

tricks—still refusing to vote on amendments that show the American people whose side they are on.

I think this is an opportunity to show you are on the side of the veterans—veterans who probably handled guns in Iraq and Afghanistan not being able to do that here.

I don't understand what is so tough about voting on whether veterans' constitutional rights should be protected. It should be clear to anyone paying attention who is obstructing. They tried to destroy the Senate as a deliberative body when they were in the majority. Now they are obstructing a vote on protecting the fundamental constitutional rights of those who have put their lives on the line for our country. Shame on you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before my friend and colleague leaves, we have worked together for years, and I respect very much his legislative capability. He and I are working together on some very important legislation.

I am not a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I don't know if the Senator from Iowa is a member—he is not. This is a subject matter that is in the jurisdiction of that committee.

Let me just concede at the outset that reporting 174,000 names to the FBI goes too far, but eliminating 174,000 names goes too far. We need to find a reasonable way to identify those suffering from serious mental illness who would endanger themselves, their families, or others and to sort out those who don't fit in that category. We can do that and we should do that in a reasonable way, so we are respectful of veterans and also respectful of the general public's right to be safe from the misuse of firearms.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would just say a simple thing. I have already said we don't want dangerous people to have guns. But the point is that the VA is not identifying the people who might be a danger to themselves or a danger to society. As the Senator from Illinois says, they are simply doing it because "You can't handle your own finances." That is where their constitutional rights are being denied. Their constitutional rights are being denied by a VA employee—maybe somebody who doesn't know anything about mental health—and that is wrong. That is what we are trying to prevent.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Collins substitute amendment No. 3896.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill, H.R. 2577.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on 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, Jerry Moran, Chuck Grassley, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, John Boozman.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the cloture motions be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 444 through 447, 467, 217, 218, 479, 480, 482, 484, 553, 554 through 558, with no other executive business in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring September 27, 2015; Linda Thomas-Green-

field, an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2021; John W. Leslie, Jr., of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2019; Linda I. Etim, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2021; Georgette Mosbacher, of New York, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2018; Todd A. Fisher, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2016; Deven J. Parekh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2016; Robert Annan Riley III, of Florida, 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 Federated States of Micronesia; Karen Brevard Stewart, of Florida, 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 Marshall Islands; Matthew John Matthews, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum; Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Swati A. Dandekar, of Iowa, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador; Adam H. Sterling, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic; Kelly Keiderling-Franz, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; Stephen Michael Schwartz, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia; Christine Ann Elder, of Kentucky, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia; and Elizabeth Holzhall Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior

Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nominations and ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas-Greenfield, Leslie, Etim, Mosbacher, Fisher, Parekh, Riley, Stewart, Matthews, Escobari, Dandekar, Sterling, Keiderling-Franz, Schwartz, Elder, and Richard nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3934, 3918, 3905, 3926, 3961, AND 3941 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3896

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to report that due to a lot of hard work on both sides of the aisle by Senators and their staffs, the leaders, and particularly my colleague Senator REED of Rhode Island, we have another group of amendments we are able to clear tonight.

I therefore ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up en bloc and reported by number: amendment No. 3934, offered by Senator KING; amendment No. 3918, offered by Senator RUBIO; amendment No. 3905, offered by Senator HELLER; amendment No. 3926, offered by Senator RUBIO; amendment No. 3961, offered by Senator MANCHIN; and amendment No. 3941, offered by Senator BOOKER.

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 3934,

3918, 3905, 3926, 3961, and 3941 en bloc to amendment No. 3896.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3934

(Purpose: To authorize the use of funds to carry out a matching program with the Department of Education to identify veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability and who are also borrowers of Federal student loans in order to streamline and expedite the process through which such veterans may discharge their Federal student loans)

On page 223, line 9, after "interoperability:" insert the following: "Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$300,000 shall be available to carry out a matching program with the Department of Education to identify veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability and who are also borrowers of Federal student loans in order to streamline and expedite the process through which such veterans may discharge their Federal student loans."

AMENDMENT NO. 3918

(Purpose: To shorten the time given to a property owner to respond to a violation of a contract and the time given to the Secretary to develop a Compliance, Disposition, and Enforcement Plan)

On page 152, strike lines 1 through 13 and insert the following:

(1) The Secretary shall notify the owner and provide an opportunity for response within 15 days of UPCS inspection results. If the violations remain, the Secretary shall develop a Compliance, Disposition and Enforcement Plan within 30 days of the UPCS inspection results and must provide the owner with a Notice of Default with a specified timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in a UPCS score of 60 or above, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default.

AMENDMENT NO. 3905

(Purpose: To prohibit funds from being used to provide housing assistance benefits to individuals convicted of certain criminal offenses)

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

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used to provide housing assistance benefits for an individual who is convicted of—

- (1) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;
- (2) murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code; or
- (3) any other Federal or State offense involving—

(A) severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively, of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); or

(B) child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 3926

(Purpose: To determine the effectiveness of Real Estate Assessment Center physical inspections)

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

SEC. ____ . (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall prepare a report, and post the report on the public website of the Department of

Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Department"), regarding Real Estate Assessment Center (in this section referred to as "REAC") inspections of all properties assisted, insured, or both, under a program of the Department, which shall include—

(1) the percentage of all inspected properties that received a REAC-inspected score of less than 65 within the last 48 months;

(2) the number of properties in which the most recent REAC-inspected score represented a decline relative to the previous REAC score;

(3) a list of the 10 metropolitan statistical areas with the lowest average REAC-inspected scores for all inspected properties; and

(4) a list of the 10 States with the lowest average REAC-inspected scores for all inspected properties.

(b) The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a report, and post the report on the public website of the Government Accountability Office, regarding areas in which REAC inspections of all properties assisted, insured, or both, under a program of the Department should be reformed and improved.

AMENDMENT NO. 3961

(Purpose: To allow airports to use airport improvement program funds to repair damage to runway safety areas caused by natural disasters)

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

SEC. ____ . (a) Subchapter I of chapter 471, as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 47144. Use of funds for repairs for runway safety repairs

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may make project grants under this subchapter to an airport described in subsection (b) from funds under section 47114 apportioned to that airport or funds available for discretionary grants to that airport under section 47115 to conduct airport development to repair the runway safety area of the airport damaged as a result of a natural disaster in order to maintain compliance with the regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration relating to runway safety areas, without regard to whether construction of the runway safety area damaged was carried out using amounts the airport received under this subchapter.

"(b) AIRPORTS DESCRIBED.—An airport is described in this subsection if—

- "(1) the airport is a public-use airport;
- "(2) the airport is listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems of the Federal Aviation Administration;
- "(3) the runway safety area of the airport was damaged as a result of a natural disaster;

"(4) the airport was denied funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) with respect to the disaster;

"(5) the operator of the airport has exhausted all legal remedies, including legal action against any parties (or insurers thereof) whose action or inaction may have contributed to the need for the repair of the runway safety area;

"(6) there is still a demonstrated need for the runway safety area to accommodate current or imminent aeronautical demand; and

"(7) the cost of repairing or replacing the runway safety area is reasonable in relation to the anticipated operational benefit of repairing the runway safety area, as determined by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration."