

health services rather than administrative costs and profits.

Addressing insurance premium increases in the individual market was a key reason we enacted the health reform bill in the first place. Before the health reform law, patients were subject to premium increases, cancellations, denials for preexisting conditions, and arbitrary limits on how much care insurance would cover.

Thanks to this health reform law, proposed premium increases are seeing the light of day and are subject to scrutiny, which wasn't the way it was before.

Under the health reform law, insurance companies cannot deny coverage or charge more because of a preexisting condition or for simply being a woman. Insurance companies cannot arbitrarily cut off benefits when you really need them.

TRIBUTE TO WADE HENDERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the true test of leadership is whether one leaves behind the conviction that others will carry on. Yesterday Wade Henderson, one of the fathers of the civil rights movement, announced that he will retire from the position as president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Leadership Conference Education Fund to make room for future leaders.

Wade Henderson has inspired a new generation to hold our country to its most sacred values: liberty and justice for all. Wade has been a true leader. For the past 20 years he has been a tireless advocate for justice and equality. His conviction, skill, and expertise can be found in every major civil rights victory over the past two decades.

Wade has led the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights through the successful passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002; the Voting Rights Act reauthorization of 2006; the ADA Amendments Act in 2008; Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009; Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009; Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; and the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010.

From the passage of the hate crimes laws in the early 1990s to efforts to end racial profiling and pass comprehensive immigration reform, Wade Henderson has carried the weight and responsibility of the modern civil rights movement on his shoulders.

As Wade transforms and transitions into the next stage of his life, I have no doubt he will continue to be a champion of people of color, women, children, organized labor, persons with disabilities, seniors, the LGBT community, and faith communities.

Today I congratulate Wade Henderson for his years of service to our Nation and the world. I wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2685, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 118, H.R. 2685, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I come before the Senate to express my strong support for proceeding to the fiscal year 2016 Defense appropriations bill. This bill provides vital funding for the men and women of our armed services at a time of serious and growing threats to our own national security and at a time of troubling instability and violent conflicts in many countries around the world.

Proceeding would allow the Senate an opportunity to debate defense funding in an open and transparent manner and to meet our constitutional obligations. I am truly perplexed to hear some of my dear friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle suggest that there is a Republican plan to enact only the Defense appropriations bill and then proceed to a continuing resolution for all of the other vital appropriations bills. It would be an understatement to say that continuing resolutions are certainly not the preferred option of the Appropriations Committee, and I say that as a proud member of that committee. Continuing resolutions create uncertainty, they lock in last year's priorities, and they continue to fund programs that should be eliminated. They are not effective ways to govern.

I want to be clear. Supporting an individual appropriations bill in no way suggests that the Senate is somehow giving up on passing the other 11 subcommittee appropriations bills, whether they are brought to the floor individually or as an omnibus package.

Members of the Appropriations Committee now have working numbers as a result of the budget agreement. We are working together diligently in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to craft a bipartisan omnibus that can be supported by both Chambers.

Democrats and Republicans came together to pass a budget agreement just a few short days ago, and our ongoing negotiations prove our sincerity and determination to move ahead with individual bills and in crafting an omni-

bus. We have already made great progress this year. As our chairman, THAD COCHRAN, has noted previously, this is the first time in 6 years that the Appropriations Committee has approved all 12 of its bills. Many of those bills, due to the leadership on the Democratic side of my dear friend BARBARA MIKULSKI, and others, have been bipartisan when they were reported by our committee. I would note that we completed our work despite terribly strict budget constraints months ago.

Now, we are in a new stage. We have a bipartisan, 2-year budget agreement that has provided some much needed relief to some of the budget caps, while keeping us on a fiscally responsible path.

