

the Gobi Desert several years ago to visit Mongolian shepherders, he told them that he had a friend who was a shepherd. In fact, he told them that his friend is the greatest shepherd who ever lived. His friend knows all of the flock, even the names of each sheep. If one of the sheep gets lost, the shepherd leaves the flock to search for the one lost sheep. The Mongolian shepherders were amazed as Doug told him about this shepherd.

The next day the Mongolian shepherders told Doug that during the night they had decided to follow this shepherd, but they wanted to know his name. Doug said that his name was Jesus. They told Doug that they had always known about him, but they never knew his name, and President Museveni understood what he was talking about.

Doug Coe had a way of explaining things that other people didn't. I was particularly blessed because for 20 years I met with Doug every Tuesday for an hour at 5 o'clock. I was a recipient of all the grace he had in the political philosophy of Jesus. I call it that; Doug didn't call it that. It is all scripturally based. Acts 9:15 says: What did Jesus say to Paul on the road to Damascus?

He said: Take my name. Take my name to the Kings.

Doug spent all those years in every country in the world, taking his name to the Kings. Acts 2:42—that is the genesis of the small meetings we have. Not many people are aware of them. We are here in the U.S. Senate every Wednesday morning, and we meet in the Spirit of Jesus. We have been doing it ever since Doug started this many years ago. It is all scripturally based. It is Acts 2:42. We get together, eat together, pray together, fellowship together, and talk about the precepts of Jesus together.

All of that was happening, and I would say that he died—but not until he quietly spoke of Jesus to every country around the world. I can say that Doug is going to have a very Merry Christmas.

OUR 58TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there is one last thing I want to say that is on a little different subject. Today is a very special day. Today, a little girl named Kay and I got married a long time ago. These are our kids and grandkids. Today is December 19, which is our 58th wedding anniversary. I want to say to Kay: I love you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first to my friend from Oklahoma, happy 58th anniversary. That is wonderful. You have a beautiful family. Every year, I enjoy getting the Christmas card with the picture of your beautiful family on it. It is a wonderful milestone to celebrate today.

DACA

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am rising today to join my voice with so many others to support young people whom we call Dreamers. These young people were brought to the United States as children, sometimes as babies. For many of them, this country is the only home they have ever known. I should say up front that we need comprehensive immigration reform for our security and our economy.

Our Nation's immigration system is broken, and it hurts families, workers, businesses, and farmers each and every day. But targeting these young people who have come to our country through their parents—their parents bringing them as children—does nothing to solve the larger issues that we need to address in the Senate and in the House.

To remind everyone, to be eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, which we call DACA, young people have to have entered the United States before their 16th birthday. They must be attending school, have graduated or earned their GED, or have been honorably discharged from the U.S. military, and they must not have been in trouble with the law. Those are pretty good principles for all of us—following the law and working hard. When anyone does that, they should know that our country has their back.

Those who were approved for DACA were given a legal status to remain here and a work permit so that they could work and contribute to our country. We made these young people a promise, and we need to keep it. I feel very strongly that whether it is our veterans, our people in the military going to war who are protecting us every day, who are serving our country—we made them a promise that they would have healthcare, among other promises, to make sure that veterans are not at the back of any line.

When someone works all their life—they work 30 years, they pay into a pension, and they assume that pension is going to be there—that is another kind of promise. This is also a promise that was made to young people. If they worked hard and followed the rules and stayed out of trouble and contributed to our country, either serving in the military or going to school and working, they would have the right to be here and be able to contribute to our country.

Nationwide, we know there are about 800,000 young people who are covered by DACA. In Michigan alone, we have over 10,000 young people—10,000 young Dreamers—working hard and going to school, contributing to our economy and our quality of life in Michigan. Many of them have DACA status.

Those are some of the numbers; however, we are not talking about numbers here. We are talking about people's lives. We are talking about 10,000 young people in Michigan who are attending colleges, starting businesses, creating jobs, buying homes, serving in

the military, and raising American children of their own. They are proud to be here. These young people aren't numbers; they are our neighbors.

In Michigan, we care about our neighbors. One of these young people is named Nara. She shared her story with me, both last week and again today. I am so pleased that she and other wonderful young people are in town today to share their stories.

Nara was born in Poland. Her parents faced intense discrimination because of their different backgrounds; one was from Poland and the other was from Mongolia. In 2000, when Nara was only 4 years old, she and her mom were granted a visa to come to the United States.

Nara excelled in school. She graduated from high school with honors and attended the University of Detroit Mercy. She also found ways to give back, leading service trips around the country and volunteering for organizations, including the Humanitarian Alliance of Michigan, World Medical Relief, and Children's Hospital of Michigan. Earlier this year, Nara graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in leadership. She was awarded one of Detroit Mercy's highest honors, presented to the undergraduate student who best exemplifies the mission of the university—leadership and service.

