811–1”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(J)(v), by striking “one-year period” and inserting “2-year period”.

SEC. 403. STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319F–2(a) (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and” after “collaboration with”; and

(B) by inserting “and optimize” after “provide for”; and

(C) by inserting “and, as informed by existing recommendations of, or consultations with, the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise established under section 2811–1, make necessary additions or modifications to the contents of such stockpile or stockpiles based on the review conducted under paragraph (2)” before the period of the first sentence; and

(D) by striking the second sentence;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) THREAT-BASED REVIEW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual threat-based review (taking into account at-risk individuals) of the contents of the stockpile under paragraph (1), including non-pharmaceutical supplies, and, in consultation with the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise established under section 2811–1, review contents within the stockpile and assess whether such contents are consistent with the recommendations made pursuant to section 2811–1(c)(1)(A). Such review shall be submitted on June 15, 2019, and on March 15 of

each year thereafter, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, in a manner that does not compromise national security.

“(B) ADDITIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND REPLENISHMENTS.—Each annual threat-based review under subparagraph (A) shall, for each new or modified countermeasure procurement or replenishment, provide—

“(i) information regarding—

“(I) the quantities of the additional or modified countermeasure procured for, or contracted to be procured for, the stockpile;

“(II) planning considerations for appropriate manufacturing capacity and capability to meet the goals of such additions or modifications (without disclosing proprietary information), including consideration of the effect such additions or modifications may have on the availability of such products and ancillary medical supplies in the health care system;

“(III) the presence or lack of a commercial market for the countermeasure at the time of procurement;

“(IV) the emergency health security threat or threats such countermeasure procurement is intended to address, including whether such procurement is consistent with meeting emergency health security needs associated with such threat or threats;

“(V) an assessment of whether the emergency health security threat or threats described in subclause (IV) could be addressed in a manner that better utilizes the resources of the stockpile and permits the greatest possible increase in the level of emergency preparedness to address such threats;

“(VI) whether such countermeasure is replenishing an expiring or expired countermeasure, is a different countermeasure with the same indication that is replacing an expiring or expired countermeasure, or is a new addition to the stockpile;

“(VII) a description of how such additions or modifications align with projected investments under previous countermeasures budget plans under section 2811(b)(7), including expected life-cycle costs, expenditures related to countermeasure procurement to address the threat or threats described in subclause (IV), replenishment dates (including the ability to extend the maximum shelf life of a countermeasure), and the manufacturing capacity required to replenish such countermeasure; and

“(VIII) appropriate protocols and processes for the deployment, distribution, or dispensing of the countermeasure at the State and local level, including plans for relevant capabilities of State and local entities to dispense, distribute, and administer the countermeasure; and

“(ii) an assurance, which need not be provided in advance of procurement, that for each countermeasure procured or replenished under this subsection, the Secretary completed a review addressing each item listed under this subsection in advance of such procurement or replenishment.”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise established under section 2811-1” before the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and the availability, deployment, dispensing, and administration of countermeasures” before the semicolon;

(C) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:

“(E) devise plans for effective and timely supply-chain management of the stockpile, in consultation with the Director of the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies; State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies; and the public and private health care infrastructure, as applicable, taking into account the manufacturing capacity and other available sources of products and appropriate alternatives to supplies in the stockpile.”;

(D) in subparagraph (G), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(E) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) ensure that each countermeasure or product under consideration for procurement pursuant to this subsection receives the same consideration regardless of whether such countermeasure or product receives or had received funding under section 319L, including with respect to whether the countermeasure or product is most appropriate to meet the emergency health security needs of the United States; and

“(J) provide assistance, including technical assistance, to maintain and improve State and local public health preparedness capabilities to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures and products from the stockpile, as appropriate.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) GAO REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, and every 5 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of any changes to the contents or management of the stockpile since January 1, 2015. Such review shall include—

“(i) an assessment of the comprehensiveness and completeness of each annual threat-based review under paragraph (2), including whether all newly procured or replenished countermeasures within the stockpile were described in each annual review, and whether, consistent with paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary conducted the necessary internal review in advance of such procurement or replenishment;

“(ii) an assessment of whether the Secretary established health security and science-based justifications, and a description of such justifications for procurement decisions related to health security needs with respect to the identified threat, for additions or modifications to the stockpile based on the information provided in such reviews under paragraph (2)(B), including whether such review was conducted prior to procurement, modification, or replenishment;

“(iii) an assessment of the plans developed by the Secretary for the deployment, distribution, and dispensing of countermeasures procured, modified, or replenished under paragraph (1), including whether such plans were developed prior to procurement, modification, or replenishment;

“(iv) an accounting of countermeasures procured, modified, or replenished under paragraph (1) that received advanced research and development funding from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority;

“(v) an analysis of how such procurement decisions made progress toward meeting emergency health security needs related to the identified threats for countermeasures added, modified, or replenished under paragraph (1);

“(vi) a description of the resources expended related to the procurement of countermeasures (including additions, modifica-

tions, and replenishments) in the stockpile, and how such expenditures relate to the ability of the stockpile to meet emergency health security needs;

“(vii) an assessment of the extent to which additions, modifications, and replenishments reviewed under paragraph (2) align with previous relevant reports or reviews by the Secretary or the Comptroller General;

“(viii) with respect to any change in the Federal organizational management of the stockpile, an assessment and comparison of the processes affected by such change, including planning for potential countermeasure deployment, distribution, or dispensing capabilities and processes related to procurement decisions, use of stockpiled countermeasures, and use of resources for such activities; and

“(ix) an assessment of whether the processes and procedures described by the Secretary pursuant to section 403(b) of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 are sufficient to ensure countermeasures and products under consideration for procurement pursuant to subsection (a) receive the same consideration regardless of whether such countermeasures and products receive or had received funding under section 319L, including with respect to whether such countermeasures and products are most appropriate to meet the emergency health security needs of the United States.

