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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of all nations, strengthen us that we may meet the challenges of these times. Enable us to live so that we will bring honor to Your Name. Be merciful to our Nation, for You are our hope.

Today, empower our lawmakers with the music of Your wisdom that they may bring hope out of despair and joy out of sadness. Lord, teach them to celebrate even in the darkness, because You are the God of our salvation. We celebrate Your mighty acts and take solace from Your providential guidance.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Democratic leader is recognized.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I come to the floor today not to talk about a political issue, in the real sense of the word—not Democrat versus Republican—but a very difficult sensitive issue. It is hard to talk about, but we as a nation can't keep ignoring this important topic.

It has been more than 20 years since I learned about something called fe-

male genital mutilation, known as FGM. Since then, I have spoken often against this awful procedure and the devastating effect it has on women and girls around the world.

A number of people warned me 20 years ago that this isn't a subject I should talk about. It was taboo. They thought it would be untoward for me to do so. But I told them I had to because no one else was talking about it. So I am going to continue doing everything I can to bring attention to this issue and fight to end this horrible, awful, brutal practice perpetrated against women and girls.

It was a 1994 cable news program that introduced me to this practice. One of my friends in Las Vegas said: You can't imagine this. This was a young woman who sent this to me. I didn't expect getting this from her or anyone else. But we were friends, and so I watched this. She said: You have to. And I did: A 10-year-old little girl in a party dress held down by two men, her legs spread apart, and she was brutally mutilated as her genitals were cut away. These images have continually haunted me over the years. I will never ever forget the picture that I saw.

There are different forms of female genital mutilation around the world. The most severe and atrocious is the one in which the girl's genitals are cut away. But then the little girls are literally sewn shut, leaving only a small opening for urine and menstrual blood.

Though FGM is performed for different reasons around the world. One thing is very clear: Whatever rationality you try to give to this practice, it is a form of control and oppression of women and girls.

In addition to the psychological impact, this form of gender-based violence has serious medical risks, including death, of course. It is recognized by the United Nations as a human rights violation, as it should be.

But FGM is still happening. As we speak, 200 million women and girls

worldwide have undergone FGM—200 million women and girls who are alive today who have undergone that procedure that I watched on cable news, or something like it. More than two decades after I first saw that program, women and girls are still being hacked, mutilated. It is not done in a hospital, an operating room. It is done in very unsanitary conditions most of the time.

This practice remains prevalent in at least 30 countries. In some places, the rates of FGM are higher than 90 percent—90 percent. In many of these countries, girls are cut before the age of 5. In most places they are cut between the ages of 5 and 14. In many of these countries, girls—well, enough. Imagine that—girls who haven't even started school yet, of kindergarten age or younger, being subjected to this horror.

Because of these millions of girls, I have spent more than 20 years trying to do something about it. I have worked hard to pass legislation outlawing the practice in the United States and banning so-called vacation cutting, which goes on when young girls are shipped overseas. Because it is illegal here, due to the laws we passed, they take them overseas to be cut.

There was some bipartisan support, obviously, for this. It is not a partisan issue. We were able to have a few victories—certainly not enough, but some. Still, this brutal practice continues around the world, and it is clear there must be much more done—much more done.

That is why, at my request, the General Accountability Office began a study on the American Government's efforts to stop this practice. The GAO has now completed its report about our government's international efforts. It wasn't much of a report. It was kind of short. The report is shameful in terms of what we have not done.

The title of the report says it all: "Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:

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



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S3003

U.S. Assistance to Combat This Harmful Practice Abroad is Limited.” And “limited” is an understatement.

I am publicly releasing this report today, which outlines the U.S. Government’s limited—limited—efforts. I am terribly disappointed. I am embarrassed that the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development are not fully engaged in dedicating resources to put an end to this.

According to the GAO report, USAID and the State Department each had just one active stand-alone project focused on stopping female genital mutilation. One of these projects is gone—already ended. Less than \$2 million has been spent on these projects combined.

The GAO also found that the United States has never contributed—never contributed—a penny to the world’s largest international effort against this horrible, awful practice. It is called the Joint Programme on FGM/C. It is embarrassing. We have not put one penny into this.

During the course of the GAO investigation, State and USAID both began to take action. They were embarrassed, I assume. If they weren’t, they should have been. But they haven’t done much. USAID, for example, decided to update the guidance it released 16 years ago, and Secretary Kerry recently announced that the United States will be contributing to the Joint Programme for the first time. Bravo.

I commend this commitment, but I understand these funds are not a dedicated funding source. They are just a one-time, very limited pledge. Maybe we will have to get another GAO report before we get something into that program. It shouldn’t take a GAO investigation for State and USAID to act. The United States should prioritize ending this practice, but it hasn’t.

This is shameful. It is a tragedy that our great government is not doing more. It is inexcusable that the United States, a nation with wealth and power, is standing by while such sickening violence against women and girls is occurring. As we speak, 200 million have undergone this in the world—200 million.

The State Department and USAID should end it or do everything they can to make female genital mutilation a priority and dedicate substantial resources to this issue. It is a cause. It should be, if it isn’t. The United States can and must do far more to eliminate this practice worldwide. We still have problems here in the United States.

This shameful GAO report, I hope, is a wake-up call. Something had to wake us up because we have done almost nothing as a country. The report should be a turning point in the fight against FGM, a moment when the most powerful nation in the world commences the stopping of this brutal form of abuse.

The United States should be a leader in this fight and not a bystander. We must put this brutal practice to an

end. America must lead the world in stopping these assaults of little girls and big girls and women. I hope the Senate will join me in these efforts.

Mr. President, I don’t see anyone on the floor. I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2577, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Collins amendment No. 3896, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Lee) amendment No. 3897 (to amendment No. 3896), to prohibit the use of funds to carry out a rule and notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

McConnell (for Nelson/Rubio) amendment No. 3898 (to amendment No. 3896), making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to respond to Zika virus.

McConnell (for Cornyn) modified amendment No. 3899 (to amendment No. 3896), making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

McConnell (for Blunt) modified amendment No. 3900 (to amendment No. 3896), Zika response and preparedness.

Collins (for Blunt) amendment No. 3946 (to amendment No. 3900), to require the periodic submission of spending plan updates to the Committee on Appropriations.

McCain/Blumenthal amendment No. 4039 (to amendment No. 3896), to extend and expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish consistent criteria and standards relating to the use of amounts under the Medical Community Care account of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11:15 a.m. will be equally divided between the managers or their designees.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. BOOKER. 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. BOOKER. Mr. President, I appreciate seeing the Presiding Officer in the chair and having a “Corey” represented and presiding over the U.S. Senate.

I rise today to speak against an amendment now pending to this bill

that would block a rule that seeks to fulfill the promise of the Fair Housing Act. This issue is very deeply personal to me and one that really has defined my own personal history. I would like to start by telling a story.

In 1969, just 1 year after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, a couple here in Washington, DC, married with two boys, decided to move to New Jersey. In New Jersey, they encountered a lot of a practice called real estate steering, where Black couples were steered away from certain neighborhoods.

Realizing they were being steered away from White neighborhoods, they grew frustrated, and they sought the help of the fair housing council. They set up an elaborate sting operation where my parents would go look at a home—or this couple would go look at a home—and they would then be followed by a White couple. The couple was told the house was sold or it was not for sale. The White couple would then appear and find out if that was, indeed, true. Most often for this couple from Washington, DC, yes, they would find out the house was still for sale.

Eventually this couple found a house they loved in a small town called Harrington Park, NJ, but they were told that the house was not for sale. They were told the house had been pulled off the market or sold. They left. Then the White couple came behind them. Lo and behold, the house had not been sold or was not pulled off the market. The White couple pretended that they loved the house as the Black couple did and put a bid on the house. The bid was accepted.

On the day of the closing, instead of the White couple showing up, the African-American gentleman from the Black couple and a volunteer lawyer came to confront the real estate agent. The real estate agent was so upset that he stood up and punched the lawyer representing the Black couple and siced his dog on the African-American man. Yet the law was on their side. The fair housing law of the United States of America, the law of the Federal Government, was on their side.

Eventually, that Black couple and their two kids moved into that home in Harrington Park, NJ. That was 1969. It was the year I was born, and that couple was my parents, Cary and Carolyn Booker. That is my origin story. Legislation that this body passed empowered my family to move into the home of their dreams in an all-White neighborhood with incredibly good schools that I went through from K-12. I am the beneficiary of work this body did to ensure that our American values are preserved, our values of inclusion and integration, to make sure fair housing is the law of the land. That work gave me my start in life. The activism of local activists, combined with the law of the land as passed by us, defined my path.

After decades of struggle in communities across the country, we have largely been successful in banning overt housing discrimination. We

should be proud of our work. But legislation that we passed should not become a relic of history. It is not something for us to turn and admire. We all know on many issues the cause of freedom and the cause of justice necessitate constant vigilance.

So I rise today with the knowledge that while major pieces of civil rights legislation like the Fair Housing Act have had a significant impact on millions of Americans—White, Black, Latino, Asian, disabled—this has had a full impact. We still have work to do to continue that vigilance to make sure that those values, those ideals, and the law of the land are made real for families.

Unfortunately, for nearly 50 years there has not been real guidance, direction, or tools to help local officials achieve the goals of the Fair Housing Act, which are integrated housing, fair housing, equal access. In 2010, in fact, the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, failed to properly administer oversight obligations under the Fair Housing Act and failed to monitor its guarantees for compliance with the law.

In 2013, HUD proposed affirmatively furthering fair housing, a new rule that would seek to fulfill the promise of the Fair Housing Act and eliminate a lot of the historic patterns of segregation that still go on in America today. The vision for the rule is to institute a data-driven analysis of localities and to develop Federal grant programs for housing and economic inclusion.

When I was mayor, people came to me with passions and accusations and the like. I used to always say: In God we trust, but, everybody else, bring me data. It is important to look at the numbers to know what really is going on.

So HUD brought about this idea of making sure we have that data—not in a rushed process. The administration engaged in a diligent 2-year rule-making process with public inclusion, participation from others, and lots of public comment periods. They finalized that rule in July 2015.

It is unfortunate that one of my dear colleagues—somebody whom I value very much because we do a lot of work across the aisle—has introduced an amendment that would block this rule's implementation, and I must respectfully disagree with the intent of this amendment. The Fair Housing Act and, really, the entirety of the Civil Rights Act were meant, again, to be real today, not just relics of yesterday. They were meant to be guideposts and standards by which we hold ourselves accountable for the values we put forth.

The affirmatively further fair housing rule is a measure of accountability for HUD and for ourselves. You cannot change what you cannot measure. Let me say that again. I learned this as a manager: If you can't measure it, you can't change it or affect it.

The rule will arm communities most in need with knowledge and numbers so they can make intelligent local decisions and best apply their resources. It is what everyone who has to manage something needs: accurate data. It will improve the access to quality data on local demographics and streamline the process for analyzing local fair housing impediments, helping grantees establish their own local fair housing priorities. This rule does not interfere with local zoning or housing laws, and it prevents further taxpayer dollars from being used to discriminate.

Every stakeholder—every one of us—is afforded an opportunity to comment on the rule that HUD made, and, as a former local leader, it empowers people at the localities to do justice by their communities. This is a balanced and a measured rule, and it takes up the cause of the work to make our country more and more just.

I know personally that so much of the character of our country comes from the values we have as a whole. There are rare times in our history where this body is called upon to affirm those values. This body's history—the noble history of this body—is something I have benefited from personally around fair housing. Now we have more tools necessary, with big data and analysis, to more effectively and affirmatively assert our values and ensure injustice is not being done.

I want to make sure that we defeat this amendment for those reasons. I believe and know the values of my colleague who proposed this. I do not think it achieves the end that we want to see by disempowering people to try to help families like mine. I was a child in DC moving to New Jersey and found justice—found a pathway toward integration. Indeed, I doubt I would be here right now if it weren't for the laws of our land.

I hope we can defeat this amendment and ensure that our Nation becomes more fair and more just and that more families like mine can find the America we hail when we pledge allegiance to the flag and say we are a Nation of liberty and justice for all.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during the quorum calls be charged equally, fairly—like fair housing—fairly, to both sides.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senators have been working diligently this week, continuing our efforts to advance American priorities and responsibly fund important programs through the appropriations process. We have made good progress so far. The Senate already passed one funding bill by a broad majority at a record early time. Another Appropriations subcommittee approved its own funding bill just the other day, and it is my hope that we will be able to move two more funding measures across the finish line very shortly. With continued work and cooperation, we can do just that.

The two measures before us are the result of hard work, negotiation, and compromise. They are the product of strong leadership by Senators COLLINS and KIRK, and they are the culmination of a good deal of input from both sides of the aisle.

Here is what we know these bills can achieve: The transportation and housing infrastructure appropriations bill will invest in our transportation systems and help ensure safety and efficiency. The veterans and military construction funding bill will help improve care for veterans and increase oversight and accountability efforts at the VA.

The legislation before us will also include a provision to help address Zika. This compromise provision will focus on immediate needs while also providing resources for longer term goals such as a vaccine. It is another reminder that keeping Americans safe and healthy is a top priority for us all. Let's continue our work today to move these important funding measures closer to passage.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3897

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, a home is more than just a roof over someone's head; it is actually where a family builds their lives. In our country, we need to do everything we can to make sure families have options when it comes to finding a place to live, and they need access to affordable, safe, and fair housing. Unfortunately, today Republicans want to deal a significant blow to fair housing. The amendment they are offering would tear down the civil rights protections in the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and I am here today to strongly urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Before the civil rights movement, African Americans faced an enormous amount of injustice and racism in housing. People of color were often relegated to substandard housing. They were denied mortgages, and rent in an

African-American neighborhood was often higher than rent in a White neighborhood.

When the Fair Housing Act went into effect in 1968, it not only banned discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing, it went a step further: A new Federal housing agency was charged with proactively rooting out discrimination and segregation in communities across the country. That is an important part of the law because today people across the country still face systemic and sometimes racially motivated barriers to housing. People with disabilities, people of color, families with children, and religious groups in many areas have limited housing choices.

Last year the Department of Housing and Urban Development, also known as HUD, issued a long-overdue rule to help carry out that mission to proactively eliminate housing segregation and discrimination. For States and local governments that get HUD investments, this rule would improve the quality and access to data on demographics, it would help researchers analyze the barriers people face to access fair housing, and it would help set priorities and goals for carrying out the mission to actively fight back against discrimination and segregation.

Based on pilot programs from around the country, we know this rule can help expand opportunity to more Americans. One of those pilots was in Seattle in my home State of Washington. After an assessment of high-poverty areas in Puget Sound, the city saw that neighborhoods that historically have been disenfranchised lacked job opportunities. Armed with that data, the city is setting up a food distribution center and a job incubator in those neighborhoods. The city's work is helping to foster job growth in places where low-income residents live, and through that work, the city expanded economic security to more people. That would not have been possible without the data this long-overdue rule provided us.

This is the kind of success this new rule will help further, but unfortunately we are seeing that some Republicans want to put a stop to those positive changes and backtrack on the gains we have made on civil rights in housing, and to me, that is unacceptable. Here in Congress, we should be clearing pathways for more Americans to access more housing, not blocking the way.

I am here today to urge my colleagues to vote against that amendment, which we will be voting on later.

Mr. President, while I have the floor, I wish to talk about another topic that is very important to me. I am very honored to come to the floor today with good news for thousands of military families, including three couples I met just last week here in the Nation's Capital. Each of the veterans I met with had suffered a catastrophic injury while fighting for our country, which

changed the course of their lives and their families' lives forever.

Matt Keil was shot by a sniper and paralyzed. Kevin Jaye was injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Tyler Black was paralyzed during a firefight. What was the one thing each of these veterans wished for after he returned home and got out of the hospital? Well, like so many women and men in our country, they dreamed of having a family of their own.

Even though each veteran suffered injuries that made it nearly impossible to conceive naturally, they have hope because in this day and age, the medical technology exists to make their dream of having a family come true. The most popular path is in vitro fertilization, known as IVF, but because of a policy enacted decades ago, the VA is barred from covering the costs of IVF, which forced Matt, Kevin, and Tyler, with their partners, to go down that road alone even though their injuries were caused while serving all of us overseas. Collectively, they have paid tens and tens of thousands of dollars out-of-pocket. Matt said to me that when he heard the VA wouldn't cover the one medical procedure he and his wife wanted so badly, he felt like his country had abandoned him. We are talking about a man who sacrificed his body for our country.

I believe this is wrong. When this country sends brave men and women to work, we promise to take care of them when they return home. That is why I have been fighting to change this policy once and for all, and today I am very proud to see this effort take a big step forward with bipartisan support here in the Senate. My provision in the underlying VA appropriations bill will finally allow the VA to cover those costs and let our veterans know their country is there for them when they come home. It is the right thing to do for Matt and his wife Tracy, Kevin and Lauren, Tyler and Crystal, and every other military family in this country.

As we move to pass this bill through the Senate, I call on my colleagues in the House to follow suit and get this done. This is not about politics or partisanship, and we shouldn't be cutting corners when it comes to our veterans and their families. This is a chance to support our veterans and the dreams they have fought so hard for—to have a family.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3900, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call for regular order with respect to the Blunt amendment No. 3900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. LEE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise not to debate the broad question of the Federal Government's proper role in protecting and advancing public health; instead, I am here to stress to my colleagues that with a growing national debt that will soon exceed \$20 trillion, we cannot continue spending money we don't have.

If this emergency supplemental measure is adopted, it will be the 15th emergency supplemental we have passed since 2006, totaling about \$190 billion in deficit spending. This is not how responsible governments budget. It is not how responsible governments behave.

Indeed, we have the ability to provide the resources the country needs to fight the Zika virus without adding to our national debt. For starters, we can undo the \$500 million President Obama took from the international infectious diseases account which was placed in his unapproved Green Climate Fund. USAID is sitting on \$1.2 billion in unobligated Ebola funds. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response currently has \$347 million not being put to use. There is \$525 million in CDC's global health security agenda that is unspoken for.

To the extent that the Zika virus is truly an emergency, one that deserves the Federal Government's attention, we already have more than enough unused emergency funds to pay for the fight against this emerging threat.

Yesterday, my colleague, the distinguished junior senator from Oklahoma, Mr. LANKFORD, illustrated that this administration has tens of billions of dollars in unobligated discretionary funds to pay for this as well.

What we should not do, however, is allow the Zika virus to be yet another excuse to run up the national debt, just so appropriators can come back and use unspent emergency money on non-emergency parochial priorities at some later date.

The entire emergency spending label is to some, perhaps, a little bit misleading. It does not mean that the money gets spent any faster. All it does is give Congress the ability to spend the money without having to pay for it, to spend the money without having to offset it somewhere else. That is not how we should operate.

I urge my colleagues to uphold this budget point of order.