This is the third time the Senate has attempted to take up this vital appropriations bill. The last time, my Democratic friends objected because there was no bipartisan, bicameral budget agreement. In the absence of such an agreement, they said they could not proceed with a bill. Now, I didn't agree with that rationale, but I understood it. I do not understand the situation we find ourselves in today. We have a budget agreement—a bipartisan, bicameral budget agreement. I do not understand why we cannot move forward with the Defense appropriations bill and, I hope, other bills individually and then ultimately an omnibus bill for those that we simply run out of time to consider this year. Next year, due to this budget agreement, I hope we can bring each and every one of the individual appropriations bills before the Senate for debate and amendment the way we used to do, and that is our goal.

December 11 is quickly approaching, and that is the date when the current continuing resolution expires. We must act before then to ensure that the Federal Government remains open. We must act to ensure that vital Federal programs are funded and not operating under yet another continuing resolution, which is such poor policy. That is what we are trying to prevent.

Let's get the Defense appropriations bill approved. Then, I hope we can bring up at least one or two or perhaps three other appropriations bills. In the meantime, we are already working on the omnibus bill.

As chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have already met with my ranking member, Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, and with our counterparts on the House side to begin the negotiations on our bill. We are operating under a very tight timeframe that will require Members to work around the clock and a good-faith effort from all sides. That is what I am asking for today: for Members on the other side of the aisle to take the majority leader, the Republican leader, at his word, to pass this bill—this vitally needed bill—and then to go on to a second individual appropriations bill, all the while we are working in a bipartisan way to craft an omnibus bill.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the importance of advancing the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bills. Let me reiterate that it is simply wrong for any of my Democratic colleagues to assume that proceeding to the Defense appropriations bill somehow suggests that there is no interest by our leader in passing an omnibus that will include the other vital bills funding essential education, biomedical research, transportation, housing, agriculture, energy, environmental, and other important programs.

I urge my colleagues to support proceeding to this vital bill. To fail to do so once again, for the third time, despite the existence of the budget framework that we have agreed to, and to fail to do so just days before we honor our Nation's veterans would be a grave disservice to those who serve in our military today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Seeing no one seeking the floor, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, for months, we have called for Senate Democrats to stand and support our troops and pass the Defense appropriations legislation. In fact, this is the first time—the first time since 2009—that all 12 appropriations bills were reported out of committee, and most with strong bipartisan support.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee. In fact, I serve on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. But today we are once again considering opening debate on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2016, a bill that passed out of the Appropriations Committee on June 11 with a very strong bipartisan vote of 27 to 3.

As we approach Veterans Day next week, today could mark the third time that Democrats have blocked this critical legislation to fund our troops. This comes at a time when our troops are actively engaged in multiple theaters abroad and they need the critical support of our Nation's growing mission overseas. But rather than passing this vital funding bill, my Democratic colleagues would rather play politics and perpetuate the obstruction that plagues their party. The minority leader's constituents in Nevada deserve more. They deserve better. Montanans deserve more. The American people deserve more.

So here we are debating, for the third time, simply to proceed on Defense appropriations legislation and to open it up for debate. Let's be clear. The way the process works is we have to have first a vote to bring the bill to the floor to begin deliberation. This, the great-

est deliberative body in the world, can't even deliberate on the Defense appropriations bill because our friends across the aisle are blocking it. It is time to open it up for debate, open it up for amendments. This is the process of the Senate. The American people and the troops deserve more.

It appears that the Democratic leader and his Democratic colleagues would rather huddle in back rooms somewhere and concoct yet another deal behind closed doors versus in full daylight in transparency on the Senate floor because they would rather negotiate in private than engage in an open and honest debate in front of the American people.

Unfortunately, today the Senate Democrats will put partisan politics ahead of funding the troops. The senior Senator from New York, the likely next Democratic leader, has already foretold that Democrats would rather throw together another massive spending package than to allow open consideration of each part of the Nation's budget. No wonder we are \$19 trillion dollars in debt. Senator SCHUMER said:

We could pass a defense bill and then they could say, "Well, we'll do a [continuing resolution] on the rest of it," violating the 50-50 deal. We need to negotiate an omnibus all at once and all together.