“(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 6 months after completing a classified version of the review under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit an unclassified version of the review to the congressional committees of jurisdiction.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL REPORTING.—In the first threat-based review submitted after the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)), as amended by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include a description of the processes and procedures through which the Director of the Strategic National Stockpile and the Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority coordinate with respect to countermeasures and products procured under such section 319F-2(a), including such processes and procedures in place to ensure countermeasures and products under consideration for procurement pursuant to such section 319F-2(a) receive the same consideration regardless of whether such countermeasures or products receive or had received funding under section 319L of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e), and whether such countermeasures and products are the most appropriate to meet the emergency health security needs of the United States.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE.—Section 319F-2(f)(1) (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$533,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$610,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, to remain available until expended”.

SEC. 404. PREPARING FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE, AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT THREATS.

(a) STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.—Section 319L(c)(4) (247d-7e(c)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of BARDA, may implement strategic initiatives, including by building on existing programs and by awarding contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, or entering into other transactions, to support innovative candidate products in preclinical and clinical development that address priority, naturally

occurring and man-made threats that, as determined by the Secretary, pose a significant level of risk to national security based on the characteristics of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threat, or existing capabilities to respond to such a threat (including medical response and treatment capabilities and manufacturing infrastructure). Such initiatives shall accelerate and support the advanced research, development, and procurement of countermeasures and products, as applicable, to address areas including—

“(i) chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats, including emerging infectious diseases, for which insufficient approved, licensed, or authorized countermeasures exist, or for which such threat, or the result of an exposure to such threat, may become resistant to countermeasures or existing countermeasures may be rendered ineffective;

“(ii) threats that consistently exist or continually circulate and have a significant potential to become a pandemic, such as pandemic influenza, which may include the advanced research and development, manufacturing, and appropriate stockpiling of qualified pandemic or epidemic products, and products, technologies, or processes to support the advanced research and development of such countermeasures (including multiuse platform technologies for diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics; virus seeds; clinical trial lots; novel virus strains; and antigen and adjuvant material); and

“(iii) threats that may result primarily or secondarily from a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agent, or emerging infectious diseases, and which may present increased treatment complications such as the occurrence of resistance to available countermeasures or potential countermeasures, including antimicrobial resistant pathogens.”.

(b) **PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY FROM THREATS.**—Section 2811 (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY FROM THREATS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out subsection (b)(3), the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall implement strategic initiatives or activities to address threats, including pandemic influenza and which may include a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agent (including any such agent with a significant potential to become a pandemic), that pose a significant level of risk to public health and national security based on the characteristics of such threat. Such initiatives shall include activities to—

“(A) accelerate and support the advanced research, development, manufacturing capacity, procurement, and stockpiling of countermeasures, including initiatives under section 319L(c)(4)(F);

“(B) support the development and manufacturing of virus seeds, clinical trial lots, and stockpiles of novel virus strains; and

“(C) maintain or improve preparedness activities, including for pandemic influenza.

“(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

“(B) **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**—Amounts appropriated under this paragraph shall be used to supplement and not supplant funds provided under sections 319L(d) and 319F-2(g).

“(C) **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.**—The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, in accordance with subsection (b)(7), shall document amounts expended for pur-

poses of carrying out this subsection, including amounts appropriated under the heading ‘Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund’ under the heading ‘Office of the Secretary’ under title II of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and allocated to carrying out section 319L(c)(4)(F).”.

SEC. 405. REPORTING ON THE FEDERAL SELECT AGENT PROGRAM.

Section 351A(k) (42 U.S.C. 262a(k)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL EXPERTS SECURITY ADVISORY PANEL AND THE FAST TRACK ACTION COMMITTEE ON SELECT AGENT REGULATIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the Secretary shall report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction on the implementation of recommendations of the Federal Experts Security Advisory Panel concerning the select agent program.

“(B) **CONTINUED UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction annually following the submission of the report under subparagraph (A) until the recommendations described in such subparagraph are fully implemented, or a justification is provided for the delay in, or lack of, implementation.”.

TITLE V—INCREASING COMMUNICATION IN MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 501. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE BUDGET PLAN.

Section 2811(b)(7) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10(b)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “March 1” and inserting “March 15”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” and inserting “;”; and

(B) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) procurement, stockpiling, maintenance, and potential replenishment (including manufacturing capabilities) of all products in the Strategic National Stockpile;

“(iv) the availability of technologies that may assist in the advanced research and development of countermeasures and opportunities to use such technologies to accelerate and navigate challenges unique to countermeasure research and development; and

“(v) potential deployment, distribution, and utilization of medical countermeasures; development of clinical guidance and emergency use instructions for the use of medical countermeasures; and, as applicable, potential postdeployment activities related to medical countermeasures;”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) identify the full range of anticipated medical countermeasure needs related to research and development, procurement, and stockpiling, including the potential need for indications, dosing, and administration technologies, and other countermeasure needs as applicable and appropriate;”.

SEC. 502. MATERIAL THREAT AND MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE NOTIFICATIONS.

(a) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF MATERIAL THREAT DETERMINATION.**—Section 319F-2(c)(2)(C) (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(c)(2)(C)) is

amended by striking “The Secretary and the Homeland Security Secretary shall promptly notify the appropriate committees of Congress” and inserting “The Secretary and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall send to Congress, on an annual basis, all current material threat determinations and shall promptly notify the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives”.

(b) **CONTRACTING COMMUNICATION.**—Section 319F-2(c)(7)(B)(ii)(III) (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(c)(7)(B)(ii)(III)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall notify the vendor within 90 days of a determination by the Secretary to renew, extend, or terminate such contract.”.

SEC. 503. AVAILABILITY OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Section 565(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall make available on the internet website of the Food and Drug Administration information regarding regulatory management plans, including—

“(A) the process by which an applicant may submit a request for a regulatory management plan;

“(B) the timeframe by which the Secretary is required to respond to such request;

“(C) the information required for the submission of such request;

“(D) a description of the types of development milestones and performance targets that could be discussed and included in such plans; and

“(E) contact information for beginning the regulatory management plan process.”;

(3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (4)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (5)(A)”; and

(B) by striking “paragraph (4)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (5)(B)”; and

(4) in paragraph (7)(A), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (3)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (4)(A)”.

SEC. 504. THE BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE BIOSHIELD SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.

(a) **BIOSHIELD SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.**—Section 319F-2(g)(1) (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$2,800,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$7,100,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028, to remain available until expended”; and

(2) by striking the second sentence.

(b) **THE BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**—Section 319L(d)(2) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(d)(2)) is amended by striking “\$415,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$611,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”.

SEC. 505. ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE.

(a) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may continue the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, referred to in this section as the “Advisory Council”.

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise and provide information and recommendations to the Secretary regarding programs and policies intended to reduce or combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria that may present a public health threat and improve capabilities to prevent, diagnose, mitigate, or treat such resistance. Such advice, information, and recommendations may be related to improving—

(1) the effectiveness of antibiotics;

(2) research and advanced research on, and the development of, improved and innovative methods for combating or reducing antibiotic resistance, including new treatments, rapid point-of-care diagnostics, alternatives to antibiotics, including alternatives to animal antibiotics, and antimicrobial stewardship activities;

(3) surveillance of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, including publicly available and up-to-date information on resistance to antibiotics;

(4) education for health care providers and the public with respect to up-to-date information on antibiotic resistance and ways to reduce or combat such resistance to antibiotics related to humans and animals;

(5) methods to prevent or reduce the transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, including stewardship programs; and

(6) coordination with respect to international efforts in order to inform and advance United States capabilities to combat antibiotic resistance.

(c) MEETINGS AND COORDINATION.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less than biannually and, to the extent practicable, in coordination with meetings of the Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force established in section 319E(a) of the Public Health Service Act.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Advisory Council shall, to the greatest extent practicable, coordinate activities carried out by the Council with the Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force established under section 319E(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-5(a)).

(d) FACCA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the activities and duties of the Advisory Council.

(e) EXTENSION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a recommendation on whether the Advisory Council should be extended, and in addition, identify whether there are other committees, councils, or task forces that have overlapping or similar duties to that of the Advisory Council, and whether such committees, councils, or task forces should be combined, including with respect to section 319E(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-5(a)).

TITLE VI—ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

SEC. 601. ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTERMEASURES.

Section 319L(c)(4)(D)(iii) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(c)(4)(D)(iii)) is amended by striking “and platform technologies” and inserting “platform technologies, technologies to administer countermeasures, and technologies to improve storage and transportation of countermeasures”.

SEC. 602. UPDATING DEFINITIONS OF OTHER TRANSACTIONS.

Section 319L (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “, such as” and all that follows through “Code”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “under this subsection” and all that follows through “Code” and inserting “(as defined in subsection (a)(3)) under this subsection”; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) by amending subclause (I) to read as follows:

“(I) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, competitive procedures shall be used when entering into transactions to carry out projects under this subsection.”; and

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”;

(II) by striking “senior procurement executive for the Department (as designated for purpose of section 16(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 414(c)))” and inserting “Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources”; and

(III) by striking “senior procurement executive under” and inserting “Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources under”.

SEC. 603. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE MASTER FILES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose of this section (including section 565B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (b)) is to support and advance the development or manufacture of security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, and qualified pandemic or epidemic products by facilitating and encouraging submission of data and information to support the development of such products, and through clarifying the authority to cross-reference to data and information previously submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), including data and information submitted to medical countermeasure master files or other master files.

(b) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE MASTER FILES.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 565A the following:

“SEC. 565B. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE MASTER FILES.

“(a) APPLICABILITY OF REFERENCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A person may submit data and information in a master file to the Secretary with the intent to reference, or to authorize, in writing, another person to reference, such data or information to support a medical countermeasure submission (including a supplement or amendment to any such submission), without requiring the master file holder to disclose the data and information to any such persons authorized to reference the master file. Such data and information shall be available for reference by the master file holder or by a person authorized by the master file holder, in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality protocols and regulations.

“(2) REFERENCE OF CERTAIN MASTER FILES.—In the case that data or information within a medical countermeasure master file is used only to support the conditional approval of an application filed under section 571, such master file may be relied upon to support the effectiveness of a product that is the subject of a subsequent medical countermeasure submission only if such application is supplemented by additional data or information to support review and approval in a manner consistent with the standards applicable to such review and approval for such countermeasure, qualified countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product.

“(b) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE MASTER FILE CONTENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A master file under this section may include data or information to support—

“(A) the development of medical countermeasure submissions to support the approval, licensure, classification, clearance, conditional approval, or authorization of one or more security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, or qualified pandemic or epidemic products; and

“(B) the manufacture of security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, or qualified pandemic or epidemic products.