Mr. President, pursuant to section 314(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I raise a point of order against all of the emergency designations contained in amendment No. 3900, a list of which I am sending to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I certainly share the deep concern expressed by my colleague from Utah over the growing size of the Federal debt. It is a serious problem. I encourage him to look at the chart that Senator ALEXANDER has produced, which shows where the problem is.

The problem is on the mandatory side of the budget, not the discretionary side of the budget, which, due to efforts we have made, has been held relatively flat for several years. But the mandatory spending side of the budget is soaring. There is no doubt about that. For example, many of us, when the administration presented its budget, rejected the gimmicks that were included, for example, in the transportation budget to shift some \$7 billion from discretionary to mandatory spending. That was unwarranted. We did not do that.

But if ever there were an emergency, it is the threat posed to public health by the Zika virus. About 2 weeks ago, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON and I went to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, and heard briefings from the top experts in the world about the threat posed by the Zika virus.

The fact is that the news keeps getting worse and worse. Zika has now been linked for certain to a severe kind of birth defect, making pregnant women particularly at risk. It has also been linked to a disease known as Guillain-Barre syndrome, which can cause paralysis and even death.

Those of us who live in Northern States—this kind of mosquito, for example, is found only in the very southern tip of Maine—should take no comfort from that fact. The CDC has documented cases of the Zika virus in virtually every State in the Union, and that is because disease knows no boundaries in this world of international travel. In addition, the CDC has documented approximately 1,000 cases of Zika. It is an epidemic in Puerto Rico, where there are more than 475 documented cases—a true crisis for that U.S. territory.

From my perspective, we have to act. We have to act quickly. The Blunt-Murray compromise bill deserves the emergency designation which is attached to it.

Mr. President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget regulations, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of the Blunt-Murray amendment No. 3900, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered. Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I believe we are going to have that vote a little bit later.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 4039

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, last night I was off the floor when Senator MCCAIN of Arizona offered an amendment regarding the Veterans Choice bill. Before the decision is made, I wish

to memorialize my support for the McCain amendment.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we waived jurisdiction so it could be offered on the VA component of this bill.

I wish to add one further comment. The cost associated with extending the eligibility of Veterans Choice by 3 years, which is the McCain amendment, scores at a cost. But to recognize that cost, you have to assume we would not have treated an eligible veteran under any other program if Choice expired.

We are never going to abandon our veterans. We have a commitment to the veterans for the health care they have signed up for.

What Senator MCCAIN is doing is trying to improve access to health care and to maintain access through the choice of a private sector provider or through a VA provider. There is no additional cost, unless you assume that you want to take away a benefit that we gave 2 years ago in the omnibus that we passed.

I commend Senator MCCAIN for extending the eligibility for Choice for 3 more years. I will support the amendment when it comes before the Senate, and I encourage all other Members to do the same.

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.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each vote in relation to H.R. 2577.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3900, AS MODIFIED

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to waive.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alexander	Booker	Capito
Ayotte	Boozman	Cardin
Baldwin	Boxer	Carper
Bennet	Brown	Casey
Blumenthal	Burr	Cassidy
Blunt	Cantwell	Cochran

Collins	Klobuchar	Roberts
Coons	Leahy	Rounds
Donnelly	Manchin	Rubio
Durbin	Markey	Schatz
Feinstein	McCain	Schumer
Franken	McCaskill	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McConnell	Stabenow
Graham	Menendez	Tester
Grassley	Merkley	Tillis
Hatch	Mikulski	Udall
Heinrich	Murkowski	Vitter
Heitkamp	Murphy	Warner
Hirono	Murray	Warren
Hoeven	Nelson	Whitehouse
Isakson	Peters	Wicker
Kaine	Portman	Wyden
King	Reed	
Kirk	Reid	

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Coats	Gardner	Sasse
Corker	Heller	Scott
Cornyn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Daines	Lee	Thune
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 70, the nays are 28.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to and the point of order falls.

AMENDMENT NO. 3946

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 3946, offered by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on this amendment, I yield back the remainder of our time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3946) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3900, AS MODIFIED, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 3900, offered by the majority leader for Mr. BLUNT and Mrs. MURRAY.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, we have looked at the proposal. I think we have reached an agreement on the proposal that takes this issue up through September of next year. I think now is the time to move forward.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the amendment, and at that point we will work with the House for a final conclusion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am disappointed that Republicans refused to work with us to fully fund the President's emergency supplemental proposal, and it shouldn't have taken us so long to get to this point, but I am pleased that this will move us to a down payment on the President's emergency funding package through the Senate.

I want to commend Chairman BLUNT for his work with us on this and all the Democrats and Republicans who are supporting it. But I want to remind all of us, this is only a first step, and we have to make sure that this agreement gets through the House and to the President's desk in the least amount of time.

I hope we can separate it from this bill and move it quickly. That was objected to yesterday over pay-fors, which are not part of this amendment, but this is a critical emergency. We need to move on this first step, and I hope we can do it in a timely manner.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. VITTER. 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. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 77 Leg.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Franken	Murphy
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Graham	Nelson
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Boxer	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Kirk	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Tillis
Casey	Manchin	Udall
Cassidy	Markey	Vitter
Cochran	McCaskill	Warner
Collins	McConnell	Warren
Coons	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Coats	Gardner	Risch
Corker	Heller	Roberts
Cornyn	Inhofe	Sasse
Cotton	Johnson	Scott
Crapo	Lankford	Sessions
Daines	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Sullivan
Ernst	Moran	Thune
Fischer	Paul	Toomey

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz
Sanders

The amendment (No. 3900), as modified, as amended, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the

cloture vote on the Collins amendment No. 3896, Senator ENZI or his designee be recognized to make a budget point of order against McCain amendment No. 4039; further, that Senator MCCAIN be recognized to make a motion to waive the point of order and that the Senate immediately vote on the motion to waive.

I further ask that the votes in this series be 10 minutes in length, strictly enforced.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3896, AS AMENDED

There is 2 minutes of debate prior to the cloture vote.

Who yields time?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of the time on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the time yielded back by the minority?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield the remainder of the time on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate Amendment No. 3896 to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Susan M. Collins, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, Johnny Isakson, Marco Rubio, Mark Kirk, Lindsey Graham, Chuck Grassley, Jerry Moran, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, John Boozman.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3896, offered by the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, as amended, to H.R. 2577, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 88, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 78 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Franken	Murray
Ayotte	Gardner	Nelson
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reid
Blunt	Heinrich	Roberts
Booker	Heitkamp	Rounds
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Boxer	Hirono	Sasse
Brown	Hoeven	Schatz
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott
Capito	Johnson	Sessions
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	King	Shelby
Casey	Kirk	Stabenow
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Manchin	Thune
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCain	Udall
Corker	McCaskill	Vitter
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Enzi	Mikulski	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	
Fischer	Murphy	

NAYS—10

Cotton	Lankford	Risch
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Paul	
Flake	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 10.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3898 AND 3899, AS MODIFIED, WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendments Nos. 3898 and 3899 are withdrawn.

The Senator from Wyoming.

AMENDMENT NO. 4039

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank Senator MCCAIN for his tremendous effort on behalf of veterans and the different approaches he has used. I don't think anybody has worked harder on it or understands it better.

I wish there were more we could do for veterans and will work with him to see that that happens, but this amendment isn't the right place to do it. This amendment proposes that we increase overspending by \$7.7 billion for a continuation of the Veterans Choice Program. It doesn't offer badly needed reforms to the program, it simply provides more funding.

Unfortunately, the accountability measures currently in place at the VA do not go far enough in ensuring that the health care needs of our veterans are the priority. By extending the Choice Program, we would be extending problematic waiting periods, we would be extending a backlog of health care claims, and we would be giving little or no authority to the VA to manage its employees.

We have been getting complaints about many of these things, and another veterans proposal in the Senate improves both health care access for veterans and expanded disciplinary

measures at the VA. Senator McCAIN has worked on that as well. At the same time, it provides offsets to ensure that we continue to help our veterans in the future.

I have been concerned about what I thought was \$6 billion of emergency expense every year. I had them actually total that up in the committee and found out that we do \$26.1 billion a year in emergency spending. We are going to have to find that money somewhere because if we don't provide offsets, we will not be able to help our veterans or our military or our education or anything else. Continued spending without making responsible choices for priorities will put us in a real hole.

In order to make sure we are spending on our priorities, such as national defense and our veterans, and that they are not crowded out, I raise a point of order.

Mr. President, pursuant to section 314(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I raise a point of order against the emergency designation found on page 3, lines 7 through 12, of amendment No. 4039 to H.R. 2577, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I note with some interest that the Senator from Wyoming did not have the same zeal for the \$1.1 billion that we just passed in emergency spending for Zika that is not paid for, but the important issue is, that this is a program for 1.4 million appointments for veterans who would otherwise wait for delayed care, over 2.5 million separate payments to doctors, 450,000 Choice health care providers—the list goes on and on.

All I am asking for is an extension of a program that is in effect and helping our veterans. The fact is, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee said last night: What Senator McCAIN is trying to do to improve access to health care is maintain the access through the choice of a private sector provider or VA provider. There is no additional cost unless you assume that you want to take away a benefit that was given 2 years ago in the omnibus bill we passed. He goes on to say he would support this amendment.

Who is taking advantage? The majority of the people who are taking advantage of this Choice Card, I will tell the Senator from Wyoming, are the young men and women who are just returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We are giving them a choice. We are giving them a choice to be able to get the care they need and deserve.

In my home State of Arizona, 50 veterans died while on a nonexistent waiting list—50 of them. That is why we have a Choice Card, so they can go out and get the care they need and want and not be on a nonexistent waiting list.

I don't know what the priorities are of the Senator from Wyoming, but I can tell him now, they are not mine, and they are not of the men and women who are serving this Nation who deserve the best care and the choice of going to the provider that they want to within certain parameters.

This is simply an extension of a program that is in existence that cares for our men and women who served our Nation with sacrifice, and some of them didn't even come back to have a chance to have a Choice Card.

Mr. President, I ask to waive the budget point of order.

Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for the purposes of my amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Franken	Murphy
Ayotte	Gardner	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kirk	Stabenow
Cochran	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Markey	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Fischer	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Moran	Wyden

NAYS—14

Barrasso	Enzi	Perdue
Coats	Lankford	Sessions
Corker	Lee	Shelby
Cornyn	Murkowski	Sullivan
Durbin	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 14.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to, and the point of order falls.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two managers or their designees and that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote in relation to the Collins amendment No. 3970 and the Lee amendment No. 3897; further, that following disposition of the Lee amendment, all postcloture time be expired; that the substitute amendment, as amended, be adopted; that the cloture motion on the underlying bill be withdrawn, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I wish to speak to the issue that was just brought up dealing with veterans funding and specifically the Choice Program.

Three years ago, Congress put into place a response to what was happening in VA centers all over the country. We were all appalled with what was happening at VA centers all over the country. But for any of us who are in congressional offices, we were aware, were pushing on this issue, and had pushed on this issue for a while.

But the media exposed what we all saw, and that was long-secret waiting lists for veterans so that the VA centers could keep their positive numbers up and look better—months of waiting for things that would take days across the street.

As I dealt with the VA center in my own city, at times it would take 6 months to get a knee replacement surgery at the VA center, when at the great hospital directly across the street, they could get that same surgery within 2 days.

As to hearing aids, it would take months and months to actually go through the process and to get them at our VA centers.

As to cancer care, if you were diagnosed with cancer and had needs and treatment that was going to be required, they would literally send you across the country, sometimes more than 2,000 miles away, to actually get cancer treatment—away from your family.

Congress responded to that by putting into place the Choice Act. It was an emergency. There were major problems that were happening around the country in multiple VA centers, and there had to be a response right then. Congress set aside emergency funding and an emergency response to make sure something came into existence that only loosely existed before. What was called community care was now clarified to say that this is Choice, and it was simple. If a veteran had to wait

more than 30 days to get into an appointment or get treatment or if they lived more than 40 miles from a VA center, they would be given the option to go wherever they wanted to go. VA was required to start working relationships in every community across the country so that veterans would have the option to go wherever they wanted to go.

I would acknowledge that program is in its infancy. It is 2 years old at this point. It has a ways to go to be perfected. There are still problems with it, and there is a constant push from Congress to provide accountability to make sure that program is done and done well. That should be the first step in giving veterans real choice. The first step of that is 30 days or 40 miles. The second step of that is any VA-eligible veteran would get a card and they could go to anyplace that accepts Medicare. If they accept Medicare anywhere in the country—any lab, any hospital, any doctor—they should also be able to receive veterans as well. So veterans can go wherever they choose to go regardless of the distance.

I have veterans who drive past six great hospitals, drive 200 miles to get to a VA center, and their families have the burden of all of that travel. It should not be that way. Veterans should be able to go wherever they choose to go for care.

So the Choice Program is not only a good program, it is the right direction to go and it is a positive first step. But here is the problem: The way this particular amendment has come up, it is not only not germane to this bill because it deals with something that started 3 years ago and we are dealing with a new bill right now, but it is also an issue of, we are doing the right thing the wrong way.

My staff has heard me say this over and over again: There is a right thing to do and there is a right way to do it. Three years ago, we knew this was an issue. Three years ago, the planning should have been put in place to put this into the normal appropriations process. This process puts it into place, so we are adding \$7.5 billion onto our children for a program that should be in the normal appropriations process that was started 3 years ago and that is not an emergency anymore. This is not an emergency. This is now normal funding of a program we want to keep going and expand. So there is a big issue here we do have to resolve.

I want to see us do the Choice Program and do it right, but there is a right thing to do and a right way to do it. This program is already fully funded through the next year. It is not an emergency. It is in place, funded, and ready to go. It doesn't go away in the next year, all the way through the fiscal year. Let's put it in the normal process, let's do it the right way, and let's not add \$7 billion to our children for an emergency that is actually a year away. No one is going to convince me that in a \$4 trillion budget, there

are not areas we could cut. Earlier this week I identified \$86 billion in funds that are available to cover the \$1 billion for Zika that this Congress decided to do in emergency funding anyway. We have the funds available.

We can honor our veterans. We can do this and also honor our children. At the same time we are honoring our veterans, let's honor the next generation and make sure we are not adding debt to the next generation.

With that, Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the McCain amendment No. 4039 is not germane to the Collins amendment No. 3896, as amended, or H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 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. KIRK. 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. KIRK. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support my VA spending bill to final passage. It is a very bipartisan bill.

I also would like to thank my ranking Democratic member, Senator JON TESTER of Montana, who has been a great partner. We have worked with all Senators on both sides of the aisle to include their priorities and have worked through dozens of amendments. We include more than two dozen amendments in this bill.

The bill provides record funding for our veterans' health care, protects whistleblowers, includes opioid safety, and also has the RAID Act to clean up the VA so that cockroaches are not in the VA kitchens and dining facilities. This bill also adds 100 staff to the IG's office and combats veteran homelessness. It requires better screening of VA doctors so they can't switch from State to State. The bill also increases medical research and adds money for health care for our veterans.

I thank the subcommittee staff for doing outstanding work this year, and that includes Tina Evans, Chad Schulken, Michael Bain, Robert Henke, D'Ann Lettieri, Patrick Magnuson, and Carlos Elias.

The bottom line: This bill does right by our troops and does right by our veterans. I thank my Senate colleagues and urge its rapid adoption.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to voice my full support for the fiscal year 2017 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations bill which includes the fiscal year 2017 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies appropriations bill. Each of these bills was passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30-0 last month. I urge all

my colleagues to support this bipartisan package of bills.

I commend Senators COLLINS and REED for their hard work on the T-HUD bill and their collegiality on the floor this week managing this bill. T-HUD is our annual jobs bill making investments at the State and local level, delivering on America's physical infrastructure needs and America's compelling human needs. The bill before us will keep our roads and transportation systems safe and in good repair while preserving housing assistance for our Nation's most in need.

I am especially proud of Senators COLLINS and REED for making renewed investments in lead paint poison prevention. As the Maryland Senator from Baltimore, this is an issue I know all too well. Senator Kit Bond and I worked together on the VA-HUD bill to first bring attention to this crippling public health problem. April 19 marked the anniversary of Freddie Gray's death, a young man who grew up in Baltimore's low-income housing. Before Freddie's second birthday, his blood lead levels were seven times the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's suggested level, leaving Freddie severely and permanently brain damaged. Today there are still half a million children under the age of 6 with lead poisoning.

This bill increases lead prevention funding in three programs. First, the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is funded at \$135 million, an increase of \$25 million to support lead-based paint hazard reductions in 1,750 additional units. This program provides safer homes for more than 6,200 people. Second, the Mikulski-Bond Lead Hazard Reduction Demo Program is funded at \$55 million, an increase of \$10 million. This program provides competitive funds to State and local governments to implement lead hazardous reduction programs in privately owned and owner-occupied housing. Third, the Public Housing Capital Fund is funded at \$1.9 billion, an increase of \$25 million. This will remediate 1,500 public housing units.

This bill also includes a number of reforms to HUD's lead programs. Among these is the requirement for HUD to update its blood level standard to the stronger Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standard. HUD's standard hasn't been updated since 1999. In addition, the bill makes studio and efficiency apartments eligible for remediation grants for the first time. It is estimated that 34,000 zero-bedroom dwellings house children under 6 years old.

The transportation portion of this bill makes significant investments in Maryland's highways, byways, and transit systems. It cuts the first check under the FAST Act passed last December. This means more formula funding for every State. For Maryland, that is an increase of \$62 million.

For transit, this bill provides increased funding for the Federal Transit

Administration totaling \$575 million. It includes the Job Corridor-Purple Line project in the Washington suburbs of Maryland. A total of \$125 million is provided for the construction of this light rail project.

For the DC Metro system, this bill provides the eighth installment of \$150 million in Federal dedicated funding. This is the fully authorized level and will be matched dollar for dollar by the three jurisdictions. Fighting for this annual appropriation was the promise I made and have kept since the deadly Fort Totten crash in June 2009. This funding must be used on capital improvements relating to safety including buying new rail cars, track improvements, and signal upgrades.

I included bill language requiring the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary to do three things before this funding money can be spent. First, the Secretary must approve each expenditure. Second, the Secretary must certify Metro is making progress implementing FTA's safety and financial management corrective actions. Third, the Secretary must determine that Metro is using this money for top safety priorities.

In addition to this dedicated funding, I am proud of the safety amendment I introduced with Senators SHELBY, CARDIN, WARNER, KAINE, and BROWN that was passed earlier in the week. This amendment provides additional funding to FTA to expand its safety oversight workforce for a total increase of \$5.25 million over the current year funding level. It will enable FTA to hire six full-time employees for Metro's Rail Operations Control Center, four more investigators, seven additional inspectors, and six more contractors.

This additional funding means FTA will now have more inspectors to watch as Metro crews work to complete SafeTrack, the yearlong plan to accelerate repairs on the system. Inspectors will be there to make sure the track work is fixed the right way for good. FTA also will have safety staff at the Rail Operations Control Center 24 hours a day and 7 days a week making sure emergency procedures are followed to prevent future incidents. FTA staff will help Metro implement the National Transportation Safety Board's recent recommendations to overhaul the center's emergency operations and training. FTA staff will make sure these reforms remain in place and are followed. Finally, more investigators will help FTA tackle approximately 100 Metro investigations conducted each year.