I reject that. Montanans know firsthand the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform. The passage of this legislation is critical to carrying out our missions in an increasingly dangerous world, and it is important regarding missions we support in Montana. This Defense appropriations bill protects the Montana Air National Guard C-130 mission by moving forward with the Avionics Modernization Program, or AMP Increments 1 and 2, which are improvements from the original costly AMP program. This will ensure the C-130s at the Montana National Guard will be certified to continue flying by 2020 and provide a pathway for a full-scale avionics upgrade that addresses outdated components. It also funds key engine modifications for those C-130s.

The Senate Democrats would prefer to once again obstruct regular order in the same fashion they did during the past few years, which became the hallmark—it became the trademark of a failed Democrat-led Senate majority. So as the Senate heads home for the weekend, I challenge my Democratic colleagues to look at their veterans, to look their active duty troops and military families in the eye and ask themselves: Did I serve these selfless men and women or the Washington establishment? I think we know which one they will choose.

I encourage my Senate Democratic colleagues to change course. We have a chance to change course on this upcoming vote. Vote yes on moving this critical defense legislation forward.

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. DAINES. 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. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time in a quorum call before the 11 a.m. vote today be charged equally against each side.

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

Mr. DAINES. 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, at 11 o'clock the Senate is going to vote on the Defense appropriations bill. This is a bill I have worked on with Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi. He not only chairs the Appropriations Committee but the Subcommittee on Defense, which I serve as ranking member on as well.

The effort in this bill is extraordinary because it comprises virtually 60 percent of the domestic discretionary spending of our government. It, of course, deals with the Department of Defense and intelligence agencies. I just want to say we have worked on this on a bipartisan basis from the start. It has been a real pleasure to work with Senator COCHRAN. I commend him for his leadership and his gentility and thank him for all of the good work he has put into this bill.

It is going to be a procedural vote that we anticipate is not going to allow this bill to go forward. It is not a reflection on the substance of the bill at all. Though we may disagree with one or two provisions in the bill—and even as one of the authors I can say that—the fact is that what we are trying to do now is position ourselves to complete the work of last week's budget agreement.

I think there is an understanding, at least at this moment, of how we will move forward, but I say to my colleagues that we can stand behind the substance of this bill. Procedurally, we may be delaying it today, but ultimately it will pass and I look forward to supporting it at that time.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to address my remarks to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, my Democratic colleagues. Yesterday I spent almost a whole day working with Democratic colleagues on a variety of proposals to try to get bipartisan results in the Senate. We have had more bipartisan results this year than most people think, whether it is the progress we have made on No Child Left Behind or on the trade bill or on the doc fix or on changing the way we pay doctors or on the USA Freedom Act, or on the Defense authorization bill. It is a long list.

I was working to get bipartisan results yesterday because that is what I am supposed to do as a United States Senator. I am not sent here to posture or to make a political point. I am sent here—given this privilege—in order to create an environment where we can solve problems for the benefit of the taxpayers, for the benefit of the American people. So that is how I spent my time yesterday. I do not think any other Republican spent more time than I did working with colleagues on the Democratic side to do that, which is why I am addressing my remarks to my Democratic friends.

What they have proposed to do is block our moving to the appropriations bill for the defense of this country for the third time—for the third time. There is no justification whatsoever to do that. What I am saying to my friends is don't go there, because if you continue to block appropriations bills, you are going to set in motion an irreversible trend toward partisanship in this Senate and I am going to lead it. I am going to lead it.

Instead of spending my time working with Democrats to get bipartisan results, we are going to go in another direction. Now, why would I say that? Because I am not here to be partisan. Let me give you the example of the appropriations bill that Senator FEINSTEIN from California and I have worked on. We worked on that bill in a bipartisan way. I think even she would say she wrote about as much of it as I did. There's a page full of things she thought are important for our country that are part of the bill. There are probably more than 75 Senators who wrote us letters—about half of them Democratic Senators—who wrote us letters saying: These are important provisions in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Those provisions are in our bill. They are ready to be considered.