“(2) REQUIRED UPDATES.—The Secretary may require, as appropriate, that the master file holder ensure that the contents of such master file are updated during the time such master file is referenced for a medical countermeasure submission.

“(c) SPONSOR REFERENCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each incorporation of data or information within a medical countermeasure master file shall describe the incorporated material in a manner in which the Secretary determines appropriate and that permits the review of such information within such master file without necessitating resubmission of such data or information. Master files shall be submitted in an electronic format in accordance with sections 512(b)(4), 571(a)(4), and 745A, as applicable, and as specified in applicable guidance.

“(2) REFERENCE BY A MASTER FILE HOLDER.—A master file holder that is the sponsor of a medical countermeasure submission shall notify the Secretary in writing of the intent to reference the medical countermeasure master file as a part of the submission.

“(3) REFERENCE BY AN AUTHORIZED PERSON.—A person submitting an application for review may, where the Secretary determines appropriate, incorporate by reference all or part of the contents of a medical countermeasure master file, if the master file holder authorizes the incorporation in writing.

“(d) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AND RELIANCE UPON A MASTER FILE BY THE SECRETARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide the master file holder with a written notification indicating that the Secretary has reviewed and relied upon specified data or information within a master file and the purposes for which such data or information was incorporated by reference if the Secretary has reviewed and relied upon such specified data or information to support the approval, classification, conditional approval, clearance, licensure, or authorization of a security countermeasure, qualified countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product. The Secretary may rely upon the data and information within the medical countermeasure master file for which such written notification was provided in additional applications, as applicable and appropriate and upon the request of the master file holder so notified in writing or by an authorized person of such holder.

“(2) CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—If the Secretary has reviewed and relied upon specified data or information within a medical countermeasure master file to support the conditional approval of an application under section 571 to subsequently support the approval, clearance, licensure, or authorization of a security countermeasure, qualified countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product, the Secretary shall provide a brief written description to the master file holder regarding the elements of the application fulfilled by the data or information within the master file and how such data or information contained in such application meets the standards of evidence under subsection (c) or (d) of section 505, subsection (d) of section 512, or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (as applicable), which shall not include any trade secret or confidential commercial information.

“(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) limit the authority of the Secretary to approve, license, clear, conditionally approve, or authorize drugs, biological products, or devices pursuant to, as applicable, this Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (as such applicable Act is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019), including the standards of evidence, and applicable conditions, for approval under the applicable Act;

“(2) alter the standards of evidence with respect to approval, licensure, or clearance, as applicable, of drugs, biological products, or devices under this Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act, including, as applicable, the substantial evidence standards under sections 505(d) and 512(d) or this Act and section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(3) alter the authority of the Secretary under this Act or the Public Health Service Act to determine the types of data or information previously submitted by a sponsor or any other person that may be incorporated by reference in an application, request, or notification for a drug, biological product, or device submitted under sections 505(i), 505(b), 505(j), 512(b)(1), 512(b)(2), 512(j), 564, 571, 520(g), 515(c), 513(f)(2), or 510(k) of this Act, or subsection (a) or (k) of section 351 of the Public Health Service Act, including a supplement or amendment to any such submission, and the requirements associated with such reference.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘master file holder’ means a person who submits data and information to the Secretary with the intent to reference or authorize another person to reference such data or information to support a medical countermeasure submission, as described in subsection (a).

“(2) The term ‘medical countermeasure submission’ means an investigational new drug application under section 505(i), a new drug application under section 505(b), or an abbreviated new drug application under section 505(j) of this Act, a biological product license application under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act or a biosimilar biological product license application under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act, a new animal drug application under section 512(b)(1) or abbreviated new animal drug application under section 512(b)(2), an application for conditional approval of a new animal drug under section 571, an investigational device application under section 520(g), an application with respect to a device under section 515(c), a request for classification of a device under section 513(f)(2), a notification with respect to a device under section 510(k), or a request for an emergency use authorization under section 564 to support—

“(A) the approval, licensure, classification, clearance, conditional approval, or authorization of a security countermeasure, qualified countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product; or

“(B) a new indication to an approved security countermeasure, qualified countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product.

“(3) The terms ‘qualified countermeasure’, ‘security countermeasure’, and ‘qualified pandemic or epidemic product’ have the meanings given such terms in sections 319F-1, 319F-2, and 319F-3, respectively, of the Public Health Service Act.”

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and in consulta-

tion with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, shall solicit input from stakeholders, including stakeholders developing security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, or qualified pandemic or epidemic products, and stakeholders developing technologies to assist in the development of such countermeasures with respect to how the Food and Drug Administration can advance the use of tools and technologies to support and advance the development or manufacture of security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, and qualified pandemic or epidemic products, including through reliance on cross-referenced data and information contained within master files and submissions previously submitted to the Secretary as set forth in section 565B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (b).

(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall publish draft guidance about how reliance on cross-referenced data and information contained within master files under section 565B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (b) or submissions otherwise submitted to the Secretary may be used for specific tools or technologies (including platform technologies) that have the potential to support and advance the development or manufacture of security countermeasures, qualified countermeasures, and qualified pandemic or epidemic products. The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall publish the final guidance not later than 3 years after the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 604. ANIMAL RULE REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the application of the requirements under subsections (c) and (d) of section 565 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4) (referred to in this section as the “animal rule”) as a component of medical countermeasure advanced development under the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and regulatory review by the Food and Drug Administration. In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(1) The extent to which advanced development and review of a medical countermeasure are coordinated between the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the Food and Drug Administration, including activities that facilitate appropriate and efficient design of studies to support approval, licensure, and authorization under the animal rule, consistent with the recommendations in the animal rule guidance, issued pursuant to section 565(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4(c)) and entitled “Product Development Under the Animal Rule: Guidance for Industry” (issued in October 2015), to resolve discrepancies in the design of adequate and well-controlled efficacy studies conducted in animal models related to the provision of substantial evidence of effectiveness for the product approved, licensed, or authorized under the animal rule.