I also want to say a few words about the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. This is another bipartisan bill funding vital programs for the health and well-being of our Nation's veterans, troops, and their families developed by Senators KIRK and TESTER. Overall, this bill provides \$83 billion in discretionary funding which is an increase of \$3.2 billion above the current year funding level.

This bill fully funds VA Medical Services at the President's request of \$52.8 billion. This is \$1 billion over what we advanced last year to address increased demand for VA medical care both within and outside the VA health care system.

The bill provides additional funding for disability claims processing. Significant progress has been made to eliminate the backlog in processing initial claims, but unfortunately, the backlog in appeals is rapidly building. This bill includes \$2.9 billion for claims processing, \$30 million above the request, to hire 300 new claims processors and 240 additional employees for the Board of Veterans Appeals. Also included is an increase of \$46 million for the Board of Veterans Appeals, bringing their total funding to \$156 million. This will provide for hiring an additional 240 new employees focused on appeals processing.

For our women veterans, this bill makes significant strides bring parity between male and female veterans. This bill mandates that the VA research and acquire prosthetic devices specifically designed for women. It includes \$5.3 billion overall to treat more than 500,000 female veterans who get care through the VA. This bill targets \$535 million for gender-specific health care which is \$20 million over the request and nearly \$70 million over the current funding level. This includes gynecology, reproductive health, and mental health care for women. I also was proud to support Senator MURRAY's amendment in committee, allowing the VA to cover the cost of reproductive services for veterans who suffered service-related injuries that prevent them from starting families.

The military construction part of this bill fully funds all seven Maryland projects included in the President's budget request. This means a total of \$340 million for construction jobs at Fort Meade, Pax River, Joint Base Andrews, and Bethesda Medical Center.

Finally, the bill includes \$1.1 billion in emergency spending to combat the urgent Zika crisis. CDC, NIH, and USAID need this funding on the ground today. \$1.1 billion is a bottom line, not a starting point for negotiation. I am committed to sending a Zika supplemental to the President as soon as possible.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this package of bills. It meets many compelling human needs and physical infrastructure needs of our nation and does not include poison pill riders. It is an example of how, working together, we can solve problems and put America to work.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I rise to speak in support of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs division of the substitute before us. I commend Chairman KIRK and Ranking Member TESTER for their leadership in crafting the fiscal year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill. As a member of the Mili-

tary Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, I have appreciated their steady, strong advocacy for our Nation's veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I know well the sacrifices of those who serve and have served on our behalf, as well as the sacrifices made by their families. The vital programs and benefits funded by this bill will help fulfill our obligations to them and honor their commitment to our Nation.

While we can never fully repay these debts, we must strive to provide each veteran with the quality health care that they deserve. One way this bill helps to meet this goal is through the extension it would provide of the highly successful Access Received Closer to Home, or ARCH, program. This pilot program, which is scheduled to expire in August, serves rural veterans in northern Maine, Montana, Kansas, Virginia, and Arizona, providing them access to high quality care in their communities and near their families.

Many of my constituents tell me that this program has proven to be a lifeline for them and has saved them the arduous burden of traveling up to 600 miles round trip to receive care at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta, ME.

In Maine, the program not only reduces wait times for appointments and prevents veterans from going through a third-party administrator to receive care, but it is cost effective. According to the VA's own statistics, the average cost of ARCH per veteran in Maine is less than half the average cost for VHA direct care. More than 90 percent of ARCH veterans are overwhelmingly satisfied with their care, a testament to why ARCH should be a model for the Nation.

Ensuring that veterans continue to receive this seamless care is paramount, and I thank Chairman KIRK and Ranking Member TESTER for including an extension of this vital program in the fiscal year 2017 funding legislation.

I am also pleased that this legislation would fund the President's fiscal year 2017 request for VA medical leases, including funding to lease a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic—CBOC—facility in Portland, ME. This project would allow VA to consolidate and colocate the Saco and Portland CBOCs with Maine Medical Center and its affiliate, the Tufts University School of Medicine. This collaboration will provide primary care, mental health, women's health, and specialty care medical services for veterans.

This legislation would also help to address the opioid epidemic by requiring the Department to improve appropriate pain care for veterans. It also includes programs to help end veteran homelessness, expand care services focused on our growing population of female veterans, and support caregivers, who shoulder the enormous responsibility of caring for veterans who are unable to care for themselves

Finally, I want to highlight the funding included in this legislation for our Nation's civilian and military members—and their families—who serve at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME. The legislation includes \$74.9 million for housing, the replacement of the medical and dental clinic, and utility nuclear improvements. These projects will help provide the exceptional personnel at PNSY with the facilities they need and deserve to carry out the mission.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their excellent work in balancing the priorities within their bill, and I urge my colleagues to advance this important legislation.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, universal, safe, and consistent trucking regulations are vital to all aspects of the trucking industry and to all users of the national highway system. Ensuring highway safety must remain a priority of this body. It also remains critical that this body maintain predictable safety laws to sustain efficient outcomes for truckers, trucking companies, the manufacturers and growers of the goods that trucks transport, and the customers who buy the products.

Congress determined years ago that a uniform system of Federal trucking rules would lead to safer and more productive outcomes than a 50-State patchwork of trucking regulations, as goods are often transported across State lines. Despite Congress's intentions, we are seeing various State trucking rules being implemented across the country that stray from the Federal guidelines. We need to figure out how to address this. We need to make sure that we have commonsense rules that don't change every time a driver crosses a State line while continuing to protect truck drivers and road users from unsafe situations.

I think we have got a little more work to do before we are ready for a solution, but I pledge to work with all who are willing and maybe we can figure something out in the coming months.

Thank you.

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I join today with my good friend, Senator HIRONO, to address the requirement for full authorized funding of the Maritime Security Program. Senator HIRONO and I serve together on the Seapower Subcommittee and firmly believe that this program is important to our national security.

The United States needs a U.S.-flag merchant marine that is strong, active, competitive, and useful to the military. Our merchant marine has a long history of providing sealift support to our Armed Forces for global military operations. The Maritime Security Program is a unique public-private partnership that helps the merchant marine, enhancing America's commercial sealift capability while saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Seapower Sub-

committee, I could not agree more with the Senator from Mississippi's views concerning the importance of the MSP program. The 60-ship MSP program is the most prudent and economical means to address the U.S. military's current and projected sealift requirements. A 2006 report prepared for the Military Sealift Committee of the National Defense Transportation Association concluded that "the likely cost to the government to replicate just the vessel capacity provided by the MSP dry cargo vessels would be \$13 billion." In addition, the U.S. Transportation Command, TransCom, has estimated that it would cost the U.S. Government an additional \$52 billion to replicate the "global intermodal system" that is made available to the Department of Defense, DOD, by MSP participants. In contrast, MSP participants now provide DOD with the same vessels and global intermodal system at a fraction of what it would cost our government to do the job itself.

Mr. WICKER. The Senate version of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2017 includes \$275 million for the Maritime Security Program. This is an increase of \$65 million above the enacted level for fiscal year 2016. Although we are pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended this increase in funding, we hasten to point out that Congress acted last December to increase the authorization level for the Maritime Security Program to \$299,997,000 for fiscal year 2017. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended funding for the next fiscal year that would meet this authorization.

As this appropriations bill works its way through Congress, we urge the chairs and ranking members of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittees and the full Appropriations Committee to work in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to provide funding for the Maritime Security Program at its fully authorized level of \$299,997,000 for fiscal year 2017.

Ms. HIRONO. I strongly agree with Senator WICKER. Despite the clear benefits the MSP program provides, the MSP commercial fleet is under extreme economic pressure from reductions in government-impelled cargoes and foreign competitive factors. I completely share the concerns expressed by the then-TransCom commander, GEN Paul Selva, in his March 2015 testimony before the Armed Services Committee, where he stated that the "reduction in government impelled cargoes due to the drawdown in Afghanistan and reductions in food aid . . . are driving vessel owners to reflag to non-U.S.-flag out of economic necessity . . . With the recent vessel reductions, the mariner base is at the point where future reductions in U.S.-flag capacity puts our ability to fully activate, deploy and sustain forces at increased risk."

Accordingly, to ensure that this essential U.S. commercial sealift capa-

bility provided by the MSP program remains available to meet America's national security requirements, the MSP program needs to be fully funded as authorized by the Congress.

Mr. WICKER. I would like to add a comment from the current TransCom commander, GEN Darren McDew. In January, General McDew said, "As a military professional and senior leader, I think about and plan for what the future may hold, and I would tell you we must prepare for the real possibility we will not enjoy the uncontested seas and broad international support experienced in 1991. If either of those possibilities becomes reality, and if we remain committed to responding to security incidents around the globe, the only way of guaranteeing we decisively meet our national objectives is with U.S. ships operated by U.S. mariners."

I thank Senator HIRONO for joining me in this effort to ensure that full funding is secured for the Maritime Security Program in fiscal year 2017.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the need to drive innovation and competitiveness here in the United States.

I vividly remember watching the Apollo missions on TV and the launch of that 36-story tall Saturn V rocket that took Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the surface of the Moon.

The space program not only inspired a generation of Americans, but it also led to incredible advances in science and technology that over the last 50 years have accounted for as much as half of all the economic growth in the United States. These groundbreaking advances firmly established our Nation as an international leader in innovation.

During the height of the space race, America's Federal investment in research and development reached nearly 2 percent of the Nation's GDP. Today, overall Federal R&D spending—the seed corn of our future prosperity—has fallen to a historic low of 0.78 percent of GDP.

With the United States investing less on science, research, and education, and our competitors outpacing us, we are losing our footing in the global marketplace. Congress must increase the Federal investment in R&D to 1 percent of GDP if we want to continue to be leading the world in innovation. This commitment should include a focus on increased Federal support for basic research—an essential component of any kind of innovation economy.

In addition to increased investment, we in Congress need to implement policy solutions that will reassert American leadership internationally. We need to invest in what works. We need to listen to the innovators, academic leaders, and industries that are making the life-changing inventions of the future a reality. To that end, my colleague Senator CORY GARDNER and I have convened a series of roundtable discussions on ways to improve the American innovation system. Just last week, our Commerce Committee leaders, Chairman THUNE and Ranking Member NELSON, held a productive hearing on ways to leverage the U.S. science and technology enterprise. After receiving input from industry, academia, science organizations, and economic development organizations, Senators THUNE, NELSON, GARDNER, and I are working to develop new legislation to guide our Nation's research priorities in the coming years and to improve America's innovation system. Through these roundtables, we heard that the stakeholder community agrees that modest, sustained, and predictable increases in Federal research and development investments are absolutely critical to ensuring the economic competitiveness of the United States.

We need continued Federal investment in basic research, while also providing opportunities to commercialize that research. There is basic research that our companies simply cannot afford to conduct, making Federal investment absolutely critical. We also need to work to reduce administrative burdens on researchers so that we can maximize our Federal research investment. We need that investment to be put into the lab and not filling out more paperwork. We need stronger partnerships between government, the private sector, and academia in order to capitalize on discoveries emerging from our world-class research universities, such as the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University.

We must also close the significant employment gap in the STEM workforce for women and underrepresented minorities. Women make up less than 50 percent of post-bachelor STEM degree programs and only about one-quarter of the STEM workforce. Underrepresented minorities, including Hispanics and African Americans, make up about 10 percent of the science and engineering workforce. Last month, I joined a number of my colleagues in introducing the STEM Opportunities Act, legislation that would improve inclusion of women, minorities, and people with disabilities in STEM careers. It is a top priority for me to see that a similar provision is included in our bipartisan legislation.

Finally, if we want to continue to be a leader in the global economy, we need to be a nation that makes things. Michigan is a State that builds and grows things, and I will continue to

fight to make sure we continue doing that. Investments in advanced manufacturing will support firms of all sizes and support good-paying jobs and help keep them here in the United States. That is why it is one of my top priorities for this legislation that we ensure American manufacturing companies can compete and succeed in the highly competitive global marketplace.

Last month, I joined my colleagues, Senators COONS and AYOTTE, to introduce the bipartisan Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act. The Manufacturing Extension Program, or MEP, is a Federal public-private partnership that helps businesses get their products to market through a variety of consulting services. The MEP Improvement Act would expand and improve the MEP Program to serve small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies, which are a critical part of our economy and our national competitiveness. Including key components of the MEP Improvement Act will be a top priority for me in the new legislation being drafted.

Science and technology are inseparable from the American competitiveness ecosystem. However, we need to focus on the entire ecosystem—from STEM, or STEAM, to basic research, to application and commercialization—and the inspiration that drives ambitious endeavors like exploring space and the other frontiers of science. We in Congress must do our part by supporting and investing in our efforts to drive economic growth, unleash increased productivity, enhance our safety and security, and make the world a better place for future generations.

We are facing big challenges as a Nation, but I am committed to working with everyone—Democrats, Republicans, industry, academia, workers, students, and employers—to increase investments and implement the solutions that will ensure American competitiveness and create more good-paying jobs here in the United States.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is one specialty that every Member of Congress has, it is air travel. We spend more time on airplanes, more time in airports, more time waiting for flights and worrying about flights than most other Americans.

As Members of Congress, we are veterans of air travel.

We have all seen the footage of people waiting to go through security screening at major airports, particularly in the city of Chicago at both O'Hare and Midway. The lines are so long that people have had to wait 2 to

3 hours—2 to 3 hours to go through a security checkpoint.

People are angry, and I don't blame them. Thousands of people have missed their flights, and some were stuck sleeping in airports overnight. The commissioner of aviation, Ginger Evans, told me: We pulled out the cots that we save for snow emergencies so that people now, in the heat of early summer, are facing the same kinds of delays.

Our highest priority is to protect those who travel on our airplanes. Poor planning and inadequate funding have led to alarming delays across airports in America, and in Chicago we have felt it more than most. More needs to be done to fix the problem. That is what I have been working to do.

Earlier this week, I talked to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on the phone about the next steps. Yesterday, I followed up with a call to TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger to hear his thoughts. We all agree that the real problem is the shortage of TSA screeners. More people need to be hired and trained so security lines can stay open and people can move through the checkpoints faster.

In the meantime, there are immediate steps we need to take in Chicago. First, we are going to get 58 more TSA screening officers in the next 2 weeks and 224 by August. That is about a 15-percent increase in TSA staff, and it is a good start.

O'Hare will also receive 5 K-9 teams. That will double the number of K-9s we have at the airport. Two teams were brought in yesterday, and the rest will arrive within 5 days. These bomb-sniffing dogs do important work. They check carry-on baggage. If there is no problem, the passengers can move out of the standard line and into the expedited line. These dogs can help us speed up the process by allowing up to 5,000 additional passengers a day to move through the faster security lines.

There will also be a shift of 100 TSA staff from part-time to full-time status so more people can be on deck to help with the lines. And officers who currently work on nondirect security functions are going to be called to pitch in and help officers at the checkpoints.

We are also working to get more people enrolled in TSA PreCheck. I can't emphasize enough how important that is. For \$85, a regular traveler can buy—or at least apply for and be given—a TSA PreCheck status for 5 years. PreCheck lines can scan nearly twice as fast as the ordinary lines. Customers don't have to wait as long or remove their shoes, belts, or light jackets. We need to make sure more people are hearing about this option and are signing up for it as quickly as possible.

TSA is now working on a mobile app to help people get enrolled while they are waiting in lines, and they are also looking at lowering PreCheck signup costs by competing out the actual function of signing up for PreCheck.

PreCheck has gotten a lot of traction, especially in Chicago, where this past month alone we have seen 5,700 new enrollments. I hope we can continue to quickly expand this program to help more people into the faster lines.

The airlines have to be part of the solution as well. I am glad Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut is on the floor because both he and Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts spoke out early on this aspect that I am about to address.

Airlines can help us by reducing high wait times, especially during the peak summer season. I have joined my colleagues Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator MARKEY in urging the airlines to suspend the checked bag fees over the summer. A lot of people are dragging their bags on the airplanes because they don't want to pay to have them checked. On Monday, I spoke with Secretary Johnson, who told me baggage fees are contributing to long lines because more people are carrying on luggage that should be carefully screened through check-in.

Over the last year, the volume of passengers and personnel passing through security checkpoints has increased 7 percent while the number of checked bags has increased only 3 percent. That tells the story: More people are carrying on their luggage and causing problems as more travelers pack their roller bags to the brim, making the bags take even longer to be scanned. Waiving the checked baggage fee during the summer travel season can reduce the incentive for passengers to carry-on luggage, and it can help speed up the process.

Let me also add that it is in this baggage that people are dragging onboard that TSA screeners are finding things that aren't supposed to be on an airplane. Last year, they found 2,653 firearms, and 83 percent of them were loaded. Most of them were from one State; I will not name it. But by and large, we have to be more mindful of the fact that this stops the process or at least slows it down.

I am convening a meeting with Administrator Neffenger tomorrow, along with State and local officials and airlines at Chicago O'Hare, and then we are also going to be visiting the Midway airport. We will see firsthand what airlines are experiencing and what their response is. We have to stop this meltdown when it comes to airport security.

Let me close by saying this: The news today about EgyptAir was a grim reminder that we still live in a very dangerous world. The role and responsibility of the Transportation Security Agency is to make sure that when we and our families travel, we come off those planes just as safely as we went on. It is an important security responsibility. Yes, it is an irritation and a frustration, but we need to do it in this dangerous world to make sure that we stop people from using their carry-on baggage and other sources to cause harm to innocent people.

I stand behind TSA and its mission, but what happened in Chicago is unacceptable. This meltdown should have been avoided. There should have been better management, more screeners, and we should have been ready for the surge in passengers. Beginning this week, we are going to make that right. I hope the visit by the TSA Administrator tomorrow will be the beginning of a conversation that will not only help our airports in Chicago but also help our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague and friend from Illinois for his leadership on this issue and his support for the initiative that Senator MARKEY and I first raised, which he has supported so very helpfully, and essentially that is to persuade the airlines to stop charging for bags that are checked onto planes as opposed to being carried on. Obviously, the fee for checking those bags adds to the number of carry-ons and provides an incentive for larger numbers of carry-ons. In fact, TSA itself reports that there has been an increase in carry-ons due to these fees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I thank the Presiding Officer.

The elimination of the fees for checked bags is not a panacea. It is not going to solve this problem alone. But it will, along with other measures, help reduce lines that result from screening.

I commend Admiral Neffenger for his very close and prompt attention to this matter and for a number of the initiatives he has taken. We heard about them in the Commerce Committee this morning. I also thank Secretary Johnson for supporting elimination of the fees for checked bags. I think his leadership will be important.