Twice, the Democrats have kept us from considering the Defense Appropriations bill. Today, they are going to do it again. What they are saying to us is that we are going to come up with any reason—any excuse—not to have a normal appropriations process. The last time Democrats argued: We did not have enough money. The way you deal with not enough money, if that is

your opinion, is you bring a bill to the floor, you vote on it, you pass it if you can, you send it to the President, if the President disagrees with you, he vetoes it. It comes back and we negotiate and we have a compromise.

That is the way it works. You don't just jam something through because you have the power to stop something or the power to jam it through. That is the way you pass ObamaCare. That is the way you make sure the country has no respect for what we are trying to do. But that is what the Democrats did with appropriations this year and they got a result. I am not unhappy with the result, and I voted for the budget agreement. But what it does is it creates additional spending for defense and nondefense discretionary funding for the Energy and Water appropriations bill. I am pleased to see that because that money goes for ports, locks, and dams. That money goes to the Office of Science so we can have revolutions in manufacturing that create jobs. Money that can help with our biomedical research that we need to do. There are important things we need to do, and this bill will help us do them. But why would we not begin to debate that? Why would we not let the other Senators debate it? All we are proposing is to begin to do some of what in December we should have done in June and July.

The majority leader knows he can't put every one of the 12 appropriations bill on the floor. There is not enough time left this year. Why is there not enough time? Because Democrats blocked it in June. They kept us from going to the bills even though this is the first time in 6 years that all 12 appropriations bills have passed the Appropriations Committee.

Why is that important? That is what we do here. Our job is to review the purse, to decide what to spend—more for this lock, less for that project—and keep the budget in balance when we can. That is our job. They blocked it twice and they are getting ready to block it again with a vote today.

I'm saying, don't go there because you are going to set in motion an irreversible course in this Senate, and I'm going to lead it. I am going to use whatever skills and powers I have to do that.

All of these Democratic provisions don't have to be in the Energy and Water appropriations bill. They don't have to be in any of the bills because we have the majority and you don't. So if they're going to play that kind of game, we can play it too. I am not one who usually does, but I am able to play. I am able to play or I wouldn't have gotten here.

So I want to say to my friends on the other side: Don't go there. Vote to put the bill on the floor. Vote to give us a chance to have amendments.

Why would the other 70 Senators not want to have a chance to have a say about the appropriations bill? Thirty of us are on the Appropriations Com-

mittee. We did our work. We approved the bill—in our case by a vote of 26 to 4. It is a bipartisan bill. Why would we not put bills like that on the floor and let the other 70 Senators have their say? What are they here for if they don't want to have a say about appropriations? They might as well be home watching television. They should be here deciding the issues that face our country.

I hope my friends on both sides of the aisle can tell I am not happy this morning with the direction things are taking. I don't like the fact that I spent all day working with Democratic colleagues to get bipartisan results and they come along with a tactic—for the third time—that says: If we don't get everything we want, we are not going to have an appropriations process.

Well, we will see how that goes. And it will go not in a way that is good for the country, not in a way that is good for the Senate, but it will allow the people who have a majority in the Senate a chance to assert themselves and write the bills. At least we can do that.

There is really no reason we need to have 75 Senators' ideas about priorities in the Energy and Water appropriations bill if the majority doesn't want to. There is no reason to have the ranking members' opinions in any of these appropriations bills if the majority doesn't want to.

The way we have worked in our committee is—and I have worked with the Senator from California for several years, and she is a terrific person and a wonderful Senator—we work together. Now why should we stop that process when the bills come to the floor?

So through the Chair I respectfully ask my colleagues to think again. Don't do this. Don't send us a signal that we are never going to have another normal appropriations process in the United States Senate. The American people don't want that. We don't want that, and I can assure you my friends on the other side don't want that.

