

with me to work this out. My congratulations to Secretary Eric Fanning—Army Secretary Eric Fanning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I again thank my old friend from Kansas for his agreement to move forward. I look forward to continuing our long, many years' effort together to keep this Nation safe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 477 only, with no other executive business in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Eric K. Fanning, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Army.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fanning nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, 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.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam 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. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3897

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Lee amendment No. 3897. I wish to take a

moment to thank Senator COLLINS and Senator JACK REED for their terrific work on this bill and for how they teamed up to manage this bill in pretty much the right way.

With this legislation, we are making critical investments in our transportation, housing, and community development programs. In this country today, one in four families who rent spend more than half of their income on housing. We have been taught from young adulthood on that you shouldn't spend more than 25, 30, or 35 percent at the most on house payments or rent, yet one-fourth of Americans are spending more than half of their income on housing.

I recently read the book "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond. In that book, one renter was quoted as saying that when her paycheck came in, her rent eats first. She had kids who were hungry. She had bus tokens to buy so she could get to work. With all of the challenges she had, she said: My rent eats first. We know what that means.

In housing, whether it is in rural Maine or whether it is in urban or rural Ohio, we know that rental prices have continued to go up and up. Evictions are so much more common than they were a decade or, especially, two decades ago. That has to change, and it makes clear why we need to maintain our existing affordable housing resources.

This bill focuses on improving the quality of federally assisted houses and removing lead paint hazards from homes. We know the effect that has on us. We learned from Flint about water, but we know an even bigger problem is lead in paint. In 2007, in the city that I call home, the city of Cleveland—the ZIP Code I live in, 44105—there were more foreclosures in my ZIP Code than any ZIP Code in the United States. We also know in cities like Cleveland and rural areas like Appalachia, where most of the housing stock is World War II or older, almost all of that housing stock has toxic levels of lead paint.

The bill pays particular attention to transit safety. The Banking Committee oversees transit. Senator MIKULSKI has worked with Senator SHELBY and me, as well as our colleagues representing the local area—Senators WARNER, CARDIN, and KAINE—to make sure the FTA has the resources needed to oversee the Washington Metro. It is something we have neglected for decades.

I wish to thank my colleagues for working with us to ensure that young foster care alumni don't have to choose between getting the education they need to be self-sufficient and having a roof over their heads. I wish more funds were available for these important investments—particularly, additional funding to address family homelessness. But I thank my colleagues for their work within the subcommittee's funding constraints and their attention to these critical issues. I especially thank the chair, SUSAN COLLINS, for that.

Unfortunately, Senator LEE's amendment will undermine some of the good we are doing with this legislation. It will prohibit the Department of Housing and Urban Development from carrying out a key component of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. When Congress passed that bill in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., it made housing discrimination illegal in every State in the Nation for the first time.

For generations, redlining, restrictive covenants, and outright discrimination kept families of color locked out of entire neighborhoods and created segregated communities that linger to this day. These were tools of racial oppression as well as economic oppression, and in far too many cases, they went hand in hand. The Fair Housing Act made these despicable practices illegal everywhere.

Congress included another important component in the Fair Housing Act: a requirement that HUD and its grantees administer their federal housing and urban development grants in a way that would affirmatively further fair housing. State and local governments and public housing authorities were required to use their Federal funds in ways that would reverse, rather than reinforce, segregation in these communities. But today, the outlines of decades-old discrimination are still too visible.

I listened to a preacher on Martin Luther King Day on a cold Cleveland January morning 2½ years ago. He said something we all know but don't think enough about: Life expectancy is connected to your ZIP Code. Whether you grow up on the east side of Cleveland, whether you grow up in a wealthy suburb, whether you grow up in Appalachia, whether you grow up in a prosperous small town, your ZIP Code determines whether you have access to good health care, to quality education, to social support necessary to succeed. When where you live matters this much, we all have a moral obligation to ensure that families can live in the neighborhoods of their choice and to ensure that communities are creating opportunity in every ZIP Code. Unfortunately, in the 50 years since our country passed the Fair Housing Act, HUD has not provided enough direction to help communities meet this goal.

A 2010 GAO report recommended that HUD take action to improve its process for meeting its obligations, including three things: establishing standards and a format for grantees to follow, requiring grantees to establish timeframes for implementing their plans, and requiring grantees to submit their analyses to HUD for review.

HUD developed a new rule that will finally help local governments across the country support and foster fair housing policies that create vibrant and integrated communities. This rule was developed through a 2-year public process. Twelve of my colleagues and I urged Secretary Castro to develop a