There are a number of other initiatives that can and should be taken. There is automated equipment that can expedite the screening of those carry-on bags. The use of additional screeners is important. The number has been reduced over the last 3 years by about 5,800. The addition of another close to 800 will help compensate. But again, alone, none of these solutions will provide the answer.

As far as the automated equipment is concerned, the cost for the 20 busiest airports is about \$30 million—a pittance compared to the \$3.8 billion in revenue the airlines make every year as a result of the fees for checked baggage. I will repeat that: \$3.8 billion is going to airlines as a result of their purposefully charging for bags checked instead of carried on. Many of those bags that go through screening now wind up in the holds of those airplanes anyway because there isn't room for

them on the plane, so they wind up being checked at the gate. That simply adds to the cost and inconvenience of passengers: delayed flights, missed flights, flights that are in effect late because of the boarding problems. All of these accumulating issues are reasons to eliminate these fees and also give passengers the benefit of lower costs.

My hope is that the airlines will voluntarily eliminate these fees for checked bags. After the meeting we had today with Admiral Neffenger, I am encouraged that the TSA will take initiative and help to implement other measures as well.

In the meantime, we need the airlines to show some leadership as well, and I am hopeful they will do the right thing. The U.S. Travel Association has called it a national crisis. The evidence is irrefutable. At checkpoints that have no fee charges for bags, the carry-ons are 27 percent lower, so the numbers of carry-ons definitely diminish as the fees are eliminated. This evidence is irrefutable and argues powerfully that the airlines should not keep their passengers waiting in line. They should make some sacrifice to their bottom line and should not be profiting at the expense of their passengers.

I will conclude by saying on this point—and I am so glad to see my colleague and friend from Massachusetts—that we need this initiative now, and we need it to happen.

I also want to advocate on behalf of the safety of our roads. Blumenthal amendment No. 4002 will not be called up in part because it had been willfully mischaracterized by an industry campaign. In effect, we need to make truck drivers more safely empowered on the roads to take steps to protect themselves. Drivers who spend too much time behind the wheel are tired. They can't drive as safely. This amendment would enable them to drive more safely, give them the rest they need, protect them, and enable the roads to be safer not only for them but for people generally.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I yield to Senator MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY. I just want to thank the Senator for his work. We have been partnering on this issue of eliminating bag fees at airports. Since they have been imposed, 27 percent more bags now go through baggage clearing with passengers. If we could just get that out of the way, get rid of those baggage fees, I think it would expedite dramatically the ability of people to get on planes in this country. So I am glad we are able to have this moment to be able to speak about the importance of this issue.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, the Senator from Massachusetts and I have been partners in this effort, and I hope we can prevail.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3970 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3896

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I call up the Collins-Reed-Cochran amendment No. 3970.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] proposes an amendment numbered 3970 to amendment No. 3896.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to carry out a final rule and notice of the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to direct a grantee to undertake specific changes to existing zoning laws as part of carrying out the final rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (80 Fed. Reg. 42272 (July 16, 2015)) or the notice entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool" (79 Fed. Reg. 57949 (September 26, 2014)).

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the amendment that Senator JACK REED, Senator THAD COCHRAN, and I are offering would make very clear that none of the funds made available in this appropriations bill can be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to direct a recipient of Federal funds to undertake changes to their zoning laws. There has been concern that some have brought up that a new rule that was issued last year by the Department would somehow allow HUD to be the national zoning authority for every neighborhood in our country. While I do not believe that is a correct interpretation of the fair housing amendment or regulation that HUD has promulgated, the Collins-Reed-Cochran amendment ensures that HUD cannot do that. It eliminates that possibility and ensures that communities will continue to make their own decisions to address these Federal requirements.

By contrast, the proposal offered by my colleague from Utah, Senator LEE, would prohibit all funding for a rule that was issued by HUD based on a requirement that is included in the landmark civil rights era law known as the Fair Housing Act of 1968. It is important to know that this regulation was in direct response to a 2010 GAO report that criticized HUD's implementation of the requirement of the law that grantees, recipients of these funds, affirmatively enhance fair housing opportunities. It also was issued in response to requests from communities seeking guidance to ensure compliance because they don't want to be sued for inadvertently violating Fair Housing Act requirements. So communities asked HUD for more tools, better assessments, and more guidance to make sure that they were in compliance.

It is important to know that the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination not only based on race, national origin, and religion but also against those with disabilities. Indeed, 56 percent of the complaints of housing discrimination have been initiated by individuals with disabilities. That is why Senator LEE's amendment is opposed by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and other disability groups, as well as the Urban League, the NAACP, and countless civil rights groups. On the first vote, we will be voting on the Collins-Reed-Cochran amendment.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Will Senator COLLINS yield briefly for a question?

Ms. COLLINS. Yes, I will yield.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Senator COLLINS and every member of this body know that I support fair housing. It is so important for my State, where there is a lack of affordable housing, and the Anchorage School District is one of the most diverse in the Nation. However, I have heard concerns from people in Alaska. They worry not so much about the rule itself but about how HUD could implement it. Many communities in Alaska are overwhelmingly Alaska Native, 90 percent or more of the population.

Will this affirmatively furthering fair housing rule result in Federal grants being withheld from communities that are currently and have long been populated almost entirely by Alaska Natives because those communities are now considered to be segregated?

Ms. COLLINS. No community in the United States or its insular areas will lose Federal housing funds solely because of its racial demographics. There are communities throughout the United States that are racially homogeneous for reasons that have nothing to do with discrimination or other historic barriers.

The rule does not change the Fair Housing Act, which for decades has included the affirmative fair housing requirement. The whole purpose of the rule is to ensure that States and communities that receive Federal funds take this requirement seriously.

This rule is a planning tool, created to help grantees identify barriers to fair housing and plan how to address them. The rule does not penalize any community for where it starts but rather assists a community in taking meaningful steps to address any barriers it may find.

HUD would never deny Federal funds to a community simply because of its demographics. It has never done so in the 48 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, and it will not under this rule.

Additionally, I know some have expressed concern about what effect this rule would have on Alaskan Natives and other Native Americans. HUD's housing programs for Native Alaskans and other Native Americana are authorized under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Deter-

mination Act, NAHASDA. NAHASDA includes a statutory exemption from the Fair Housing Act, which the affirmatively furthering fair housing rule does not change.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the affirmatively furthering fair housing rule, which my amendment would defund, is equal parts condescension and willful blindness. The condescension of this particular rule and its proponents is that local governments and public housing authorities across America can't figure out how to provide fair and affordable housing to their communities without the help, without the paternalistic interference of Federal bureaucrats. This is the epitome of the paternalism that informs so much of what happens in Washington, DC, today.

I don't doubt, as Senator COLLINS has said repeatedly, that local governments would like "better guidance" from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington. But this is a problem that was created by HUD, with its onerous requirements and its vague mandates, not the result of local governments being unable or unwilling to provide adequate low-cost housing for their neighbors in need.

This brings us to the willful blindness part of the affirmative furthering fair housing rule. Proponents of the rule claim that HUD officials consulted closely with local governments and public housing authorities when drafting and finalizing the AFFH rule. In their telling, local housing agencies across the country are welcoming the AFFH rule with open arms. But this ignores what local officials have actually said about AFFH.

I will let these local officials speak for themselves. Roger Partridge, the county commissioner of Douglas County, CO, had this to say, in an email, about AFFH, the closed process that produced it, and the immense burdens it will place on local governments:

Douglas County believes that the Assessment of Fair Housing tool as it now stands is an unfunded mandate that will create an administrative nightmare for jurisdictions who want to further fair housing and implement community programs with HUD grants.

Partridge continues:

HUD headquarters has repeatedly ignored the local practitioners responsible for AFFH and implementing the AFH in our communities.

He continues:

In fact, HUD headquarters staff was in Denver for a Public AFFH roundtable on April 21st, during [the AFH tool] comment period. They ignored the opportunity to inform Region VIII Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) staff or the local practitioners attending the roundtable. No notice from the HUD EXCHANGE to the grantee list serve was found. The local governments who were asked to comment on the publication were shut out of the process.

Likewise, this is what we have heard from Salt Lake County officials:

The administrative burden imposed by this tool is excessive. Resources that could be put

into housing related tasks are being funneled into completing the tool and its associated administrative tasks.

Additionally, although HUD claims that this tool can be completed without the use of a consultant, the assessment is complex enough to warrant considering a consultant. The rule imposes a jurisdictional and regional analysis that is too complex to be effectively completed by staff without specific statistical and mapping knowledge. As housing providers, most staff at PHAs have comparative advantages that lie in providing affordable housing services, but not providing complex statistical data analysis. Forcing PHA staff to do this analysis is an inefficient use of their scarce time.

Salt Lake County officials added the following:

The AFH does not recognize the zero-sum nature of a PHA's resource allocation. By allocating resources to complete this process, PHAs are not allocating resources somewhere else. Those resources could be used to provide additional housing assistance.

Instead of ignoring the words and the experiences of our local officials, and instead of condescending to them, we should listen to them and learn from them. We should stop this disastrous new housing rule from causing more problems than it has already caused.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I know the Senator from Alabama is going to speak, and the Senator from Rhode Island should have an opportunity to speak. So I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute for each side prior to the votes in this series.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator LEE's amendment that would prevent the implementation of HUD's affirmatively furthering fair housing regulation.

Contrary to statements that have been made, the Senator's amendment does nothing to change fair housing laws or to prevent the enforcement thereof. What the Lee amendment does is to prevent the implementation of a rule that would give HUD Federal control over local planning decisions.

Supporters of this program have argued that it is intended to protect communities from fair housing lawsuits. It is quite the contrary. This rule, if allowed to be implemented, will actually lay the predicate for endless litigation against every community in our respective States that are required to participate. This should be unacceptable to every Member of this body.

Supporting Senator LEE's amendment is the only option before us to prevent centralized Federal control of local planning decisions. In my judgment, the Collins-Reed amendment does nothing to restrain the full implementation of HUD's program. I urge my colleagues to support the Lee amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the pending amendment is authored by my colleague from Maine and myself. The amendment makes very clear that local officials will remain in charge of zoning decisions and will determine how to best meet their obligations under the Fair Housing Act. Those obligations are fundamental to our American fabric, our lives, and the aspirations of this country, because they protect Americans' housing choices no matter their physical ability, race, family status, or religion. These protections are fundamental to who we are. But without effective information and transparency so that local communities can make wise decisions, these aspirations can never be realized, are seldom realized, or are not realized to the extent that we, as Americans, feel that they should be.

Senator COLLINS and I have worked very hard to develop language that provides local communities with wide flexibility to meet their requirements under the Fair Housing Act. Those requirements will still be there regardless of our action today. If the resources made available under the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulations are not provided, however, those communities will still be required to ensure that housing is available within their communities, regardless of race, physical ability, or the other protected classes under the law.

The Lee amendment would make grantees liable for compliance without providing the data and tools needed to comply. The thrust—the heart and soul—of this HUD proposal, based on GAO analysis, is to give local communities the tools, so that they can determine the local answer that makes sense.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 4 minutes equally divided on the Collins amendment.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I will be very brief. Let me just reiterate what I have been saying repeatedly. What the amendment Senator REED, Senator COCHRAN, and I have introduced does is make very clear that HUD is prohibited from intervening in local decisions regarding zoning ordinances. That is in direct response to what some people have been claiming, incorrectly in my view; that the rule on affirmatively furthering fair housing would somehow allow HUD to be a national zoning commissar. That is not the case, but to make absolutely sure that could never happen, we have teamed up on this amendment to prohibit HUD from intervening in local zoning matters. It is very different from the Lee amendment, which we will discuss shortly.

This is an important clarification that should take away any fear that there is any possibility of HUD using funds authorized by this bill to interfere in local zoning decisions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the amendment offered by my friend and colleague from Maine in and of itself is unobjectionable and does no harm, and on that basis I intend to vote for it. Unfortunately, it also doesn't do anything. It does nothing to help the many housing agencies that have told the Federal Government that President Obama's AFFH rule imposes far too many reporting costs and their already stretched staffs are going to suffer as a result. It does nothing to shield local housing authorities from the very many real lawsuits they will face as a result of the data collected from this regulation, and it does nothing to stop HUD from blackmailing local housing agencies with Community Development Block Grant Program funds.

At this time, I wish to cede the remainder of my time to my friend, the senior Senator from Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, we should all be aware that the Collins-Reed amendment provides no protections to local communities on their local planning rules because it merely prohibits an activity that the rule does not contemplate. Even the sponsor of this amendment acknowledged earlier today that the amendment prohibited an activity that she believed would not occur.

Make no mistake that the so-called affirmatively furthering fair housing rule will likely heavily influence local zoning decisions. However, it does so indirectly, not through direct action as in the Collins-Reed amendment. HUD advertises this fact on its own Web site, where it details how communities will have to submit for approval an assessment of fair housing and that these communities will "use the fair housing goals and priorities established in their [assessment] to inform the investments and other decisions made in their local planning processes."

In other words, HUD does not intend to direct any specific zoning requirements. It does, however, intend to significantly influence local zoning decisions by withholding approval of local plans until they meet HUD's central planning goals.

This amendment is not sufficient on its own. I believe the only way to prevent HUD from intruding into local community planning exactly as they openly state they intend to do is to support the Lee amendment. I believe the Collins-Reed amendment is not alternative to Senator LEE's amendment, it is, at best, complementary to the Lee amendment, and that is something we will have to vote on in just a few minutes.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of time on our side, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Table listing Senators in support (Yeas) including Alexander, Ayotte, Baldwin, Barrasso, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Boozman, Burr, Cantwell, Capito, Carper, Casey, Cassidy, Coats, Cochran, Collins, Coons, Corker, Cornyn, Cotton, Crapo, Daines, Donnelly, Durbin, Enzi, Ernst, Feinstein, Fischer, Murray, Nelson, Paul, Perdue, Peters, Portman, Reed, Risch, Roberts, Rounds, Rubio, Sasse, Schumer, Scott, Sessions, Shaheen, Shelby, Stabenow, Sullivan, Tester, Thune, Tillis, Toomey, Udall, Vitter, Warner, Whitehouse, Wyden.

NAYS—9

Table listing Senators in opposition (Nays) including Booker, Brown, Cardin, Menendez, Reid, Schatz, Warren, Murphy.

NOT VOTING—4

Table listing Senators not voting including Boxer, Heinrich, Cruz, Sanders.

The amendment (No. 3970) was agreed to.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. COLLINS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3897

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). There is now 4 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the Lee amendment No. 3897.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the subsequent votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

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

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, unlike the Collins amendment that just passed with broad support, my amendment would actually do something with respect to affirmatively furthering the

fair housing rule. Specifically, it would defund this rule and ultimately force the Department of Housing and Urban Development to respond to the GAO in a way that does not undermine local control or increase costs on already stretched thin local housing agencies.

My colleagues who oppose this amendment have given a number of examples of local governments being newly connected to make better governing decisions, but my amendment in no way stops local governments from continuing to do that. All my amendment does—the only thing it does—is to prevent the Federal Government from forcing local governments to comply with a costly and unnecessary new data collection program, and it does so in order to protect local autonomy. I therefore encourage each of my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the amendment offered by my colleague Senator LEE would prohibit all funding for a fair housing regulation issued by HUD based on a requirement of a landmark civil rights law, the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Not only was this not a regulation that appeared out of thin air, the GAO did a report criticizing HUD, and once the regulation was implemented, closed the recommendation.

In addition, communities asked HUD to issue better guidance on this part of the law so that they could avoid being sued under the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move to table the Lee amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Table listing Senators in support (Yeas) including Alexander, Ayotte, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt, Booker, Brown, Burr, Cantwell, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Coats, Cochran, Collins, Coons, Donnelly, Durbin, Feinstein, Franken, Gillibrand, Graham, Hatch, Heinrich, Heitkamp, Hirono, Hoeven, Isakson, Kaine, King, Kirk, Klobuchar, Leahy, Manchin, Markey, McCain, McCaskill, Menendez, Merkley, Mikulski, Murkowski.

Table listing Senators in opposition (Nays) including Murphy, Murray, Nelson, Peters, Portman, Reed, Reid, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Stabenow, Tester, Tillis, Udall, Warner, Warren, Whitehouse, Wyden.

NAYS—37

Table listing Senators in opposition (Nays) including Barrasso, Boozman, Capito, Cassidy, Corker, Cornyn, Cotton, Crapo, Daines, Enzi, Ernst, Fischer, Flake, Gardner, Grassley, Heller, Inhofe, Johnson, Lankford, Lee, McConnell, Moran, Paul, Perdue, Risch, Roberts, Rounds, Rubio, Sasse, Scott, Sessions, Shelby, Sullivan, Thune, Toomey, Vitter, Wicker.

NOT VOTING—3

Table listing Senators not voting including Boxer, Cruz, Sanders.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4050 AND 4026, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 3896

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up en bloc and reported by number: Amendment No. 4050, offered by Senator RUBIO; and amendment No. 4026, as modified, offered by Senator BALDWIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for others, proposes amendments numbered 4050 and 4026, as modified, en bloc to amendment No. 3896.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4050

(Purpose: To make temporary relocation assistance available for tenants in project-based section 8 properties with imminent health and safety risks)

On page 85, line 6, insert "Provided further, That the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance from amounts made available under this paragraph for units assisted under a project-based subsidy contract funded under the 'Project-Based Rental Assistance' heading under this title where the owner has received a Notice of Default and the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: Provided further, That to the extent that the Secretary determines that such units are not feasible for continued rental assistance payments or transfer of the subsidy contract associated with such units to another project or projects and owner or owners, any remaining amounts associated with such units under such contract shall be recaptured and used to reimburse amounts used under this paragraph for rental assistance under the preceding proviso:" before "Provided further,".

AMENDMENT NO. 4026, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To prohibit certain health care providers from providing non-Department health care services to veterans)

At the end of title II of division B, add the following:

SEC. 251. PREVENTION OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FROM PROVIDING NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—One year after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

shall deny or revoke the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services to veterans if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the health care provider was removed from employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs due to conduct that violated a policy of the Department relating to the delivery of safe and appropriate patient care;

(2) the health care provider violated the requirements of a medical license of the health care provider;

(3) the health care provider had a Departmental credential revoked and the Secretary determines that the grounds for such revocation impacts the ability of the health care provider to deliver safe and appropriate care; or

(4) the health care provider violated a law for which a term of imprisonment of more than one year may be imposed.

(b) PERMISSIVE ACTION.—One year after enactment of this Act, the Secretary may deny, revoke, or suspend the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services if the Secretary has reasonable belief that such action is necessary to immediately protect the health, safety, or welfare of veterans and—

(1) the health care provider is under investigation by the medical licensing board of a State in which the health care provider is licensed or practices;

(2) the health care provider has entered into a settlement agreement for a disciplinary charge relating to the practice of medicine by the health care provider; or

(3) the Secretary otherwise determines that such action is appropriate under the circumstances.