So my hope is that one way or another the majority leader and the Democratic leader have a conversation. And that the Senate comes to its rational senses and begins a normal appropriations process, with as much time as we have between now and the end of our time here in December. Which would be a signal to all of us that we are going to work in a bipartisan way on a normal appropriations process for the good of the country. And that we are not just going to try to think up any excuse we can not to move an appropriations bill to the floor.

Two years ago the majority leader simply wouldn't bring the bills to the floor. This time the minority leader has blocked the bills from coming to the floor. Let's get back to work. For heaven's sake, that is what we are here for. I am ready to go to work. I much prefer the way I worked yesterday, working with my colleagues. But I am

prepared to work in another way if that is what we need to do to get some balance in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I compliment the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for his remarks. I extend my appreciation for his strong leadership in developing and bringing to the floor of the Senate the Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

Specifically, I urge the Senate to do as he suggests. Let's get this bill before the Senate, offer amendments if Senators have suggestions for changes in the bill, and move ahead to completing action on this bill on time so we can predict with some certainty what our obligations are going to be and we can more thoughtfully with a sense of confidence know that we are doing the right thing to protect the security interests of our country, our citizens, and our interests around the world.

We have before us an effort to move to the consideration of the Department of Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016. The bill provides \$514.1 billion in base budget funding and \$58.6 billion in overseas contingency operations funding for the Department of Defense.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has worked on a bipartisan basis to write and approve 12 individual appropriations bills this year for the first time since 2009. Senators should have the opportunity to debate, amend, and approve the Defense appropriations bill. The legislation is a bipartisan national security measure that provides the resources that are necessary to protect our Nation, support our servicemembers and their families, and meet current and future threats to our national security.

We have no greater priority than protecting our national security interests here at home and abroad. I urge Senators to cooperate and support our efforts and to vote to proceed to the consideration of this bill. I am hopeful that the leadership can get together and work out a time that is convenient and appropriate for carrying out this responsibility.

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

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

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 the motion to proceed to H.R. 2685, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, John Thune, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, Jeff Flake, Cory Gardner, John Boozman, Thad Cochran, Pat Roberts, David Perdue.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2685, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Donnelly	Moran
Ayotte	Enzi	Murkowski
Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blunt	Fischer	Perdue
Boozman	Flake	Portman
Burr	Gardner	Risch
Capito	Grassley	Roberts
Cassidy	Hatch	Rounds
Coats	Heller	Sasse
Cochran	Hoeven	Scott
Collins	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	McCain	Wicker

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Nelson
Bennet	Hirono	Peters
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reed
Booker	King	Reid
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Manchin	Shaheen
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Udall
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Heinrich	Murray	

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Rubio	Vitter
Graham	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Defense appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to H.R. 2029.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 98, H.R. 2029, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill shortly after lunch. The chairman of that committee, Senator KIRK, is working with the ranking member to move that bill across the floor next week. They will have a Senate substitute to the bill pending, and Senators will then further amend. If Senators cooperate in moving things along and scheduling votes on amendments to the bill, we can vote on passage on Tuesday night so that Senators can commemorate Veterans Day back home with their constituents.

Obviously, this is going to require some cooperation from all Members. However, I encourage those Senators with amendments to the MILCON-VA bill to work with Senator KIRK and Senator TESTER to get them in the queue for floor consideration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

STOP SANCTUARY POLICIES AND PROTECT AMERICANS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, the Senate was unable to proceed to consider a very important piece of legislation called the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. The goal of this legislation is to protect our communities from criminals who violate our laws and who pose a danger to those communities—often minority communities themselves. The aim of this legislation is to restore law and order across the country by holding those accountable who are defying Federal law and refusing to cooperate with the Federal Government when it comes to communicating the status of people who are illegally present in the country who have committed other more serious crimes and refusing to honor Federal detainees.