Another one of our wonderful young people is Juan. He was brought to the United States by his parents when he was a 1-year-old. He was just a baby. He has known no other country. When Juan was in high school, he tried to enlist in the Marines to serve his country. He longed to serve the country that had given him so many opportunities. His plans changed, however, when a recruiter told him that he would likely be deported after he had served his country. Instead, Juan got a job, hoping to save up money for college. The DACA Program allowed him to get a job permit and a better job. Today he is a prelaw student at Wayne State University. He hopes to one day become an immigration lawyer.

Juan said this:

I believe in America. . . . I was raised here. I love this country. . . . This is my home.

Nara, Juan, and so many other young people are great examples of why we need to pass the Dream Act. We need to extend DACA as soon as possible. I would love to see it happen right now, today. Young people are waiting, have been waiting, and are in horrible situations because they don't know what is going to happen. These young people have done everything right, and they don't know whether they are going to be ripped away from their family and sent to a country they may never have been in. They want to be here, contributing to America. They want to earn their degrees, start businesses, raise families, and give back to their communities.

We need comprehensive immigration reform. That is for sure. But first, we need to pass the bipartisan Dream Act

as quickly as possible. These young Dreamers have done nothing wrong. They have done everything right. They have done everything they have been asked to do. It is time to make sure our country stands up and keeps its promises to them. That is what our neighbors would do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1.

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

Ms. CANTWELL. 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 Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 321 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Portman
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Capito	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Strange
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Donnelly	Kaine
Bennet	Duckworth	King
Blumenthal	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Feinstein	Leahy
Brown	Franken	Manchin
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Markey
Cardin	Harris	McCaskill
Carper	Hassan	Menendez
Casey	Heinrich	Merkley
Coons	Heitkamp	Murphy
Cortez Masto	Hirono	Murray

Nelson	Schumer	Van Hollen
Peters	Shaheen	Warner
Reed	Stabenow	Warren
Sanders	Tester	Whitehouse
Schatz	Udall	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The motion was agreed to.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed having been agreed to, the Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 15, 2017.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we stand today on the precipice of the most sweeping change to our Nation's tax system in over 30 years. This is a historic moment, as this distinguished body begins final consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—tax reform that will help boost America's economy, create more jobs, and leave more money in people's paychecks.

The last time we considered tax reform similar to this magnitude was 1986. To help remind us how much our country, its economy, and the people have changed since that time, let's review some of the events of that year.

In 1986, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 1,895—sure that 20,000 would never be broken, and it wasn't until after the last election. It now stands at over 24,000.

A gallon of gas cost just 89 cents. Today it is close to \$2.50. We still used land lines to phone our loved ones. Iconic movies such as "Top Gun" and "Aliens" opened. Americans were watching TV shows like "Dynasty" and "Hill Street Blues." The Associated Press chose NBA star Larry Bird as one of the Athletes of the Year.

President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which ushered in deep tax rate cuts for American families and an overhaul of our complicated Tax Code. When he signed the bill, Reagan commented on the length of the journey and noted that some people thought it would never happen.

Today, too, some have asserted that tax reform either cannot or should not happen, but as our strongly optimistic

President said in 1986—and as I continue to believe—the American people "haven't made this the freest country and the mightiest economic force on this planet by shrinking from challenges." Reagan noted:

This country was founded on faith in the individual, not groups or classes, but faith in resources and bounty of each and every separate human soul. Our Founding Fathers designed a Democratic form of government to enlist the individual's energies.

For that reason, I want to remind my colleagues about the hard work that brought us here. It is a journey that has been years in the making under the leadership of both sides of the aisle. It is one we started and will finish for the benefit of the American people and the health of the U.S. economy.

I am proud of the work of the Finance and Budget Committees, and I have had the honor to play a role with both. The Finance Committee held more than 70 hearings on how the Tax Code can be improved and streamlined to work better for all Americans.

Almost 3 years ago, Finance Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN convened bipartisan tax reform working groups to analyze challenges of our outdated Tax Code and develop policy recommendations for comprehensive tax reform. The conclusions reached by these groups helped identify the issues for reform and shape the contours of the legislation we are considering now. It is worth noting that the entire fiscal year 2018 budget reconciliation process has been open, transparent, and subject to regular order, starting with the passage of the Senate budget resolution.

The Senate Budget Committee marked up the bill over 2 days and accepted amendments from both sides of the aisle to make the resolution stronger. In fact, for the first time ever, the minority received a copy of the chairman's budget document 5 days prior to the start of the markup. According to many of my colleagues, it was one of the most transparent budget resolution markups in history.

The budget resolution—complete with the document reconciliation instructions—was then debated on the floor. This was an open floor process that allowed every Senator the opportunity to offer and vote on amendments to improve the resolution before its final passage.

Last month, the Senate Finance Committee held a 4-day markup before approving tax reform legislation designed to modernize our Tax Code. The markup lasted 23 hours and 34 minutes over the course of those 4 days. Of the more than 350 amendments filed, 69 were considered in committee. Amendments offered by both Democrats and Republicans were adopted.

Since then, both Chambers of Congress have passed similar versions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and over the past 2 weeks, conferees worked tirelessly to resolve and bridge the differences between the two bills and