(2) The consistency of the application of the animal rule among and between review divisions within the Food and Drug Administration.

(3) The flexibility pursuant to the animal rule to address variations in countermeasure development and review processes, including the extent to which qualified animal models are adopted and used within the Food and Drug Administration in regulatory decision-making with respect to medical countermeasures.

(4) The extent to which the guidance issued under section 565(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4(c)), entitled, “Product Development Under the Animal Rule: Guidance for Industry” (issued in October 2015), has assisted in achieving the purposes described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) CONSULTATIONS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with—

(1) the Federal agencies responsible for advancing, reviewing, and procuring medical countermeasures, including the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Defense;

(2) manufacturers involved in the research and development of medical countermeasures to address biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear threats; and

(3) other biodefense stakeholders, as applicable.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a) and recommendations to improve the application and consistency of the requirements under subsections (c) and (d) of section 565 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4) to support and expedite the research and development of medical countermeasures, as applicable.

(d) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct the study and issue the assessment and report under this section in a manner that does not compromise national security.

SEC. 605. REVIEW OF THE BENEFITS OF GENOMIC ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR POTENTIAL ROLE IN NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) MEETING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall convene a meeting to discuss the potential role advancements in genomic engineering technologies (including genome editing technologies) may have in advancing national health security. Such meeting shall be held in a manner that does not compromise national security.

(2) ATTENDEES.—The attendees of the meeting under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall include—

(i) representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration; and

(ii) representatives from academic, private, and nonprofit entities with expertise in genome engineering technologies, biopharmaceuticals, medicine, or biodefense, and other relevant stakeholders; and

(B) may include—

(i) other representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(ii) representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and other departments, as the Secretary may request for the meeting.

(3) TOPICS.—The meeting under paragraph (1) shall include a discussion of—

(A) the current state of the science of genomic engineering technologies related to national health security, including—

(i) medical countermeasure development, including potential efficiencies in the development pathway and detection technologies; and

(ii) the international and domestic regulation of products utilizing genome editing technologies; and

(B) national security implications, including—

(i) capabilities of the United States to leverage genomic engineering technologies as a part of the medical countermeasure enterprise, including current applicable research, development, and application efforts underway within the Department of Defense;

(ii) the potential for state and non-state actors to utilize genomic engineering technologies as a national health security threat; and

(iii) security measures to monitor and assess the potential threat that may result from utilization of genomic engineering technologies and related technologies for the purpose of compromising national health security.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the meeting described in subsection (a) is held, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall issue a report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction on the topics discussed at such meeting, and provide recommendations, as applicable, to utilize innovations in genomic engineering (including genome editing) and related technologies as a part of preparedness and response activities to advance national health security. Such report shall be issued in a manner that does not compromise national security.

SEC. 606. REPORT ON VACCINES DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing efforts and activities to coordinate with other countries and international partners during recent public health emergencies with respect to the research and advanced research on, and development of, qualified pandemic or epidemic products (as defined in section 319F-3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6d)). Such report may include information regarding relevant work carried out under section 319L(c)(5)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(c)(5)(E)), through public-private partnerships, and through collaborations with other countries to assist with or expedite the research and development of qualified pandemic or epidemic products. Such report shall not include information that may compromise national security.

SEC. 607. STRENGTHENING MOSQUITO ABATEMENT FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH.

(a) **REAUTHORIZATION OF MOSQUITO ABATEMENT FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM.**—Section 317S (42 U.S.C. 247b-21) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(B)—

(A) by inserting “including programs to address emerging infectious mosquito-borne diseases,” after “subdivisions for control programs,”; and

(B) by inserting “or improving existing control programs” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including improvement,” after “operation”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “, including an emerging infectious mosquito-borne disease that presents a serious public health threat; or”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a public health emergency due to the incidence or prevalence of a mosquito-borne disease that presents a serious public health threat;”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D)(i) is located in a State that has received a grant under subsection (a); or

“(ii) that demonstrates to the Secretary that the control program is consistent with existing State mosquito control plans or policies, or other applicable State preparedness plans.”;

(C) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “that extraordinary” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “that—

“(i) extraordinary economic conditions in the political subdivision or consortium of political subdivisions involved justify the waiver; or

“(ii) the geographical area covered by a political subdivision or consortium for a grant under paragraph (1) has an extreme mosquito control need due to—

“(I) the size or density of the potentially impacted human population;

“(II) the size or density of a mosquito population that requires heightened control; or

“(III) the severity of the mosquito-borne disease, such that expected serious adverse health outcomes for the human population justify the waiver.”;

(D) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) **NUMBER OF GRANTS.**—A political subdivision or a consortium of political subdivisions may not receive more than one grant under paragraph (1).”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “for fiscal year 2003, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002” and inserting “this Act and other medical and public health preparedness and response laws”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “2004” and inserting “2019”; and

(ii) by striking “2004,” and inserting “2019.”;

(b) **EPIDEMIOLOGY-LABORATORY CAPACITY GRANTS.**—Section 2821 (42 U.S.C. 300hh-31) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “, including mosquito and other vector-borne diseases,” after “infectious diseases”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2010 through 2013” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. REAUTHORIZATIONS AND EXTENSIONS.