(c) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary shall suspend the eligibility of a health care provider to provide non-Department health care services to veterans if the health care provider is suspended from serving as a health care provider of the Department.

(d) INITIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review the Department employment status and history of each healthcare provider providing non-Department healthcare services to determine instances of circumstances described in paragraphs (a) through (c) and shall take action as appropriate to each circumstance as described in paragraphs (a) through (c).

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation by the Secretary of this section, including the following:

(1) The aggregate number of health care providers denied or suspended under this section from participation in providing non-Department health care services.

(2) An evaluation of any impact on access to care for patients or staffing shortages in programs of the Department providing non-Department health care services.

(3) An explanation of the coordination of the Department with the medical licensing boards of States in implementing this section, the amount of involvement of such boards in such implementation, and efforts by the Department to address any concerns raised by such boards with respect to such implementation.

(4) Such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding harmonizing eligibility criteria between health care providers of the Department and health care providers eligible to provide non-Department health care services.

(f) NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “non-Department health care services” means—

(1) services provided under subchapter I of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities (as defined in section 1701 of such title);

(2) services provided under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note);

(3) services purchased through the Medical Community Care account of the Department; or

(4) services purchased with amounts deposited in the Veterans Choice Fund under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the amendments, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 4050 and 4026, as modified) were agreed to en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the substitute amendment No. 3896, as amended, is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the cloture motion on the underlying bill is withdrawn.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (MR. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Capito	Donnelly
Ayotte	Cardin	Durbin
Baldwin	Carper	Enzi
Barrasso	Casey	Ernst
Bennet	Cassidy	Feinstein
Blumenthal	Coats	Fischer
Blunt	Cochran	Franken
Booker	Collins	Gardner
Boozman	Coons	Gillibrand
Brown	Cornyn	Graham
Burr	Cotton	Grassley
Cantwell	Daines	Hatch

Heinrich	Menendez	Schumer
Heitkamp	Merkley	Scott
Heller	Mikulski	Shaheen
Hirono	Moran	Shelby
Hoeven	Murkowski	Stabenow
Inhofe	Murphy	Sullivan
Isakson	Murray	Tester
Johnson	Nelson	Thune
Kaine	Perdue	Tillis
King	Peters	Toomey
Kirk	Portman	Udall
Klobuchar	Reed	Vitter
Leahy	Reid	Warner
Manchin	Roberts	Warren
Markey	Rounds	Whitehouse
McCain	Rubio	Wicker
McCaskill	Sasse	Wyden
McConnell	Schatz	

NAYS—8

Corker	Lankford	Risch
Crapo	Lee	Sessions
Flake	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Cruz	Sanders
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The bill (H.R. 2577), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before I make some closing remarks, I would yield to Senator REED, who has been such an extraordinary partner as we have worked together in a transparent and collaborative way to bring this bill across the finish line.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me return the compliment to the Chairman of the committee, Senator COLLINS of Maine, for her extraordinary insight, leadership, and ability to bring us together. This bill reflects the priorities of members on both sides of the aisle, it reflects sound policy, and it was a pleasure to work with her.

I think that she will also commend our extraordinary staffs who provided support, working many times when we were not working to get the job done. I thank Dabney Hegg, Heideh Shahmoradi, Christina Monroe, Nathan Robinson, Jordan Stone, Jason Woolwine, Mike Clarke, Lydia Collins, and Gus Maples. These are professionals who are thoughtful, skillful, pleasant, and probably deserving of the real praise for work done on the floor.

Let me once again thank Senator COLLINS for her thoughtful leadership and her commitment to fairness and principle. I think that she is one of the major reasons we are here today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Senate has completed its consideration of this appropriations measure, which provides essential funding for the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, related agencies, military construction programs, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to combat Zika. I thank all of my colleagues for working together with us in an open and collaborative manner.

I would note that the legislation we just passed incorporates some 40

amendments. There were also recommendations from more than 75 Senators from both sides of the aisle included in the Transportation-HUD appropriations portion of this bill which were incorporated at the committee level. I thank all of my colleagues for giving us their suggestions, their requests, and their insights. It made for a better bill.

As I mentioned, I am particularly grateful to Senator JACK REED, the ranking member of the Transportation-HUD Subcommittee, for his work.

I also thank the staff for their diligence and commitment throughout this process. As Senator REED mentioned, we worked extremely hard, but our staff worked even harder. So I thank Heideh Shahmoradi, Rajat Mathur, Jason Woolwine, Lydia Collins, Gus Maples, Dabney Hegg, Nathan Robinson, Christina Monroe, Jordan Stone, and Mike Clarke on the subcommittee staff.

I also give special thanks to the floor and cloakroom staffs who worked so hard. Without the help of Laura Dove and her team and the team on the Democratic side, we could not be where we are today. They did a lot of the vetting that needed to be done on various amendments. They helped us in the negotiations and compromises that ultimately were included in this bill.

I would note that our Transportation-HUD portion of this bill recognizes the fiscal reality while making critical investments into our crumbling infrastructure and economic development projects. It meets our responsibility to vulnerable populations. I think most of our colleagues are unaware that 84 percent of HUD's budget goes to subsidized housing. When we fund that, we keep very vulnerable low-income families, disabled individuals, and our low-income seniors from being at risk of homelessness.

We also paid special attention in this bill to vulnerable homeless populations, such as our veterans and our young people. We continued a program the administration wanted to abolish that helps our homeless veterans, to whom we owe so much—\$57 million in new vouchers, so that we can continue the progress we are making in housing our homeless veterans. Since we started this program, the number of homeless veterans has declined by about one-third. This program works, but we can't declare victory until the job is done. That is why both last year and this year we funded the program, even though the President's budget sought to eliminate it.

We have made real investments in helping some of our most vulnerable young people, and those are youth who have been in the Foster Care Program and then age out of that program. In some cases, they are aging out of the program before they have even graduated from high school, and they have nowhere to go. So through family reunification vouchers and other programs, we are beefing up support so

they don't fall through the cracks and become vulnerable to traffickers, to dropping out of school, to couch surfing, or ending up in shelters. In particular, I am very proud of the work we have done in that area.

I am very pleased this bill funds the TIGER Grant Program at \$525 million. This program has been extraordinarily popular and effective. It has funded projects in each and every State—projects that have led to job creation and economic development. When we think about it, at heart, much in this bill is about creating jobs and security for our fellow citizens. If you don't have a place to live, it is very difficult to show up for work every day. If the infrastructure is crumbling, it is very difficult for a business to hire the employees who produce the products and get those products to market. The construction projects this bill will fund creates good-paying jobs. In many ways, I think of this as a jobs bill.

Let me give another example of a very popular program, the Community Development Block Grant Program. If you ask of the mayors and other town and city officials in your State, they will point to that program as one that gives them the flexibility to improve their downtowns, to make investments that bring new employers to the region, to build affordable housing, whatever their needs are, and that is the beauty of that program. It is not dictated from Washington. It gives tremendous flexibility to States and communities to design the kinds of economic development programs that boost growth and create jobs.

In short, our bill strikes the right balance between thoughtful investment and fiscal restraint and thereby sets the stage for future economic growth, something I know the Presiding Officer has been a real leader in speaking out about and reminding us that must be our focus as Members of the Senate.

I am also pleased we were able to bring spending bills to the floor for Members to examine, debate, and vote on in a transparent manner. The worst situation is when we do a series of continuing resolutions temporarily funding the essential functions of government. They create such uncertainty, they lock in priorities from previous years rather than reflecting today's priorities, and they end up costing more money. Agencies are unable to enter into contracts. Businesses, because of the uncertainty, tend to build in a little extra into their bids. It is a terrible way to operate.

Equally bad is the practice of bundling all 12 of the appropriations bills into one gigantic omnibus bill, thousands of pages long, that is rushed through at the end of the fiscal year—or, more often, at the expiration of one of those continuing resolutions that I just deplore. We are not doing that this year. This is the third appropriations bill that the Senate has passed earlier than ever, with great cooperation from both sides of the aisle. The Members of

the Appropriations Committee and its two leaders, Senator COCHRAN and Senator MIKULSKI, deserve great credit for putting us on a strict schedule and keeping the process moving.

In fact, in the full committee today, we approved two more appropriations bills that are ready to come to the Senate floor. That is the way the process used to work. That is the way the process should work, and that is the way the process is working this year. I believe it is a great credit to the Senate, to the leaders of the Appropriations Committee, and to Majority Leader MCCONNELL, who has made it a goal that all 12 bills be reported by the Appropriations Committee and brought to the Senate floor, individually or two or three combined, for full and open debate.

Again, I thank Members on both sides of the aisle. Many of your requests are included in this important legislation. I feel fortunate to have worked with Senator JACK REED on this bill. He is not only a great colleague and a terrific Senator but also a good friend.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. COLLINS. 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.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, there is an ongoing debate in our politics today about the value of leadership around the world in the 21st century. There is a view that seems to be gaining traction and favor—that our international engagement is one-sided, that our allies are free riders, that we contribute too much and get too little in return, and so why should we be involved in the world? These voices exist in both parties, and I would like to answer them today.

I want to start by looking back at the last century, when the world emerged from the death and destruction of the Second World War. The United States could have decided after that war to wall ourselves off—that after the loss of so many of our best and brightest, we had already paid enough for peace.

Instead, our country became the driving force behind international

order. We forged a series of strong alliances, led with moral clarity, and positioned our military strength strategically around the world. In doing so, the American people benefitted immensely as we helped to stave off the threat of another global conflict and oversaw decades of economic growth and the spread of democracy and freedom around the world. Then, like now, our people benefitted tremendously from our status in the world, even though our engagement was disproportional to that of other nations; in fact, we benefitted precisely because our engagement was disproportional to that of other nations.

International engagement has never been a business deal. International engagement is not a transaction in which we give something tangible and receive something tangible in return. America has more to give to the nations we are helping, and that is one of the reasons why we have a responsibility to lead. It is written in the Bible: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required." But our leadership ends up paying dividends for the entire world, and especially for the American people.

First of all, American workers and families benefit economically. International affairs have a bigger impact on the financial well-being of our people today than ever before. In our global economy, someone on the other side of the planet can now buy a product from an American with the tap of a finger. But when nations or entire regions are torn apart by war and by oppression, they become closed off, and economic growth in our own country is restricted as a result.

If America were to fail to protect the openness of international waters, global shipping would be threatened and prices would rise for consumers on virtually everything. Similarly, if space and cyber space became threatened or restricted, global communications and commerce would suffer as well.

Americans also see real benefits in terms of our safety at home and around the world. Without American leadership, regional order tends to break down, and then instability spreads. This opens up vacuums that are filled up by radicals, and those radicals always—irrespective of what we are doing or what we are not doing—target America, and they do so either to bolster their own prestige or for ideological reasons or often for both. As President Obama has found, leaving the Middle East doesn't mean terrorists stop trying to kill Americans. Our families, our homeland, and our men and women in uniform are less safe when America disengages from the world.

We also benefit geopolitically when we help other nations. Think what Europe would look like if it had not been for America's moral and strategic leadership during the Cold War. Europe still faces many challenges today, mainly because of our neglect of the crisis in Syria, but for centuries prior,

Europe was driven by conflict. European peace was thought to be impossible. Yet that is what NATO and other institutions have helped achieve with American support.

What would Asia look like right now had the United States not helped it to rebuild after the Second World War. Look at the way that American leadership allowed South Korea to go from a poor country—a dictatorship—to a vibrant democracy and one of the largest economies in the world. South Korea is now a net donor to foreign aid and a crucial ally for us in a region that includes an aggressive China and a belligerent North Korea.

Japan has gone from a country devastated by war and not trusted by its neighbors to one of the most peaceful societies in the world. It has also become a net contributor to global security through its military and humanitarian assistance programs.

Then there is the Middle East. Whether we should continue to play a role there is a question that weighs particularly heavily on the minds of many Americans. I understand the doubts and frustrations. We have been involved in the region for decades. Nothing seems to be getting better, and despite our attempts to help, we watch on television as some celebrate our tragedies and burn our flag in the Arab streets.

It is true that we cannot solve all of the region's problems, but we have an interest in what happens there, nonetheless. That interest is served by our involvement, not by our withdrawal. ISIS arose, in the first place, because of the political instability that exists in both Syria and Iraq, and that instability was created in part because President Obama withdrew or withheld American leadership at crucial moments.

Failing to lead costs us more in the long-term than it saves us in the short-term, and we will continue to pay a steep price each time we fail to lead in the future.

There are complex considerations to make regarding our engagement in every region, but I believe a world without sustained American engagement is not a world any of us want to live in. This idea shared by prominent voices in both parties—that America is such a weak nation that we cannot afford to be engaged in the world—is one of the biggest lies ever told to the American people. Just because our government leaders are weak does not mean America is weak.

No American wants to live in a world where Vladimir Putin sets the agenda or ISIS holds us hostage to their demands. Yet this is the world we are heading toward as political leaders continue to embrace America's decline.

Defense spending is currently at roughly 3.3 percent of our budget, compared to 14 percent at the height of the Korean war. Our Army is on track to be at pre-World War II levels. Our Navy is already at pre-World War I levels,

and our Air Force has the smallest and oldest combat force in its history. These are the results of specific policy choices made by politicians right here. It is no accident that the result has been more conflict around the world and less American influence.

I saw firsthand on a recent trip to Iraq how our men and women in uniform around the world are doing their best to keep us safe with limited resources. We put them in an untenable position. They are asked to maintain our global commitments, fight ISIS and other terrorist groups, and deter countries such as Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China. They and our country deserve better.

"Spend less abroad so we can spend more at home" has become a common refrain among leaders in both parties. It is used to excuse cuts to the military and our presence around the world. The truth is that the defense budget is not the primary driver of our debt. It is our entitlement programs. Every time we try to cut a dollar from our military, it seems to cost us several more just to make up for it.

In addition to investing in our strength, we must apply that strength in a way that respects our values and supports our economic interests.

Americans deserve a foreign policy we can be proud of. But for the last 8 years, we have had a Commander in Chief who praises and appeases dictators to promote the illusion of peace. Some in my party have now adopted a similar approach. They may claim to represent different ideas, but both emanate from the same notion—that Americans are too tired, that America is too weak, and that we are too much like the rest of the world to stand up to tyrants, so we should just cut deals with them instead.

This is not only morally wrong, but it is contrary to our interests. Whenever our foreign policy becomes unhinged from its moral purpose, it weakens global stability and it forms cracks in our national resolve. But whenever freedom and human rights spread, partners for our Nation are born. We must restore America's willingness to state boldly what we stand for and why. Just as Reagan never flinched in his criticisms of the Soviet Union, we must not shy away from demanding that China allow true freedom for its 1.3 billion people or boldly stating that Vladimir Putin is a corrupt thug. Nor should we hesitate in calling the source of atrocities in the Middle East by its real name—radical Islam. We should always stand with Israel, and we should not abandon the cause of freedom in our own hemisphere and allow cruel and immoral dictatorships in Cuba and Venezuela to be absolved of their crimes.

The world needs America's moral and military strength just as much as our people and our economy do. No other nation can deter global conflict by its presence alone. No other nation can offer the security and benevolence that

America can. No other Nation can be trusted to defend peace and advance liberty.

America cannot avoid its role as a global leader. But we also know America cannot be tasked with protecting the world on its own. It will take an international order of free nations with free economies to do so. We must work with like-minded allies whenever possible and encourage them to do their part, but no other nation has the ability to organize or lead such a coalition if we fail to do so.

That is why I will continue to make the case for an engaged America, no matter who becomes our next President, no matter how the political winds may blow. Our safety and our prosperity depend on it. The ideal of America depends on it. That was true last century, and it is even more so today.

Madam President, with that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am pleased that today the Senate passed two annual spending bills—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs—and approved funding to combat the Zika virus.

Senators COLLINS, REED, KIRK, and TESTER worked hard to craft good, bipartisan bills with no ideological, partisan policy riders.

They have reminded us of the way we should do business here in the Senate.

I was proud to support both bills when they were considered by the Appropriations Committee in recent weeks and proud to support them again today.

I am pleased that the bill includes long-overdue funding to fight Zika. The bill does not provide the full amount of funding that our health and infectious disease experts say they need, but it does provide a good down payment of \$1.1 billion.

We must do more, and we must do it now, in order to protect pregnant women nationwide.

This bill builds on the surface transportation bill, the FAST Act, that Congress passed last year that provides funding over 5 years for rail and highway infrastructure.

Illinois rail lines are at the center of our national transportation network.

In 2014, 5 million people boarded or exited trains in Illinois, giving resi-

dents a safe, affordable option when traveling.

The bill supports rail options by providing strong funding for Amtrak, including \$1.42 billion for the national network.

It increases funding for TIGER and Core Capacity Capital Investment Grants, which supports transportation improvement projects across Illinois like the CTA's Red Purple Modernization project to provide more commuter passenger rail options to people in Chicago.

The bill also funds important rail safety programs across the country.

First-time funding for passenger rail grant programs authorized in the FAST Act will address gaps in supporting and growing our nation's passenger rail infrastructure.

Rail line relocation and grade crossing enhancements will reduce accidents and improve passenger safety in Illinois and around the country.

Nearly 1.1 million barrels of crude oil are hauled on our nation's railroads every day. Last year's derailment in Galena, IL, highlights the need to invest in rail safety.

The bill continues funding for Positive Train Control programs and supports the Safe Transport of Energy Products Program.

There is always more work to be done. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America scores a D in investment in roads, transit, and aviation and a C-plus in rail.

This bill is a good start. This bill not only invests in our transportation infrastructure, but it also invests in our housing infrastructure.

I want to thank Senators COLLINS and REED again for their efforts to address lead-based paint hazards in our Nation's low-income housing.

Since Flint, we have learned that exposure to lead, be it through our drinking water or paint in our homes, is still a major problem in communities across Illinois and the country.

We have also learned that, when government shortchanges our infrastructure because of opposition to common-sense protections and draconian spending cuts, families suffer the consequences.

In the case of Flint, local and State government was the problem, and now, it, along with Federal Government, have to be part of the solution.

And the provisions in this bill can help us do that. This bill requires HUD to update its standards to the CDC's blood level standard, which is currently four times the CDC level. It improves tenant awareness and education of the lead-based paint hazards. And it provides a modest increase in funding for the identification and remediation of lead-based hazards found in federally assisted housing.

These are all good things, and they will go a long way in addressing the government's abysmal and embarrassing record in dealing with this problem, which has led to far too many

children living in federally subsidized housing suffering from lead poisoning, including one family in Chicago. Lanice Walker's 4-year-old daughter was diagnosed with lead poisoning less than 5 months after her and her family moved into a home subsidized by a Housing Choice Voucher.

But Lanice Walker was not able to move without the risk of losing her voucher because her daughter's blood lead level, which was two times the CDC level, didn't meet the standards under HUD regulations. It wasn't until all nine of her children had elevated blood levels and legal advocates intervened on her behalf before she was granted permission to move.

