

this year to strengthen America, to move us forward, to strengthen our economic security, to strengthen our national security. In the new year, we are going to have a lot of challenges. We have a lot to accomplish over the next year. But I am absolutely confident that by keeping our eye on the ball, by staying focused, by working together in a bipartisan way we will be able to continue to cut bureaucratic redtape, to have more efficient Government, to demonstrate more fiscal restraint, to lower Government spending, to support our troops in the field, and to promote policies that will make America safer and more prosperous and healthier and stronger.

I extend my warm wishes to my colleagues for a joyous holiday season. The holidays also are an opportunity to gather with loved ones, to cherish achievements, and to recommit ourselves to the challenges that lay ahead. May we all find strength and renewal in this season, and may we all allow the good will which warms our homes during the holidays to be shared with others—our families, our friends, our neighbors—throughout the year to come.

To our colleagues, to our staff, to the pages who are here tonight, the colleagues who hopefully are at home and in bed now, to the press corps who has been so actively covering us up until about 15 or 20 minutes ago and are probably writing their stories right now, I wish you all happy holidays, and to all a very Merry Christmas.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

STATUS QUO OF NOMINATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all nominations received by the Senate during the first session of the 109th Congress remain in status quo following the sine die adjournment of the first session under the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exceptions: Calendar No. 436, Brett Cavanaugh, PN203, and a list of nominations from the Armed Services that is at the desk.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to

consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar, Calendar Nos. 149, 219, 464, 483, 486, 487, 488, 489, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; provided further the Commerce Committee be discharged further from consideration of the following nominations, and they be considered en bloc: PN1147 and PN1146; I further ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624.

To be brigadier general

Col. Donald M. Bradshaw, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

R. Thomas Weimer, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Emilio T. Gonzalez, of Florida, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General Philip M. Breedlove, 0000

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 the title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer, 0000

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. Charles C. Campbell, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Andrew B. Davis, 0000

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN785 AIR FORCE nominations (177) beginning JOLENE A. * AINSWORTH, and ending DAVID C. * ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 28, 2005.

PN994 AIR FORCE nominations (61) beginning CRAIG L. ADAMS, and ending MATTHEW C. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 17, 2005.

PN996 AIR FORCE nominations (1235) beginning JAY O. AANRUD, and ending SCOTT C. ZIPPWALD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 17, 2005.

PN1123 AIR FORCE nomination of Martin E. Keillor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1124 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning ROBERT W. DESVERREAUZ, and ending CHETAN U. KHAROD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1125 AIR FORCE nomination of Julie S. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1126 AIR FORCE nomination of Kara A. Gormont, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

IN THE ARMY

PN1103-1 ARMY nominations (527) beginning DEIBY ACEVEDO, and ending DAVID R. ZYSK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 13, 2005.

PN1104 ARMY nominations (478) beginning HOLTORF R. ALONSO, and ending RICHARD M. ZYGADLO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 13, 2005.

PN1105 ARMY nominations (17) beginning THOMAS E. AYRES, and ending PETER C. ZOLPER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 13, 2005.

PN1127 ARMY nomination of Cindy R. Jebb, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1128 ARMY nomination of Richard L. Chavez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1129 ARMY nominations (2) beginning SAMUEL CASCCELLS, and ending SLOBODAN JAZAREVIC, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

PN1130 ARMY nominations (5) beginning JOSEPH J. IMPALLARIA, and ending ARTHUR E. LEES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1131 MARINE CORPS nomination of Michelle A. Rakers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

IN THE NAVY

PN1110 NAVY nominations (42) beginning TONY C. BAKER, and ending JAMES J. VOPELIUS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 13, 2005.

PN1132 NAVY nomination of Lloyd G. Lecain, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2005.

IN THE COAST GUARD IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211:

To be lieutenant commander

Connie M. Rooke, 0000

To be lieutenant

Joseph T. Benin, 0000

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

UNCLEARED NOMINATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there are several nominations that had been cleared for some length of time on our side of the aisle, and I was disappointed we were not able to clear them on the other side. The Intelligence Committee reported the General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on July 26, and that is being held up. We have the Assistant Secretary of Defense and an Under Secretary of Defense that we have been unable to reach consent on. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would allow these important defense and intelligence positions to go forward, and we will try again when we return.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that during adjournment the Senate majority leader and junior Senator from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

ORDER FOR NOMINATIONS TO REMAIN IN STATUS QUO

Mr. FRIST. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent all nominations received by the Senate during the first session of the 109th Congress remain in status quo following the sine die adjournment of the first session under the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exception: Calendar No. 436, Brett Kavanaugh, PN203, and a list of nominations from the armed services that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

GLOBAL PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2170, introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2170) to provide for global pathogen surveillance and response.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2170) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2170

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Global Pathogen Surveillance Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The frequency of the occurrence of biological events that could threaten the national security of the United States has increased and is likely increasing. The threat to the United States from such events includes threats from diseases that infect humans, animals, or plants regardless of if such diseases are introduced naturally, accidentally, or intentionally.