(a) **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—Section 8117(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2014 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

(b) **VACCINE TRACKING AND DISTRIBUTION.**—Section 319A(e) (42 U.S.C. 247d-1(e)) is amended by striking “2014 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

(c) **TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT.**—Section 319(e)(8) (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

(d) **STRATEGIC INNOVATION PARTNER.**—Section 319L(c)(4)(E)(ix) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(c)(4)(E)(ix)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2023”.

(e) **LIMITED ANTITRUST EXEMPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 405 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (Public Law 109-417; 42 U.S.C. 247d-6a note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

(i) by striking “Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Secretary’)” and inserting “Secretary”;

(ii) by striking “of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b)) (as amended by this Act”;

(iii) by striking “of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6a)) (as amended by this Act”;

(iv) by striking “of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6d)”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “12-year” and inserting “17-year”;

(C) by redesignating such section 405 as section 319L-1; and

(D) by transferring such section 319L-1, as redesignated, to the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), to appear after section 319L of such Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e).

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (Public Law 109-417) is amended by striking the item related to section 405.

(B) **REFERENCE.**—Section 319L(c)(4)(A)(iii) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e) is amended by striking “section 405 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act” and inserting “section 319L-1”.

(f) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.**—Subsection (e)(1) of section 319L (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) **NONDISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Information described in clause (ii) shall be deemed to be information described in section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

“(ii) **INFORMATION DESCRIBED.**—The information described in this clause is information relevant to programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that could compromise national security and reveal significant and not otherwise publicly known vulnerabilities of existing medical or public health defenses against chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats, and is comprised of—

“(I) specific technical data or scientific information that is created or obtained during the countermeasure and product advanced research and development carried out under subsection (c);

“(II) information pertaining to the location security, personnel, and research materials and methods of high-containment laboratories conducting research with select agents, toxins, or other agents with a material threat determination under section 319F-2(c)(2); or

“(III) security and vulnerability assessments.”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) **REPORTING.**—One year after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the number of instances in which the Secretary has used the authority under this subsection to withhold information from disclosure, as well as the nature of any request under section 552 of title 5, United

States Code that was denied using such authority.”; and

(4) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking “12” and inserting “17”.

SEC. 702. LOCATION OF MATERIALS IN THE STOCKPILE.

Subsection (d) of section 319F-2 (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) DISCLOSURES.—No Federal agency may disclose under section 552 of title 5, United States Code any information identifying the location at which materials in the stockpile described in subsection (a) are stored, or other information regarding the contents or deployment capability of the stockpile that could compromise national security.”.

SEC. 703. CYBERSECURITY.

(a) STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CYBERSECURITY THREATS.—

(1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall prepare and submit to the relevant committees of Congress a strategy for public health preparedness and response to address cybersecurity threats (as defined in section 102 of Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)) that present a threat to national health security. Such strategy shall include—

(A) identifying the duties, functions, and preparedness goals for which the Secretary is responsible in order to prepare for and respond to such cybersecurity threats, including metrics by which to measure success in meeting preparedness goals;

(B) identifying gaps in public health capabilities to achieve such preparedness goals; and

(C) strategies to address identified gaps and strengthen public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities to address such cybersecurity threats.

(2) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall make such strategy available to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and other congressional committees of jurisdiction, in a manner that does not compromise national security.

(b) COORDINATION OF PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.—Subparagraph (D) of section 2811(b)(4) (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10(b)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) POLICY COORDINATION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION.—Provide integrated policy coordination and strategic direction, before, during, and following public health emergencies, with respect to all matters related to Federal public health and medical preparedness and execution and deployment of the Federal response for public health emergencies and incidents covered by the National Response Plan described in section 504(a)(6) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 314(a)(6)), or any successor plan; and such Federal responses covered by the National Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan developed under section 228(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 149(c)), including public health emergencies or incidents related to cybersecurity threats that present a threat to national health security.”.

SEC. 704. STRATEGY AND REPORT.

Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Assistant Secretary for the Administration on Children and Families or other appropriate office, and

in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and other relevant congressional committees—

(1) a formal strategy, including interdepartmental actions and efforts to reunify children with their parents or guardians, in all cases in which such children have been separated from their parents or guardians as a result of the initiative announced on April 6, 2018, and due to prosecution under section 275(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325(a)), if the parent or guardian chooses such reunification and the child—

(A) was separated from a parent or guardian and placed into a facility funded by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(B) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, remains in the care of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(C) can be safely reunited with such parent or guardian; and

(2) a report on challenges and deficiencies related to the oversight of, and care for, unaccompanied alien children and appropriately reuniting such children with their parents or guardians, and the actions taken to address any challenges and deficiencies related to unaccompanied alien children in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services, including deficiencies identified and publicly reported by Congress, the Government Accountability Office, or the inspectors general of the Department of Health and Human Services or other Federal departments.

SEC. 705. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—Title III (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 319F-1(a) (42 U.S.C. 247d-6a(a)), by striking “section 319F(h)” each place such term appears and inserting “section 319F(e)”; and

(2) in section 319K(a) (42 U.S.C. 247d-7d(a)), by striking “section 319F(h)(4)” and inserting “section 319F(e)(4)”.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY GRANTS.—Section 319C-1(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “individuals,” and inserting “individuals.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “make satisfactory annual improvement and describe” and inserting “makes satisfactory annual improvement and describes”.

(c) EMERGENCY USE INSTRUCTIONS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 564A(e)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-3a(e)(2)) is amended by striking “subsection (a)(1)(C)(i)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(C)”.