This is unacceptable, and we must do more to protect children in affordable housing before they become poisoned by lead. We must ensure that lead-based paint hazards are properly identified before a family moves into a unit. We must update all outdated lead regulations using the most recent science and enforce them. And we must adequately fund programs designed to identify and eliminate lead paint hazards.

I hope that our efforts today are just the beginning of our recommitment to addressing our lead epidemic.

The Senate also approved the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, which provides a \$3.1 billion increase above fiscal year 2016 enacted levels.

This funding will support a wide variety of projects to ensure the military readiness and quality of life on military bases within the United States and around the world.

It provides \$70 million for Arlington National Cemetery to ensure that the final resting place for our servicemembers is well maintained.

The bill ensures that we provide for our Nation's veterans and their families, those who have sacrificed so much over the years and deserve our gratitude.

The Veterans Benefits Administration will receive \$2.8 billion more than last year to help the VA modernize its claims processing as well as help reduce and eliminate backlogs.

Forcing veterans to wait months and sometimes years to get the benefits they deserve is unacceptable.

The bill increases funding for critical programs and emerging needs, including hepatitis C treatment, whistleblower protection, as well as family caregiver support.

For years, I have championed the caregivers program in Congress, so I am pleased that this program is a priority in this bill.

Hundreds of veterans and their caregivers in Illinois and more than 23,000 nationwide participate in this program, with much success.

The bill increases medical and prosthetic research funding by \$44 million compared to fiscal year 2016, at \$675 million. These funds are critical to continuing our national commitment

to medical research and will help our veterans that return home with both the physical and mental wounds of war.

The number of veterans using VA services is dramatically increasing as the population ages. The VA provides more care for veterans now than ever before, and more of these veterans and their families have increasingly critical needs.

I would also like to take a moment to address an amendment I offered that was included as part of a managers package.

My amendment directs the Secretary of the VA to spend at least \$21 million to fill critical staffing shortages in VA leadership at networks, medical centers, and health care systems across the country.

At least three dozen key VA leadership positions are currently filled by acting or interim directors, sometimes for years at a time. In my home State of Illinois, for example, Hines VA Hospital has not had a permanent director since 2014.

Permanently assigned leadership that is capable of overseeing and managing networks and medical centers is critical to delivering high quality care to our Nation's veterans in a timely fashion, especially at a time when the VA faces a number of challenges.

This funding will help the VA prioritize filling these key positions, as well as address staffing shortages in other management and clinical positions, including in rural and underserved areas.

It is my hope that this funding will allow the VA to quickly fill these important positions within the Department.

I am glad to say that overall, moving this bill is good for our Nation's military and their families.

I hope today's action by the Senate is another step in the direction of passing all 12 appropriations bills, all without ideological riders.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to continue to work with us in a bipartisan manner to pass additional appropriations bills without ideological riders.

I would also like to urge my colleagues to quickly send these funding measures to the President. Zika funding is needed now.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to join Americans across the country in recognizing the immeasurable sacrifices made every day by the men and women of law enforcement. Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to help uphold the rule of law in America. Their professionalism and commitment to justice underpin so much of what has allowed this country to thrive for generations.

In May 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week con-

taining May 15 as National Police Week. In that proclamation, President Kennedy stated, “. . . from the beginning of this Nation, law enforcement officers have played an important role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms which are guaranteed by the Constitution and in protecting the lives and property of our citizens. . . .”

It is that twofold role of protecting both the constitutional and physical well-being of all Americans that earns law enforcement officers such a revered place in American society. In the 53 years since President Kennedy established this national celebration of law enforcement, much has changed in regards to the tactics and procedure for protecting essential rights and freedoms, as well as the nature of threats against personal property and the citizenry. What has not changed in the unwavering commitment to addressing these challenges by law enforcement agencies nationwide.

My home State of Maryland is home to a close-knit, well-trained, and dedicated network of law enforcement agencies. Maryland is often called America in Miniature, and as such, Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers across Maryland are expected to be able to respond to an incredibly diverse set of situations.

Being on the front lines of upholding the rule of law and protecting Americans from harm is not easy work. There is hardly a law enforcement officer in the United States who will not face the threat of bodily harm during their career. Unfortunately, due to the dangerous nature of police work, law enforcement officers across the country are killed on the job every year.

Thus far in 2016, 35 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty. Every one of those men and women left a family and grieving law enforcement agency. California, Colorado, and Maryland share the painful distinction of leading the Nation in law enforcement deaths in the line of duty. Three officers from each one of the aforementioned States were killed in the line of duty; in Maryland, all three were killed by gunfire.

Senior Deputies Patrick Dailey and Mark Logsdon of the Harford County Sheriff's office and Officer Jacai Colson of the Prince George's County Police Department were all model officers who were tragically killed while protecting colleagues and civilians. All three of these men served communities in Maryland with distinction and contributed greatly to not only public safety but also to helping build strong and lasting relationships among law enforcement and the people they protect.

Senior Deputies Dailey and Logsdon were both fathers and military veterans. Both served honorably with the Harford County Sheriff's Office.

On Christmas Eve 2002, Deputy Dailey saved the life of a teenager traveling in an SUV that collided head-on with a cement mixing truck. Deputy

Dailey, a number of fellow sheriffs, and two civilians emptied six fire extinguishers in an attempt to quell a fire that threatened to engulf the vehicle and the unresponsive driver. Using only their bare hands and batons, the group managed to free the driver seconds before the fire consumed the passenger compartment. The teen was able to thank his rescuers 3 months later at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Awards Banquet.

Exactly 11 years before his death, Deputy Logsdon confronted a suicidal man who was armed with a loaded shotgun. In a display of great bravery and at great risk to himself, Deputy Logsdon managed to talk the man into surrendering his weapon. After the man was disarmed, Deputy Logsdon continued to help the man by transporting him to the hospital, where he received medical care.

Officer Colson was an undercover narcotics agent. He had a dangerous job with zero margin for error. Officer Colson did not make errors. He was a 4-year veteran of the Prince George's Police Department. The commander of the Prince George's County Police Department's Narcotic Enforcement Division said of Colson, “Not only is he good at his job, he's that guy that you wanted on your team.”

The President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 89 described Officer Colson as “. . . always the first person here in the morning, ready to work and put in a full day's work.”

All three of these men could have done anything with their lives, and they chose to uphold the law. I am thankful that, for the many people they interacted with on a daily basis, these men embodied justice. I join Marylanders in mourning their loss.

It is my hope that this National Police Week serves as a catalyst to communities and governments across the country to evaluate ways to better serve those who are sworn to protect and serve.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, this evening, I want to honor our Nation's peace officers and to remember those who we have lost in the line of duty over the last year.

Sunday was Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day set aside by President Kennedy in 1962 to honor those law enforcement officers who we have lost in the line of duty, a day that unfortunately has touched me personally, both in the past while serving as attorney general for North Dakota and tragically again earlier this year when the city of Fargo, ND, lost one of its finest in the line of duty.

On the evening of Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Fargo Police Officer Jason Moszer answered the call to serve and protect for what would turn out to be the last time. He knew when he answered that call that he would confront an active-shooter situation, and he never hesitated in taking up a position to put himself between the shooter and the community he so very much loved.

Officer Moszer was struck down that evening, and his name will forever be etched in stone on the North Dakota's Peace Officer's Memorial that sits on the grounds of the State capitol in Bismarck. Through rain, sleet, and snow—extreme heat and cold—he will now stand alongside those other North Dakota officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. They provide an unwavering example that, regardless of what conditions they face, our peace officers will stand steadfast regardless of what challenges they may face.

National Police Week is very special to me. When I served as attorney general of North Dakota in the 1990s, I had the privilege to work directly with many of our State's law enforcement officers, from the highway patrol, to State and local officers, various Federal officers, and our tribal police. It was in that job that I truly began to appreciate the hard work and dedication of those officers who serve the people of North Dakota. These are some of the finest men and women I have ever met.

During my time as a U.S. Senator, I have been able to see many old friends that continue their service and have met an entire new generation of law enforcement officers at the beginning of their careers. I can tell you that this new generation of law enforcement officers are not only up to the task, but will most certainly meet the same standards of excellence as their predecessors.

I want to give special recognition to the Grand Forks Country Drug Task Force, a collection of State, local, and Federal law enforcement members who were honored earlier this year by the HIDTA program with an Outstanding Cooperative Effort award. This award came as the result of Operation Denial, a multiagency investigation into the international trafficking of fentanyl and other lethal drugs that led to multiple arrests and convictions in various States and countries. As we talk about the opioid abuse epidemic in the Senate and look to address this scourge on our communities, law enforcement officers are on the front lines tackling this challenge head-on.

When honoring the service and sacrifice of our Nation's law enforcement officers, all too often there is a group of officers that don't garner the attention and praise that they deserve, our tribal law enforcement officers. Tribal officers work in some of the most challenging conditions, with incredible jurisdictional challenges and an embarrassing lack of resources, but they do not let that stand in the way of their dedication and passion to protect Indian Country. This evening, I want to extend special recognition and a personal thank you to all of our tribal law enforcement officers.

I continue to work on behalf of our men and women in law enforcement, and all of us in Congress must continue to support our law enforcement officers with the resources and protections nec-

essary for them to perform their duties.

Last year, I was proud to see a bill that I cosponsored, the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu [Wen-Gin Lew] National Blue Alert Act, enacted into law. This bipartisan legislation established a national Blue Alert communications network to disseminate information about threats to officers. The law seeks to make sure that appropriate steps can be taken as quickly as possible to provide for an officer's safety.

Just yesterday, the President signed two more bills into law that I supported and that will give law enforcement additional and sorely needed resources, the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act that will provide increased tools to go after foreign manufacturers or distributors of chemicals that will eventually end up in the U.S. as illicit drugs, and the Bulletproof Vest Reauthorization Act will extend for 5 years the matching grant program that helps law enforcement purchase lifesaving bulletproof vests.

Just last week, another bill, the POLICE Act, passed out of the Judiciary Committee. This bill would make Federal grants available for law enforcement officers and medical personnel to help them better prepare for active-shooter situations, including training civilians on how to respond if confronted by an active shooter. Congress needs to swiftly pass this bill.

And I am a proud cosponsor of Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY's resolution recognizing among other things, the dedication and sacrifice of all of our law enforcement officers and our debt of gratitude to each and every one of them.

Thank you to all of our Nation's law enforcement officers for the jobs you do every day. I want to especially thank the law enforcement officers in my home State of North Dakota. I believe they are the finest collection of officers in the Nation. They are out there working day and night to keep our families safe, and just as they do for us, I will keep fighting for them every day. This Nation, our State, and our local communities owe our law enforcement officers a continuing debt of gratitude for their selfless actions to meet their sworn duty to protect and serve.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BOB NEWMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, in honor of National Military Appreciation Month, I wish to recognize Bob Newman of Musselshell County, a U.S. Army veteran. After leaving the Army, he went into law enforcement and served his community in the Musselshell County Sheriff's Department. Newman has dedicated his life to serving God, his country, and his community by giving countless hours of his time to military service, as well as

helping fellow veterans in a countless number of ways.

Since leaving the Army, Newman has participated in hundreds of services aimed towards veterans. Two great examples of his dedication are his work with the Patriot Guard of Montana and with Big Sky Honor Flights. The Patriot Guard of Montana was founded in 2005, and Newman was one of its original members; he now serves as a ride captain. This grassroots organization consists of motorcycle riders who want to show respect for fallen American soldiers by escorting funeral processions for fallen heroes and protecting mourning family and friends from any potential disturbances caused by protestors.

Newman also partakes in Big Sky Honor Flights, an organization whose mission is "to recognize Montana World War II Veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial at no cost." Upon one flight's return in 2013, he was a part of the celebrating crowd that welcomed the veterans back at the Billings Logan International Airport with loud cheering and waving of American flags. Newman said, "It's an honor to be able to stand for them and give them the recognition they deserve."

Other services Newman has been involved in are the Missing in America Project, assisting families of our fallen heroes in various capacities, helping disabled veterans and homeless veterans in addition to an endless amount of other projects for those in need.

Montana has a rich legacy of military service, and Bob is a true Montana hero and role model for us all. It takes a devoted and courageous person to sacrifice their life to protect the lives and freedom that we hold so dear. I am deeply grateful for the many sacrifices Bob has made for our Nation and State.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT KAT KAELIN

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize SSG Kat Kaelin for her outstanding contributions in serving our country. In 2011, Staff Sergeant Kaelin was selected to serve as a member of a 20-woman cultural support team, CST, that assisted Special Operations missions in locating terrorists for an 8 month period. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her achievement in qualifying for this prestigious position and for her continued dedication in serving the female military community.

Staff Sergeant Kaelin joined the Nevada National Guard while she was still in her junior year of high school at Spring Creek High School. Beginning in August of 2011, she served in an 8-month mission in Iraq as a member of CST-2. The team was designed specifically to serve as a resource for the 75th Ranger Regiment in its mission by gathering information from Afghan

women and children. To become a member of the team, Staff Sergeant Kaelin endured intense fitness training and psychological testing. After successfully finishing training, she became the first and only woman from the Nevada National Guard to join a CST. Staff Sergeant Kaelin earned a Combat Action Badge for her service in this role. Her sacrifice in defending our freedoms is invaluable.

In May of 2012, Staff Sergeant Kaelin returned to the United States, and she is currently finishing her military career in the Inactive Ready Reserves. Since returning from deployment, she has dedicated her time to a new mission to help others returning home from service. Specifically, she has been fighting to assist women veterans and their children who are homeless. She has become a powerful voice on behalf of female veterans, and I am thankful for all that she has done for our country and the State of Nevada. She is now running for Ms. Veteran America for 2016 in her endeavors to increase awareness for female veterans. I wish her the best of luck in this competition.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Staff Sergeant Kaelin for her courageous contributions to our Nation. Her unwavering dedication to her career is commendable, and she stands as a shining example for future generations of heroes. Staff Sergeant Kaelin's service to her country and her bravery earn her a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that female servicemembers and veterans have access to their specific health care needs. There are countless distinguished women who have made sacrifices beyond measure and deserve nothing but the best treatment. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation and will continue to fight until this becomes a reality.

Throughout her tenure, Staff Sergeant Kaelin has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Army. I am both humbled and honored by her service and am proud to have had someone from the Nevada National Guard serve our Nation in such a significant role. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Kaelin for all of her accomplishments and wish her well in her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING ANNE PERSHING

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today we honor the life and legacy of Anne Pershing, whose passing signifies

a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends during this time of difficulty. Ms. Pershing was an upstanding Nevadan, committed to bringing journalistic excellence to the Fallon community. She will be sorely missed by the entire Nevada family.

Ms. Pershing was raised in Bushnell, IL, and moved to the Silver State over 30 years ago. She received her bachelor's degree in speech communications, in addition to studying journalism, at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR. In 1983, she started her professional career working for the Lahontan Valley News as a general assignment reporter. By 1987, she had successfully climbed the ladder and was chosen to serve as editor of the newspaper and, later, as general manager.

During her tenure, Ms. Pershing went above and beyond in her role to become acquainted with the city of Fallon and its residents, embodying what it means to be a true community journalist. Throughout the late 1990s, Ms. Pershing and her team covered the child leukemia cluster that greatly affected the local community, gaining national attention for her work on the breaking story. Ms. Pershing and her team were later recognized for their efforts by being nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service and were honored in 2002 with an Associated Press Public Service Award. Ms. Pershing stands as a role model to the Nevada journalism community with her commendable and reliable reporting. We will always remember her resilient spirit in shining light on issues important to our State.

In 2004, Ms. Pershing moved on to work for the Star Press, a small weekly newspaper in Fallon, and after this newspaper ceased publication, she continued writing as a contributing columnist for the publication at the School of Medicine at UNR. In 2008, she was inducted into the Nevada Press Association Hall of Fame for all of her efforts. Ms. Pershing spent her final journalistic years writing in her weekly newspaper column about the most important issues affecting Nevada's senior population. Throughout her decades of service to Nevada journalism, Ms. Pershing demonstrated unwavering dedication to bringing Nevadans truthful and insightful news coverage. She was truly one-of-a-kind in her endeavors to support her local community. Her legacy of kindness, loyalty, and drive will echo on for years to come.