(2) The United States lacks an effective and real-time system to detect, identify, contain, and respond to global threats and also lacks an effective mechanism to disseminate information to the national response community if such threats arise.

(3) Bioterrorism poses a grave national security threat to the United States. The insidious nature of a bioterrorist attack, the likelihood that the recognition of such an attack would be delayed, and the under-preparedness of the domestic public health infrastructure to respond to such an attack could result in catastrophic consequences following a biological weapons attack against the United States.

(4) The ability to recognize that a country or organization is carrying out a covert biological weapons program is dependent on a number of indications and warnings. A critical component of this recognition is the timely detection of sentinel events such as laboratory accidents and community-level outbreaks that could be the earliest indication of an emerging bioterrorist program in a foreign country. Early detection of such events may enable earlier counter-proliferation intervention.

(5) A contagious pathogen engineered as a biological weapon and developed, tested, produced, or released in a foreign country could quickly spread to the United States. Considering the realities of international travel, trade, and migration patterns, a dangerous pathogen appearing naturally, accidentally, or intentionally anywhere in the world can spread to the United States in a matter of days, before any effective quarantine or isolation measures could be implemented.

(6) To combat bioterrorism effectively and ensure that the United States is fully prepared to prevent, recognize, and contain a biological weapons attack, or emerging infectious disease, measures to strengthen the domestic public health infrastructure and improve domestic event detection, surveillance, and response, while absolutely essential, are not sufficient.

(7) The United States should enhance cooperation with the World Health Organization, regional international health organizations, and individual countries, including data sharing with appropriate agencies and departments of the United States, to help de-

tect and quickly contain infectious disease outbreaks or a bioterrorism agent before such a disease or agent is spread.

(8) The World Health Organization has done an impressive job in monitoring infectious disease outbreaks around the world, particularly with the establishment in April 2000 of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.

(9) The capabilities of the World Health Organization depend on the quality of the data and information the Organization receives from the countries that are members of the Organization and is further limited by the narrow list of diseases (such as plague, cholera, and yellow fever) on which such surveillance and monitoring is based and by the consensus process used by the Organization to add new diseases to the list. Developing countries, in particular, often are unable to devote the necessary resources to build and maintain public health infrastructures.

(10) In particular, developing countries could benefit from—

(A) better trained public health professionals and epidemiologists to recognize disease patterns;

(B) appropriate laboratory equipment for diagnosis of pathogens;

(C) disease reporting systems that—

(i) are based on disease and syndrome surveillance; and

(ii) could enable an effective response to a biological event to begin at the earliest possible opportunity;

(D) a narrowing of the existing technology gap in disease and syndrome surveillance capabilities, based on reported symptoms, and real-time information dissemination to public health officials; and

(E) appropriate communications equipment and information technology to efficiently transmit information and data within national, international regional, and international health networks, including inexpensive, Internet-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and relevant telephone-based systems for early recognition and diagnosis of diseases.

(11) An effective international capability to detect, monitor, and quickly diagnose infectious disease outbreaks will offer dividends not only in the event of biological weapons development, testing, production, and attack, but also in the more likely cases of naturally occurring infectious disease outbreaks that could threaten the United States. Furthermore, a robust surveillance system will serve to deter, prevent, or contain terrorist use of biological weapons, mitigating the intended effects of such malevolent uses.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To provide the United States with an effective and real-time system to detect biological threats that—

(A) utilizes classified and unclassified information to detect such threats; and

(B) may be utilized by the human or the agricultural domestic disease response community.

(2) To enhance the capability of the international community, through the World Health Organization and individual countries, to detect, identify, and contain infectious disease outbreaks, whether the cause of those outbreaks is intentional human action or natural in origin.

(3) To enhance the training of public health professionals and epidemiologists from eligible developing countries in advanced Internet-based disease and syndrome surveillance systems, in addition to traditional epidemiology methods, so that such professionals and epidemiologists may better detect, diagnose, and contain infectious disease outbreaks, especially such outbreaks