(d) PRODUCTS HELD FOR EMERGENCY USE.—Section 564B(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-3b) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting a comma after “505”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or section 564A” before the period at the end.

(e) TRANSPARENCY.—Section 507(c)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 357(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Nothing in” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in”;

(2) by inserting “or directing” after “authorizing”;

(3) by striking “disclose any” and inserting “disclose—

“(i) any”;

(4) by striking the period and inserting “; or”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) in the case of a drug development tool that may be used to support the development of a qualified countermeasure, security countermeasure, or qualified pandemic or epidemic product, as defined in sections 319F-1, 319F-2, and 319F-3, respectively, of the Public Health Service Act, any information that the Secretary determines has a significant potential to affect national security.”.

“(B) PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—In the case that the Secretary, pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), does not make information publicly available, the Secretary shall provide on the internet website of the Food and Drug Administration an acknowledgment of the information that has not been disclosed, pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii).”.

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

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

DEBBIE SMITH ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 80, S. 820.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 820) to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 820

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 “Debbie Smith Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DNA BACKLOG GRANT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “including” and inserting “prioritizing, to the extent practicable consistent with public safety considerations”; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking “including” and inserting “in particular.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) provide assurances that the DNA section of the laboratory to be used to conduct DNA analyses has a written policy that prioritizes the analysis of, to the extent practicable consistent with public safety considerations, samples from homicides and sexual assaults.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2014 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2014 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking “Not later” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019—

“(A) the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall—

“(i) define DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program-wide goals in clear, specific, and measurable terms;

“(ii) consistently document the goals defined under clause (i); and

“(iii) use performance measures for each goal defined under clause (i) that fully reflect the appropriate attributes of successful performance measures according to recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled, ‘DNA Evidence: DOJ Should Improve Performance Measurement and Properly Design controls for Nationwide Grant Program’ (GAO-19-216); and

“(B) the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs shall fully establish all appropriate controls relating to conflicts of interest and to lobbying as reported by the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled, ‘DNA Evidence: DOJ Should Improve Performance Measurement and Properly Design controls for Nationwide Grant Program’ (GAO-19-216).

“(2)(3) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the 2018 report on the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program, or 180 days after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019, whichever date is later, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

“(A) describes any action taken by the Department of Justice since the release of the 2018 report on the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program to improve the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program based on the recommendations of the Comptroller General; and

“(B) includes recommendations for reforms that could enhance the effectiveness of the program in reducing the backlog of unanalyzed DNA evidence in sexual assault cases.

“(3) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and once every 3 fiscal years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program describing, by year—

“(A) the total number of new DNA requests;

“(B) the total number of cases, items, and offender and arrestee samples analyzed;

“(C) the total number of DNA profiles uploaded to the national DNA index;

“(D) the total number of matches and investigations aided by matches made by the national DNA index;

“(E) changes in total laboratory capacity to conduct DNA analyses as described in subsection (a)(3);

“(F) the number of open DNA cases at the end of each year and open DNA cases older than 30 days at the end of the year;

“(G) the number of sexual assault cases submitted to the laboratory during the year and the number of untested sexual assault

cases older than 30 days at the end of the year;

“(H) whether the National Institute of Justice has defined DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program-wide goals in clear, specific, and measurable terms; and

“(I) whether the Office of Justice Programs has fully established all appropriate controls related to lobbying.”; and

“(4) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019, and once every 3 fiscal years thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on the DNA analysis workloads at laboratories that participate in the Combined DNA Index System using data available from the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program or other sources that—

“(A) describes, by year—

“(i) the total number of new crime scene DNA analysis requests submitted to laboratories;

“(ii) the total number of crime scene DNA analysis requests analyzed including, to the extent practicable and reported separately—

“(I) the number analyzed at laboratories participating in Combined DNA Index System; and

“(II) the number of requests outsourced and analyzed at private laboratories;

“(iii) the total number of DNA profiles from crime scene evidence uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System;

“(iv) the total number of Combined DNA Index System hits and investigations aided resulting from DNA profiles recovered from crime scene evidence;

“(v) the number of outstanding crime scene DNA analysis requests at the end of each year and the number of such outstanding requests that are older than 30 days at the end of the year; and

“(vi) to the extent practicable, the number of requests associated with sexual assault cases submitted to laboratories during the year and the number of such requests that are older than 30 days at the end of the year; and

“(B) includes a determination as to—

“(i) whether the National Institute of Justice has defined DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program-wide goals as required under paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) whether the Office of Justice Programs has fully established all appropriate controls relating to conflicts of interest and to lobbying as required under paragraph (2)(B).”; and

(5) in subsection (j), by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 40722(b)) is amended by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(d) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 40723(d)) is amended by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 820), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 820

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 “Debbie Smith Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DNA BACKLOG GRANT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “including” and inserting “prioritizing, to the extent practicable consistent with public safety considerations”; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking “including” and inserting “in particular.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) provide assurances that the DNA section of the laboratory to be used to conduct DNA analyses has a written policy that prioritizes the analysis of, to the extent practicable consistent with public safety considerations, samples from homicides and sexual assaults.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2014 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2014 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking “Not later” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019—

“(A) the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall—

“(i) define DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program-wide goals in clear, specific, and measurable terms;

“(ii) consistently document the goals defined under clause (i); and

“(iii) use performance measures for each goal defined under clause (i) that fully reflect the appropriate attributes of successful performance measures according to recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled, ‘DNA Evidence: DOJ Should Improve Performance Measurement and Properly Design controls for Nationwide Grant Program’ (GAO-19-216); and

“(B) the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs shall fully establish all appropriate controls relating to conflicts of interest and to lobbying as reported by the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled, ‘DNA Evidence: DOJ Should Improve Performance Measurement and Properly Design controls for Nationwide Grant Program’ (GAO-19-216).