For over 30 years, Ms. Pershing served as a tremendous contributor to Nevada journalism. Her commitment to the Silver State will never be forgotten. Today I join the Fallon community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an honorable Nevadan, Ms. Anne Pershing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5425. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Definitions of 'Portfolio Reconciliation' and 'Material Terms' for Purposes of Swap Portfolio Reconciliation" (RIN3038-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program; Portable Storage Facilities and Reduced Down Payment for FSFL Microloans" (RIN0560-AI35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5427. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Guarantee Loan Program" ((7 CFR Part 3555) (RIN0575-AD04)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5428. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2003 through 2012 Operations and Maintenance, Army National Guard, and was assigned case number 12-07; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5429. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5430. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Frank Gorenc, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5431. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5432. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Short Supply License Requirements on Exports of Crude Oil" (RIN0694-AG83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5433. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pass-Through Share Insurance for Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts" (RIN3133-AE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5434. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment and Deposit Activities—Bank Notes" (RIN3133-AE55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5435. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Registration of Securities Transfer Agents" (RIN3064-AE41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5436. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5437. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5438. 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-5439. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5440. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Evaluation by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Topical Report WCAP-17096-NP, Revision 2 'Reactor Internals Acceptance Criteria Methodology and Data Requirements'" (Project No. 669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5441. 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 "Self-employment Tax Treatment of Partners in a Partnership that Owns a Disregarded Entity" ((RIN1545-BM87) (TD 9766)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5442. 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 "List of Automatic Changes in Method of Accounting" (Rev. Proc. 2016-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5443. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Access to Information" (RIN1400-AD44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5444. 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-5445. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-024); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5446. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-147); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5447. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "United States Tobacco Product Exports That Do Not Conform to Tobacco Product Standards"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5448. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improving Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses" (RIN1218-AC49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5449. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5450. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5451. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5452. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Improvement in Design-Build Construction Process" ((RIN9000-AN10) (FAC 2005-88)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5453. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Basic Safeguarding of Contractor Information Systems" ((RIN9000-AM19) (FAC 2005-88)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5454. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Simplified Acquisition Threshold for Overseas Acquisitions in Support of Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operations" ((RIN9000-AN09) (FAC 2005-88)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5455. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons" ((RIN9000-AM87) (FAC 2005-88)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5456. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-88; Introduction" (FAC 2005-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5457. A communication from the Acting Director, Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program: Options B and C" (RIN3206-AM96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5458. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the compliance of federal district courts with documentation submission requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5459. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of UR-144, XLR11, and AKB48 into Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-417) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5460. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-88; Small Entity Compliance Guide” (FAC 2005-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5461. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2016-2017 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass” (RIN0648-XE542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5462. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacktip Sharks, Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks, and Hammerhead Sharks in the Western Gulf of Mexico Sub-Region” (RIN0648-XE484) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5463. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries” (RIN0648-XE566) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5464. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries” (RIN0648-XE539) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5465. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Group Retention Limit Adjustment” (RIN0648-XE531) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5466. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2016 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper” (RIN0648-XE506) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5467. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2016 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic” (RIN0648-XE533) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5468. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2016 Recreational Fishing Seasons for Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico” (RIN0648-XE575) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5469. 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 “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Management Measures; Amendment 28; Final Rule” (RIN0648-BD68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5470. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XE543) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5471. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XE516) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5472. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Apportionments” (RIN0648-XE528) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5473. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XE590) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5474. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; American Fisheries Act; Amendment 111” (RIN0648-BF29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5475. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area”

(RIN0648-XE551) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5476. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XE532) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5477. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2016 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish; January Through June Season” (RIN0648-XE526) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5478. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XE558) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5479. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments” (RIN0648-BF92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5480. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries Of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2016; Recreational Management Measures” (RIN0648-BF69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5481. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer” (RIN0648-XE499) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5482. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Framework Adjustment 4” (RIN0648-BE94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5483. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States;

Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment of Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limit" (RIN0648-XE427) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5484. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XE564) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5485. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhanced Document Requirements and Captain Training Requirements To Support Use of the Dolphin Safe Label on Tuna Products" (RIN0648-BF73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5486. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan" (RIN0648-BF60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5487. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for the Area of Overlap Between the Convention Areas of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission" (RIN0648-BF38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5488. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization; Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support; Connect America Fund" (FCC 16-38) (WC Docket No. 11-42; WC Docket No. 09-197; WC Docket No. 10-90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5489. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Securing the United States Power Grid"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5490. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, proposed legislation relative to financial transparency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5491. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maleic anhydride; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9945-82-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5492. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quaternary ammonium compounds, benzylbis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)methyl, bis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)dimethylammonium salts with sepiolite; and Quaternary ammonium compounds, benzylbis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)methyl, bis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl)dimethylammonium salts with saponite; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9945-76-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5493. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Source Determination for Certain Emission Units in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector" (FRL No. 9946-55-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5494. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona; Infrastructure Requirements to Address Interstate Transport for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 9946-58-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5495. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; New Mexico; Oklahoma; Disapproval of Greenhouse Gas Biomass Deferral, Step 2 and Minor Source Permitting Requirements" (FRL No. 9946-66-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5496. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska; Updates to Incorporation by Reference and Miscellaneous Revisions" (FRL No. 9946-49-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5497. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley; Contingency Measures for the 1997 PM2.5 Standards" (FRL No. 9946-29-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5498. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" (RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9944-77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5499. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9945-24-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5500. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon: Interstate Transport of Lead and Nitrogen Dioxide" (FRL No. 9946-39-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5501. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Ohio River Shoreline, Paducah, Kentucky project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5502. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Blue River Basin, Kansas City, Missouri project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5503. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Cano Martin Pena Ecosystem Restoration Project, Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5504. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Turkey Creek Basin, Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5505. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Exempt External Power Supplies Under the EPS Service Parts Act of 2014" (RIN1904-AD53) (Docket No. EERE-2015-BT-CRT-0013) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5506. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Child Support Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5507. 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: United States and Area Median Gross Income Figures for 2016" (Rev. Proc. 2016-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5508. 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 "Temporary Relief for Money Market Funds" (Rev. Proc. 2016-31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5509. 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 “Certified Professional Employer Organizations; Final and Temporary Regulations” ((RIN1545-BN20) (TD 9768)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5510. 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 “Diversification Requirements for Variable Annuity, Endowment, and Life Insurance Contracts under Section 817(h)” (Notice 2016-32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5511. 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 “Additional Limitation on Suspension of Benefits Applicable to Certain Pension Plans Under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014” ((RIN1545-BN24) (TD 9767)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5512. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act” (RIN3046-AB02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5513. A communication from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations under the Americans With Disabilities Act” (RIN3046-AB01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5514. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Antimicrobial Animal Drug Sales and Distribution Reporting” ((RIN0910-AG45) (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-0447)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5515. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Deeming Tobacco Products To Be Subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as Amended by the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act; Restrictions on the Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products and Required Warning Statements for Tobacco Products” ((RIN0910-AG38) (Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5516. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Did Not Fully Comply for FY 2015” ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5517. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-0068)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5518. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4811)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5519. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter France)” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-5914)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5520. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-5813)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5521. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5432)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5522. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4204)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5523. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4810)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5524. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1426)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5525. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-

ness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1277)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5526. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0775)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5527. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4817)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5528. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8136)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5529. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5530. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0075)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5531. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3147)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5532. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-2959)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5533. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-2464)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5534. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0333)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5535. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4112)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5536. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Textron Aviation, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5457)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5537. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1279)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5538. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4076)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5539. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4809)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5540. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-3692)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5541. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; South Bend, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3771)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5542. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aviation Training Device Credit for Pilot Certification" ((RIN2120-AK71) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1846)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5543. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Positive Train Control Systems" (RIN2130-AC56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-166. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Alaska opposing the decisions of the Obama Administration to cancel future lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, urging the United States Department of the Interior to continue including the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea lease sales in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, and urging the Obama Administration to support ongoing efforts to develop offshore oil and gas in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf responsibly; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLVE No. 7

Whereas the official Arctic policy of the state, passed by the Twenty-Ninth Alaska State Legislature, states that "It is the policy of the state, as it relates to the Arctic, to uphold the state's commitment to economically vibrant communities sustained by development activities consistent with the state's responsibility for a healthy environment"; and

Whereas the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission advises the state, in its list of strategic recommendations, to "promote prudent oil and gas exploration and development in the Arctic"; and

Whereas the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates that there are 23,000,000,000 barrels and 104,410,000,000,000 cubic feet of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

Whereas hundreds of exploration and development wells have been safely and responsibly drilled in state and federal water off the coast of the state, including in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

WHEREAS the economic future of the state and the energy security and strategic global position of the nation stand to benefit greatly from development of the state's outer continental shelf; and

Whereas the state has a rich history of developing its resources in a sustainable and responsible manner; and

Whereas development of the state's outer continental shelf is a well-understood undertaking, and Alaskans have the benefit of over half a century's experience in managing Arctic development; and

Whereas the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, a national strategic infrastructure asset, is running at one-quarter of throughput capacity and would benefit from additional future oil supply; and

Whereas Alaskans, including those living closest to the resource on the North Slope, benefit from outer continental shelf exploration through direct employment, business opportunities, and government revenue; and

Whereas there are many synergies between the types of infrastructure that would facilitate Arctic oil and gas exploration and development and the infrastructure needs of local communities, the state, and elements of the United States Coast Guard and Navy; and

Whereas, in January of 2015, the United States Department of the Interior published a draft 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program that proposed one lease sale each in the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas; and

Whereas the federal government has limited immediate opportunities in several areas in the Arctic, including, most importantly, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, and the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf; and

Whereas, on October 16, 2015, the United States Department of the Interior cancelled future outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales in the Chukchi Sea Planning Area and Beaufort Sea Planning Area, scheduled for 2016 and 2017, respectively; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Alaska House of Representatives opposes the recent decisions of the Obama Administration to cancel future lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and be it further

Resolved that the Alaska House of Representatives urges the United States Department of the Interior to continue including the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea lease sales in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and be it further

Resolved that the Alaska House of Representatives urges the Obama Administration to support ongoing efforts to develop offshore oil and gas in the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf responsibly and to acknowledge the support of Alaskans.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-167. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida condemning the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1001

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Florida have long opposed bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and injustice as a matter of public policy, and

Whereas, Florida and Israel have enjoyed a long history of friendship and are great allies in support of each other's interests, and

Whereas, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in that region, and

Whereas, the elected representatives of the state recognize the importance of expressing Florida's unwavering support of the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and right to self-defense, and

Whereas, there are increasing incidents of anti-Semitism throughout the world, including in the United States and in Florida, reflected in official hate crime statistics, and

Whereas, the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitic perspectives and advocating the elimination of the Jewish State, and

Whereas, activities promoting Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel have increased in the State of Florida, including on university campuses and in other Florida communities, and contribute to the promotion of anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda, and

Whereas, the increase in BDS campaign activities on college campuses around the country has resulted in increased confrontation, intimidation, and discrimination against Jewish students, and

Whereas, leaders of the BDS movement express that their goal is to eliminate Israel as the national home of the Jewish people, and

Whereas, the BDS campaign's call for academic and cultural boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest academic associations, more than 250 university presidents and many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock principle of academic freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida;

That the Florida House of Representatives condemns the international Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel and calls upon its governmental institutions to denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear; and be it further

Resolved that copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the proper authorities of the State of Israel as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

POM-168. A resolution passed by the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, encouraging and supporting the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society and urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the international community's efforts to reach a just and lasting solution to security issues in the strategically important South Caucasus region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-169. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to United States currency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-170. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. CAPITO, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2955. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-258).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2956. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development,

Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-259).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 469. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal moment in the journey of Ireland to independence.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2942. A bill to extend certain privileges and immunities to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Jay Neal Lerner, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

*Amias Moore Gerety, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*Matthew Rhett Jeppson, of Florida, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

*Lisa M. Fairfax, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2020.

*Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2016.

*Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2021.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Mariano J. Beillard and ending with William G. Verzani, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 14, 2016.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ronald G. Russell, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Inga S. Bernstein, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Suzanne Mitchell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Scott L. Palk, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2952. A bill to prevent the proposed amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure from taking effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2953. A bill to promote patient-centered care and accountability at the Indian Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 2954. A bill to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. 2955. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2956. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2957. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2958. A bill to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2959. A bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2960. A bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2961. A bill to improve end-of-life care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2962. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2963. A bill to provide for grants to clean technology consortia to enhance the economic, environmental, and energy security of the United States by promoting domestic development, manufacture, and deployment of clean technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2964. A bill to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution reaffirming the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances as cornerstones of United States-Taiwan relations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Con. Res. 39. A concurrent resolution honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were casualties of the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the United States Sector Khobar Towers military housing complex on Dhahran Air Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 134

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 461

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1378, a bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2212

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2531

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2531, a bill to authorize State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2596

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2596, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2780

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2780, a bill to amend section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to strengthen the certification requirements relating to the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

S. 2800

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2800, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students who have died or become disabled.

S. 2817

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2817, a bill to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2825, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require compliance with domestic source requirements for footwear furnished to enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of high hazard potential dams, and for other purposes.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

S. 2892

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2892, a bill to accelerate the use of wood in buildings, especially tall wood buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2921, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve health care and benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the provision of emergency medical services.

S. 2941

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2941, a bill to require a study on women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture relating to inspection of fish of the order Siluriformes.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to exercise its veto in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

S. CON. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 36, a concurrent resolution expressing support of the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to that goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 459

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 459, a resolution recognizing the importance of cancer research and the vital contributions of scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors, and other patient advocates across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2016, as "National Cancer Research Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 3897

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3897 proposed to H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3956

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3956 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4012

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4012 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4039

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4039 proposed to H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4039 proposed to H.R. 2577, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 4051

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4051 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2952. A bill to prevent the proposed amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure from taking effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I, along with my colleague Senator PAUL from Kentucky, Senator BALDWIN from Wisconsin, and Senators DAINES and TESTER from Montana, am introducing the Stopping Mass Hacking Act, S. 2952, a bill to protect millions of law-abiding Americans from Government hacking.

On April 28, 2016, at the request of the Department of Justice, the U.S. Federal Courts recommended administrative changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the rule

that governs search and seizure procedure. The changes have been approved by the Supreme Court, and pursuant to the Rules Enabling Act the amendments take effect on December 1, 2016, absent Congressional action. Despite the seriousness of the changes, Congress has not spoken on the subject. It should. Making changes like this simply by administrative fiat is not good enough. So, today, Senator PAUL and I introduce this bill.

The administrative changes will provide a magistrate judge with the authority to issue a warrant for remote electronic searches of devices located anywhere in the world when law enforcement does not know the location of the device. While it may be appropriate to address the issue of allowing a remote electronic search for a device at an unknown location, Congress needs to consider what protections must be in place to protect Americans' digital security and privacy. This is a new and uncertain area of law, so there needs to be full and careful debate.

The second part of the change to Rule 41 gives a magistrate judge the authority to issue a single warrant that would authorize the search of a large number—potentially thousands or millions—of devices that can cover any number of searches in any jurisdiction. These changes would dramatically expand the government's hacking and surveillance authority. The American public should understand that these changes will not just affect criminals: computer security experts and civil liberties advocates say the amendments would also dramatically expand the government's ability to hack the electronic devices of law-abiding Americans if their devices were affected by a computer attack.

Finally, these changes to Rule 41 would also give some types of electronic searches different, weaker notification requirements than physical searches. This raises the possibility of the FBI hacking into a person's computer after they are the victim of a cyber attack and not telling them about it until afterward, if at all. Under this new rule, they are only required to make "reasonable efforts" to notify people that their computers were searched. You can see how that might be problematic. It could lead to circumstances in which law-abiding Americans are not told that the government has secretly hacked into their computer.

These changes are a major policy shift that will impact Americans' digital security, the government's surveillance powers and the Fourth Amendment. Part of the problem is the simple fact that both the American public and security experts know so little about how the government goes about hacking a computer to search it. If a victim's Fourth Amendment rights are violated, it might not be readily apparent because of the highly technical nature of the methods used to execute the warrant.

As a body of elected representatives, it is Congress's job to make sure we do not let the Executive Branch run roughshod over our constituents' rights. That is why action is so important: this is a policy question that should be debated by Congress. Although the Department of Justice has tried to describe this rule change as simply a matter of judicial venue, sometimes a difference in scale really is a difference in kind. By allowing so many searches with the order of just a single judge, Congress's failure to act on this issue would be a disaster for law-abiding Americans. When the public realizes what is at stake, I think there is going to be a massive outcry: Americans will look at Congress and say, "What were you thinking?"

I am here today, introducing this legislation, to sound an alarm. This rule change would could have a massive impact on Americans' digital security and privacy, and I plan on spending the next seven months making sure my colleagues fully understand the huge ramifications of inaction.

I thank my colleague Senator PAUL for his efforts on this bill, and I hope the Judiciary Committee will consider our proposal quickly.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—REAFFIRMING THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND THE SIX ASSURANCES AS CORNERSTONES OF UNITED STATES-TAIWAN RELATIONS

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas the Cold War years cemented the close friendship between the United States and Taiwan, with Taiwan as an anti-Communist ally in the Asia-Pacific;

Whereas United States economic aid prevented Taiwan from sliding into an economic depression in the 1950s and greatly contributed to the island's later economic takeoff;

Whereas Taiwan has flourished to become a beacon of democracy in Asia and leading trade partner for the United States, and the relationship has endured for more than 65 years through many shifts in Asia's geopolitical landscape;

Whereas the strong relationship between the United States and Taiwan is based on mutually beneficial security, commercial, and cultural ties;

Whereas Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Susan Thornton stated in her testimony before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on February 11, 2016, that "the people on Taiwan have built a prosperous, free, and orderly society with strong institutions, worthy of emulation and envy";

Whereas Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken stated on March 29, 2016, that with Taiwan's January 2016 elections, "the people of Taiwan showed the world again what a mature, Chinese-speaking democracy looks like";

Whereas, on January 1, 1979, when the Carter Administration established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC), it ended formal diplomatic ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan;

Whereas the United States Congress acted swiftly to reaffirm the United States-Taiwan relationship with the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) just 100 days later, ensuring the United States maintained a robust and enduring relationship with Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted on April 10, 1979, codifying into law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted "to help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific," all of which "are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and are matters of international concern";

Whereas the United States Congress significantly strengthened the draft legislation originally submitted by the Executive Branch to include provisions concerning Taiwan's security in the Taiwan Relations Act;

Whereas then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kin Moy stated in his testimony before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on March 14, 2014, that "[o]ur enduring relationship under the Taiwan Relations Act represents a unique asset for the United States and is an important multiplier of our influence in the region," and credited the Taiwan Relations Act for having "played such a key part in protecting Taiwan's freedom of action and United States interests the last 35 years in the Asia-Pacific area";

Whereas then-Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs Evan Medeiros noted in March 2014, "The Taiwan Relations Act is an important and it's an enduring expression to the people of Taiwan about our commitment to their well-being, their security, their economic autonomy, and their international space";

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that "the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means";

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that it is the policy of the United States to "provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character and to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan";

Whereas each successive United States Administration since the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act has provided arms of a defensive character to Taiwan;

Whereas a 2015 Department of Defense report to Congress on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China stated that, "Preparing for potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait remains the focus and primary driver of China's military investment";

Whereas the United States has an abiding interest in the preservation of cross-Strait peace and stability, and in peace and stability in the entire Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas, on July 14, 1982, as the United States negotiated with the People's Republic of China over the wording of a joint communiqué related to United States arms sales to Taiwan, President Ronald Reagan instructed his representative in Taiwan, American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Director James R. Lilley, to relay a set of assurances

orally to Taiwan's then-President Chiang Ching-kuo;

Whereas testimony before the Senate and the House of Representatives immediately after the issuance of the August 17, 1982, Joint Communiqué with the People's Republic of China, then-Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs John H. Holdridge stated on behalf of the Executive Branch that—

(1) “. . . [w]e did not agree to set a date certain for ending arms sales to Taiwan”;

(2) “. . . [w]e see no mediation role for the United States” between Taiwan and the PRC”;

(3) “. . . [n]or will we attempt to exert pressure on Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC”;

(4) “. . . [t]here has been no change in our longstanding position on the issue of sovereignty over Taiwan”;

(5) “[w]e have no plans to seek” revisions to the Taiwan Relations Act; and

(6) the August 17 Communiqué “should not be read to imply that we have agreed to engage in prior consultations with Beijing on arms sales to Taiwan”;

Whereas these assurances, first delivered to Taiwan's president by AIT Director Lilley, have come to be known as the Six Assurances;

Whereas in testimony before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on October 4, 2011, then-Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell stated that the “Taiwan Relations Act, plus the so-called Six Assurances and Three Communiqués, form the foundation of our overall approach” to relations with Taiwan; and

Whereas, in testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on April 3, 2014, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel stated that the Six Assurances “continue to play an important part as an element of our approach to Taiwan and the situation across the strait”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) affirms that the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances are both cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan; and

(2) urges the President and the Secretary of State to affirm the Six Assurances publicly, proactively, and consistently as a cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 39—HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WHO WERE CASUALTIES OF THE JUNE 25, 1996, TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE UNITED STATES SECTOR KHOBAR TOWERS MILITARY HOUSING COMPLEX ON DHAHRAN AIR BASE

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas June 25, 2016, marks the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the United States Sector Khobar Towers military housing complex on Dhahran Air Base, also known as King Abdul Aziz Royal Saudi Air Base, near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996;

Whereas 19 members of the United States Air Force were killed, more than 500 other members of the Armed Forces of the United