“(3) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the 2018 report on the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program, or 180 days after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019, whichever date is later, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the

Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

“(A) describes any action taken by the Department of Justice since the release of the 2018 report on the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program to improve the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program based on the recommendations of the Comptroller General; and

“(B) includes recommendations for reforms that could enhance the effectiveness of the program in reducing the backlog of unanalyzed DNA evidence in sexual assault cases.”.

“(4) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Debbie Smith Act of 2019, and once every 3 fiscal years thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on the DNA analysis workloads at laboratories that participate in the Combined DNA Index System using data available from the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant Program or other sources that—

“(A) describes, by year—

“(i) the total number of new crime scene DNA analysis requests submitted to laboratories;

“(ii) the total number of crime scene DNA analysis requests analyzed including, to the extent practicable and reported separately—

“(I) the number analyzed at laboratories participating in Combined DNA Index System; and

“(II) the number of requests outsourced and analyzed at private laboratories;

“(iii) the total number of DNA profiles from crime scene evidence uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System;

“(iv) the total number of Combined DNA Index System hits and investigations aided resulting from DNA profiles recovered from crime scene evidence;

“(v) the number of outstanding crime scene DNA analysis requests at the end of each year and the number of such outstanding requests that are older than 30 days at the end of the year; and

“(vi) to the extent practicable, the number of requests associated with sexual assault cases submitted to laboratories during the year and the number of such requests that are older than 30 days at the end of the year; and

“(B) includes a determination as to—

“(i) whether the National Institute of Justice has defined DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program-wide goals as required under paragraph (2)(A); and

“(ii) whether the Office of Justice Programs has fully established all appropriate controls relating to conflicts of interest and to lobbying as required under paragraph (2)(B).”; and

(5) in subsection (j), by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 40722(b)) is amended by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(d) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (34 U.S.C. 40723(d)) is amended by striking “2015 through 2019” and inserting “2019 through 2024”.

SUPPORTING AND TREATING OFFICERS IN CRISIS ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate pro-

ceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 81, S. 998.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 998) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in *italics*.)

S. 998

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 “Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR POLICE OFFICER FAMILY SERVICES, STRESS REDUCTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Part W of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10491 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by striking “FAMILY SUPPORT” and inserting “SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FAMILIES”;

(2) in section 2301 (34 U.S.C. 10491)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, including any research and reports developed under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–113; 131 Stat. 2276)” after “interested parties”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, psychological services, suicide prevention,” after “stress reduction”;

(3) in section 2302 (34 U.S.C. 10492), by inserting “and mental health services” after “family support services”; and

(4) in section 2303 (34 U.S.C. 10493)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “officers and” after “law enforcement”; and

(ii) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) Evidence-based programs to reduce stress, prevent suicide, and promote mental health.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, mental health crisis, and suicide prevention” after “family crisis”;

(ii) in paragraph (6), by striking “the human immunodeficiency virus” and inserting “infectious disease”;

(iii) in paragraph (8), by inserting “, injured, or permanently disabled” after “killed”; and

(iv) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

“(10) Specialized training for identifying, reporting, and responding to officer mental health crises and suicide.

“(11) Technical assistance and training to support any or all of the services described in paragraphs (1) through (10).”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZING GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FAMILIES.

Section 1001(a)(21) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(21)) is amended to read as follows:

“(21) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part W, \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported

amendment be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 998), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 998

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 “Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR POLICE OFFICER FAMILY SERVICES, STRESS REDUCTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Part W of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10491 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by striking “FAMILY SUPPORT” and inserting “SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FAMILIES”;

(2) in section 2301 (34 U.S.C. 10491)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, including any research and reports developed under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–113; 131 Stat. 2276)” after “interested parties”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, psychological services, suicide prevention,” after “stress reduction”;

(3) in section 2302 (34 U.S.C. 10492), by inserting “and mental health services” after “family support services”; and

(4) in section 2303 (34 U.S.C. 10493)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “officers and” after “law enforcement”; and

(ii) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) Evidence-based programs to reduce stress, prevent suicide, and promote mental health.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, mental health crisis, and suicide prevention” after “family crisis”;

(ii) in paragraph (6), by striking “the human immunodeficiency virus” and inserting “infectious disease”;

(iii) in paragraph (8), by inserting “, injured, or permanently disabled” after “killed”; and

(iv) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

“(10) Specialized training for identifying, reporting, and responding to officer mental health crises and suicide.

“(11) Technical assistance and training to support any or all of the services described in paragraphs (1) through (10).”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZING GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FAMILIES.

Section 1001(a)(21) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(21)) is amended to read as follows:

“(21) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out part W, \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 20,
2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, May 20; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed in today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 20.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MAY 20, 2019, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under its previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:04 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 20, 2019, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 16, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

WENDY VITTER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

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 271(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRENDAN C. MCPHERSON
CAPT. DOUGLAS M. SCHOFIELD
CAPT. ANDREW M. SUGIMOTO
CAPT. RICHARD V. TIMME
CAPT. TODD C. WIEMERS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MATTHEW H. TUELLER, OF UTAH, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

JANE L. CORWIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

ROBERT C. SISSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

LANCE V. YOHE, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIAN J. BULATAO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT).

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JEFFREY A. ROSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.