States were wounded, and approximately 297 innocent Saudi and Bangladeshi civilians were casualties in this terrorist attack;

Whereas the 19 members of the United States Air Force killed in this terrorist attack while serving their country were Captain Christopher J. Adams, Staff Sergeant Daniel B. Cafourek, Sergeant Millard D. Campbell, Senior Airmen Earl F. Cartrette, Jr., Technical Sergeant Patrick P. Fenning, Captain Leland T. Haun, Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser, Staff Sergeant Kevin J. Johnson, Staff Sergeant Ronald L. King, Master Sergeant Kendall K. Kitson, Jr., Airman First Class Christopher B. Lester, Airman First Class Brent E. Marthaler, Airman First Class Brian W. McVeigh, Airman First Class Peter J. Morgera, Technical Sergeant Thanh V. Nguyen, Airman First Class Joseph E. Rimkus, Senior Airman Jeremy A. Taylor, Airman First Class Justin R. Wood, and Airman First Class Joshua E. Woody;

Whereas the families and friends of these brave service members and the survivors of this attack still mourn their loss;

Whereas the survivors of this terrorist attack suffer still, whether their suffering be through physical injury, mental anguish, or through the remembrance of their fallen compatriots;

Whereas the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia indicted Ahmed Ibrahim al-Mughassil and 13 others on the count, among others, of conspiracy to kill United States nationals;

Whereas Ahmed Ibrahim al-Mughassil is the former military chief of Hezbollah Al-Hejaz, also known as Saudi Hezbollah, a militant group known to be supported by the terrorist group Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, in a civil action, found the Islamic Republic of Iran liable for the bombing and ordered restitution to be paid to the service members' families that were party to the complaint;

Whereas, on or about August 26, 2015, Ahmed Ibrahim al-Mughassil was detained in Beirut, Lebanon and turned over to authorities of Saudi Arabia;

Whereas Ahmed Ibrahim al-Mughassil remains listed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted terrorist list;

Whereas those guilty of carrying out this terrorist attack have yet to be brought to justice; and

Whereas terrorism remains an ever-present threat which members of the United States Armed Forces and other agents of the United States stand ready to combat throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the United States Sector Khobar Towers military housing complex on Dhahran Air Base, Congress—

(1) recognizes the service and sacrifice of the 19 members of the United States Air Force who were killed in that attack;

(2) calls upon every citizen of the United States to pause and pay tribute to those brave service members;

(3) extends its continued sympathies to the families and friends of those who were killed;

(4) acknowledges the anguish and resilience of the survivors of that attack;

(5) assures the members of the United States Armed Forces and other agents of the United States serving in harm's way throughout the world that their well-being and interests will at all times be given the highest priority; and

(6) declares that any perpetrators of terrorist acts against members of the Armed Forces, other agents of the United States, or

United States citizens will be vigorously pursued and finally brought to justice.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4062. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4063. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4064. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3931 submitted by Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4065. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4066. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4067. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2943, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4062. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) each State is in the best position to determine the specific needs of its population experiencing housing insecurity; and

(2) the Department of Housing and Urban Development should explore the possibility of devolving programs and expenditures to State and local governments when applicable.

SA 4063. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. It is the sense of the Senate that stable, two-parent families are the best family structure for the reduction of child homelessness.

SA 4064. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3931 submitted by Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

(c) This section shall not apply until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Cuba has extradited or otherwise rendered to the United States all individuals in Cuba who are sought by the Department of Justice for crimes committed in the United States, including—

(1) General Ruben Martinez Puente, Colonel Lorenzo Alberto Perez-Perez, and Colonel Francisco Perez-Perez; and

(2) fugitive hijackers residing in Cuba, including Charlie Hill.

(d) This section shall not apply until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Cuba has—

(1) returned to all United States citizens, and entities for which United States citizens have an ownership interest of 50 percent or more, property confiscated from those citizens and entities by the Government of Cuba on or after January 1, 1959; or

(2) provided equitable compensation to those citizens and entities for such confiscated property.

(e) This section shall not apply until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Cuba has provided compensation to resolve all outstanding judgments against the Government of Cuba issued by a court in the United States.

SA 4065. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3896 proposed by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, and Mr. TESTER) to the bill H.R. 2577, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the general provisions of title I in division A, add the following:

SEC. _____. Any bridge eligible for assistance under title 23, United States Code, that is structurally deficient and requires construction, reconstruction, or maintenance—

(1) may be reconstructed in the same location with the same capacity and dimensions as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) if the environmental impacts of the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance are not substantially greater than the environmental impacts of the original structure, as determined by the applicable State environmental authority, shall be considered to be compliant with the environmental reviews, approvals, licensing, and permit requirements under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) sections 402 and 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342, 1344);

(C) division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code;

(D) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(E) the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.);

(F) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(G) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), except when the reconstruction occurs in designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered species;

(H) Executive Order 11990 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to the protection of wetland); and

(I) any Federal law (including regulations) requiring no net loss of wetland.

SA 4066. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X add the following:

SEC. 1097. TRIBAL LABOR SOVEREIGNTY.

Section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or any enterprise or institution owned and operated by an Indian tribe and located on its Indian lands,” after “subdivision thereof”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) The term ‘Indian tribe’ means any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

“(16) The term ‘Indian’ means any individual who is a member of an Indian tribe.

“(17) The term ‘Indian lands’ means—

“(A) all lands within the limits of any Indian reservation;

“(B) any lands title to which is either held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual or held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restriction by the United States against alienation; and

“(C) any lands in the State of Oklahoma that are within the boundaries of a former reservation (as defined by the Secretary of the Interior) of a federally recognized Indian tribe.”.

SA 4067. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1097. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases at the locations specified and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount specified for such location (not including any estimated cancellation costs):

(1) For an outpatient clinic, Ann Arbor, Michigan, an amount not to exceed \$17,093,000.

(2) For an outpatient mental health clinic, Birmingham, Alabama, an amount not to exceed \$6,971,000.

(3) For an outpatient specialty clinic, Birmingham, Alabama, an amount not to exceed \$10,479,000.

(4) For research space, Boston, Massachusetts, an amount not to exceed \$5,497,000.

(5) For research space, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$6,581,000.

(6) For an outpatient clinic, Daytona Beach, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$12,664,000.

(7) For Chief Business Office Purchased Care office space, Denver, Colorado, an amount not to exceed \$17,215,000.

(8) For an outpatient clinic, Gainesville, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$4,686,000.

(9) For an outpatient clinic, Hampton Roads, Virginia, an amount not to exceed \$18,124,000.

(10) For research space, Mission Bay, California, an amount not to exceed \$23,454,000.

(11) For an outpatient clinic, Missoula, Montana, an amount not to exceed \$7,130,000.

(12) For an outpatient clinic, Northern Colorado, Colorado, an amount not to exceed \$8,776,000.

(13) For an outpatient clinic, Ocala, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$5,279,000.

(14) For an outpatient clinic, Oxnard, California, an amount not to exceed \$6,297,000.

(15) For an outpatient clinic, Pike County, Georgia, an amount not to exceed \$5,757,000.

(16) For an outpatient clinic, Portland, Maine, an amount not to exceed \$6,846,000.

(17) For an outpatient clinic, Raleigh, North Carolina, an amount not to exceed \$21,607,000.

(18) For an outpatient clinic, Santa Rosa, California, an amount not to exceed \$6,498,000.

(19) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Corpus Christi, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$7,452,000.

(20) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$18,136,000.

(21) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Pontiac, Michigan, an amount not to exceed \$4,532,000.

(22) For a replacement outpatient clinic, phase II, Rochester, New York, an amount not to exceed \$6,901,000.

(23) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Tampa, Florida, an amount not to exceed \$10,568,000.

(24) For a replacement outpatient clinic, Terre Haute, Indiana, an amount not to exceed \$4,475,000.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, at 10:15 a.m., in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Farm Credit System: Oversight and Outlook of the Current Economic Climate."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Treaties."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, 11:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Declining Deportations and Increasing

Criminal Alien Releases—The Lawless Immigration Polices of the Obama Administration."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 19, 2016, to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving Communities' and Businesses' Access to Capital and Economic Development."

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2613

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 23, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 422, S. 2613, and that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form. I further ask that the Grassley amendment be agreed to, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of S. 2613, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 EASTER RISING

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 476, S. Res. 469.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 469) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal moment in the journey of Ireland to independence.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 469) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 18, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, May 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:21 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 23, 2016, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

YSAYE M. BARNWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE MARIA LOPEZ DE LEON, TERM EXPIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RENA BITTER, OF TEXAS, 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 LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

ANNE S. CASPER, OF NEVADA, 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 BURUNDI.

SUNG Y. KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, 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 THE PHILIPPINES.

GEOFFREY R. PYATT, OF CALIFORNIA, 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 GREECE.

DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS, 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.

MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH, OF CONNECTICUT, 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 UKRAINE.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. EDWARD C. CARDON

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JOCELYN N. ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
KALEY MELISSA ALBERTY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALEXANDER S. ALLEN, OF OREGON
ADRIENNE E. BARTLETT, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY JOHN BARTLEY, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN DANIEL BEARY, OF VIRGINIA

SHON STEPHEN BELCHER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DAVID LEE BIELSKI, OF FLORIDA
 PATRICK MICHAEL BLUE, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTI LEIGH BODEN-JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND
 KEVIN DREW BOYD, OF VIRGINIA
 JONATHAN M. BOZEK, OF VIRGINIA
 LON A. BRAMAN, OF VIRGINIA
 JEREMY MUDIE BRAVEBOY-WAGNER, OF NEW YORK
 RICHARD ALAN BRAZENER, OF VIRGINIA
 KELLY ANN BROUSE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 CRAIGORY MOSES BROWN, JR., OF MARYLAND
 NICHOLAS HOCKIN BROWN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MIMOZA KONOMI BURWELL, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL C. BUSCH, OF VIRGINIA
 PEDRO G. CAMPO-BOUE, OF FLORIDA
 CHRIS CARLISLE, OF GEORGIA
 ALEXANDER JOSEPH CASNOCHA, OF VIRGINIA
 CHARLES JOSEPH CAULKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DESIREE GERMAIN CAUSEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BARRY CHANG, OF VIRGINIA
 JOON PATRICK CHANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 EILEEN CHO, OF VIRGINIA
 JASMIN SUNGAH CHO, OF WASHINGTON
 ANTHONY JOHN CIRCHARO, OF VIRGINIA
 JEREMY H. CLOONEY, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID ANTHONY COLTHART, OF VIRGINIA
 MEAGHAN KATHERINE CONSIDINE, OF VIRGINIA
 ALLYSON JUILLETTE CORNISH, OF FLORIDA
 ILONA MARGARET EMODY COYLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ERIN FORD COZENS, OF VIRGINIA
 SARAH CRAWFORD, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN M. CRESWELL, OF VIRGINIA
 BENJAMIN TODD DANFORTH, OF VIRGINIA
 MARGARET LOUISE DENYS-MAGEE, OF VIRGINIA
 DANIELLE K. DERBES, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHERINE E. DIAL, OF VIRGINIA
 JUSTIN ELTON DISHER, OF VIRGINIA
 WYATT MATTHEW DUEA, OF COLORADO
 SUSAE JANANI ELANCHENNY, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 MICHAEL HALL ELLIOTT, OF VIRGINIA
 DANIELE FAIETA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 LINDSAY CATHERINE FAIR, OF ILLINOIS
 LESLIE M. FENTON, OF CALIFORNIA
 JEAN M. POSTER, OF COLORADO
 LAURA ANNE GALLAGHER, OF CALIFORNIA
 FRANCENE SHAKAHRA GASKIN, OF VIRGINIA
 NICHOLAS JOSEPH GEBOY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELIZABETH ANNE GEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 TRAVIS JOHN GLYNN, OF WISCONSIN
 MATTHEW B. GRECO, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDREW PAUL GREENOUGH, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 BARBARA L. GRUB, OF WASHINGTON
 CASSANDRA GUNTER, OF VIRGINIA
 KELSEY LYNN GUYETTE, OF COLORADO
 DAVID JOSEPH HAIMSKY, OF VIRGINIA
 ISAAC SAMUEL HANSEN-JOSEPH, OF CALIFORNIA
 JULIANA ELIZABETH HANSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 LINDSAY DIANE HARRISON, OF MONTANA
 SOTHY S. HAY, OF VIRGINIA
 TIMOTHY IAN HISH, OF VIRGINIA
 AMY RUTH HOCKING, OF KANSAS
 SCOTT B. HOEFER, OF VIRGINIA
 CHRISTOPHER OAKLEY HOFIUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANNEKE MARIE HOLQUIST, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID CHARLES HORN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 LYNDSLEY PAIGE HOVDE, OF VIRGINIA
 JESSICA MARIE KARLOW, OF MISSOURI
 RAE D. KARTCHNER, OF VIRGINIA
 WHITNEY SUZANNE KAZRAGIS, OF VIRGINIA
 JENNIFER E. KENNEDY, OF FLORIDA
 ARIN M. KEYSER, OF VIRGINIA
 SONGJON J. KIM, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA JOHN KOWERT, OF VIRGINIA
 JEFFREY THOMAS KRAMB, OF VIRGINIA
 JULIEN JAMES TORNEY KREUZE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANN H. KU, OF WASHINGTON
 DYLAN ROSS KYTOLA, OF MARYLAND
 NICKLAUS LAVERTY, OF MAINE
 JASON SEAN LEAHEY, OF VIRGINIA
 SHEILA MARIE LEONARD, OF VIRGINIA
 CORI LOMBARDO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 AARON PAUL LOOR, OF NEW YORK
 AARON JOSEPH LOVELL, OF ILLINOIS
 SARAH F. MADDEN, OF GEORGIA
 MATTHEW JOSEPH THOMA MANZELLA, OF MARYLAND
 NEIL TORREY MARSHALL, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID W. MARTIN, OF VIRGINIA
 C.C. MARIPOSA MASOTTI, OF VIRGINIA
 JONATHAN S. MCBRIDE, OF VIRGINIA
 ALLISON BETH MCCOY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRENDAN MCGOVERN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 WILLIAM MCLEAN MCGREGOR, OF TEXAS
 SEAN HOWARD MCLEOD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRADFORD O'HARA MIKLAVIC, OF VIRGINIA
 FAITH ANNA MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
 ALISHA A. MINTER, OF MARYLAND
 JEFFREY A. MOORE, OF VIRGINIA
 CAMERON J. MORENCY, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIN K. MURTY, OF VIRGINIA
 SEAN PATRICK MYERS, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDINA NAGLER, OF VIRGINIA
 RUSTUM GEORGE NYQUIST, OF NEW YORK
 BRITANN ELIZABETH O'BRIEN, OF ARIZONA
 RAMON MARIA OLIVIER, OF NEBRASKA
 ANDREI STEFAN PARVAN, OF COLORADO
 BROOKE ASHLEY PECKINS, OF VIRGINIA
 HOLLY RENEE PELAS, OF LOUISIANA
 BRITTANY PAIGE ELIZABETH PETERSEN, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT PPOST, OF VIRGINIA
 HEIDI K. PIEDISCALZI, OF MARYLAND
 JOHN PILETICH, OF FLORIDA
 MATTHEW D. PODOBINSKI, OF VIRGINIA
 ALEXANDRA LENA POMEROY, OF VIRGINIA
 NATHAN POSEY, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDREW MICHAEL POULSON, OF VIRGINIA
 BRET PROVINCE, OF VIRGINIA
 MARC A. PYLES, OF VIRGINIA
 SITA ALETHEIA RAITER, OF CALIFORNIA
 CHRISTOPHER JOHN RAMOS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOHN RESHWAN, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN WESLEY ROBBINS, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 CANDICE P. ROBERTSON, OF VIRGINIA
 COLLETTE NICOLE ROBERTS, OF VIRGINIA
 MARK ROBINSON, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIC JOHN RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT D. RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 PAUL ANDREW ROELLE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 JUAN CARLOS ROMAN GONZALEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 CARA MARIE ROSE, OF OREGON
 TIMOTHY G. RUBERTSON, OF MISSOURI
 JENNINE ROSE RUDBITSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOHN MICHAEL RUHSENBERGER, OF COLORADO
 JOHN JOSEPH RYAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 KELLY R. RYAN, OF VIRGINIA
 SEAN CHARLES RYAN, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA S. SAMET, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 GLEDISA SANXHAKU, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTINA J. SAUNDERS, OF VIRGINIA
 JEFFREY BRUCE SCHAFFNER, OF VIRGINIA
 CRAIG G. SCHMAUS, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN MATTHEW SCHRECK, OF WASHINGTON
 DANIEL E. SCOTT, OF MINNESOTA
 WILLIAM E. SHELTON III, OF MARYLAND
 CHRISTOPHER JAMES SHERMAN, OF FLORIDA
 DANIEL L. SHOENFELT, OF VIRGINIA
 SHANNON MARIE SIBAYAN, OF TEXAS
 BENSON SIWEK, OF TEXAS
 ADAM GLENN SMITH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 WILLIAM DOUGLAS SMITH, JR., OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES CARL SMYTHERS, OF VIRGINIA
 SUSAN C. SOLOMON, OF CALIFORNIA
 CIGDEM ZEYNEP SOYLUOGLU-HOYT, OF CALIFORNIA
 PERRY STAMP, OF FLORIDA
 TYLER J. STODDARD, OF VIRGINIA
 DANIEL ANTANAS STRELKAUSKAS, OF VIRGINIA
 OREN LEONARD STRUCK, OF MINNESOTA
 DARREN BIRNBAUM SULLIVAN, OF NEW YORK
 JENNIFER MICHELE SUTTON, OF WASHINGTON
 KRISTEN RENEE SVARCZKOPF, OF VIRGINIA
 MORGAN LEIGH VOELTZ SWANSON, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHERINE HOLMES TENEROWICZ, OF MARYLAND
 ALICE MARIE TOBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 TERESA NGOC NHI TRAN, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN PATRICK TRAVIS, OF VIRGINIA
 QUAN TRINH, OF TEXAS
 NIKHIL RAJNİKANT UNADKAT, OF COLORADO
 THEO JORGE VAN LINGEN, OF VIRGINIA
 JONATHAN BLAKE VAUGHAN, OF TENNESSEE
 KIMBERLY ANN VERKULEN, OF WISCONSIN
 BRADFORD NILES VICK, OF OREGON
 ASHLEY WELLENS, OF VIRGINIA
 NICHOLAS WEXLER, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 STEPHEN KEICH WHICKER, OF VIRGINIA
 JEREMY JON WIDENHOFER, OF VIRGINIA
 CHAD M. WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT ALAN WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
 TAMARA LYN PICARDO RIVERA WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHRYN MICHELLE WISEMAN, OF TEXAS
 ROBERT JAMES WOODS, OF VIRGINIA
 NICOLAS ISAO WORDEN, OF VIRGINIA
 BRIAN JOSEPH ZACHERL, OF VIRGINIA