

blockage at the heart of justice, blocking the flow of reason, of commonsense, fairness, and urgently needed progress.

But the pain and frustration I might feel is minimal compared to those who are suffering under the brunt of a broken system. We cannot be deaf to the cries for justice of families and children, those suffering addictions, those suffering from mental illness, and those whose families have been torn apart by such misfortunes. We cannot be mute or silent in the face of injustice, those of us who are elected to serve all Americans.

At the beginning of each day, we swear an oath in this body. We pledge allegiance to those ideals of liberty and justice. Let us now act so we do not betray the moral standing of our Nation.

I urge the Senate leadership to bring the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act for a vote. The time is right now to do what is right now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Reed amendment No. 4549.

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

The 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 Reed amendment No. 4549 to the McCain amendment No. 4229 to S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Michael F. Bennet, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Al Franken, Gary C. Peters, Bill Nelson, Barbara Boxer, Robert Menendez, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara A. Mikulski.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the McCain amendment No. 4229.

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

The 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 McCain amendment No. 4229 to S. 2943, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

John McCain, John Cornyn, Marco Rubio, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, James M. Inhofe, Pat Roberts, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Dan Sullivan, Lindsey Graham, Lisa Murkowski, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the man-

datory quorum calls with respect to the cloture motions be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or ROTC, the Nation's training program for commissioned officers of the U.S. Armed Forces. Founded in 1916, ROTC prepares young adults to be leaders in our Nation's Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. ROTC cadets commit to serving their country in uniform after college graduation in exchange for ROTC assisting with costs associated with their college education.

Although military training took place at civilian colleges and universities in the 19th century, it was not until the National Defense Act of 1916, signed by President Woodrow Wilson, that this training was consolidated under a single entity: the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. ROTC is the largest officer-producing organization within the U.S. military.

In 100 years of history, ROTC has commissioned more than 1 million military officers. The U.S. Army ROTC program started in 1916 with just 46 initial programs, and today it has commissioned more than 600,000 officers at almost 1,000 schools across the Nation, with a presence in every State, as well as Guam and Puerto Rico.

In 2016, Army ROTC has an enrollment of more than 30,000 and produces over 70 percent of the second lieutenants who join the Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve.

Army ROTC is one of the most demanding and strenuous leadership training programs a young person can choose today. ROTC training molded and shaped six Chiefs of Staff of the Army, two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a current Supreme Court Justice, the current Governor of Kentucky, as well as countless other leaders in government, business, science, sports, and the arts.

For decades, Army ROTC has conducted summer training for many cadets at Fort Knox, KY. In 2013, I was pleased to help Army ROTC get an ROTC training program called the Cadet Leader Course relocated to Fort Knox as well. More than 6,000 cadets attend that particular leadership course at Fort Knox every year since the installation began hosting the program in 2014. In all, over 10,000 cadets attend various summer training courses each year at Fort Knox.

ROTC serves as a vital introduction to life and a career in the military for America's young men and women. Supporting our Armed Forces means supporting ROTC programs at institutions across the country. ROTC creates America's next generation of leaders, in the Armed Forces, and in American life.

I know my colleagues join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the creation of our military's ROTC and in thanking the hundreds of thousands of brave cadets who have successfully completed the challenges of the program and gone on to become officers. We are certainly grateful for their service and their sacrifice. Without ROTC, our Nation's military would not be the superior fighting force that is today. I am proud that Kentucky plays a significant role in the training of ROTC cadets.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate's final passage today of the bipartisan Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, after 3 years of difficult negotiations, reflects the true nature of compromise. I am glad that we have finally come to an agreement to update our country's ineffective and outdated chemical regulatory program. While this is not a perfect bill, I believe that it goes a long way towards protecting American families from dangerous chemicals and serves as a fitting tribute to Senator Lautenberg, who was a tireless public health advocate.

This legislation overhauls the 40-year-old, outdated Toxic Substances Control Act and will bring more than 64,000 chemicals under the review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. Under the old law, the EPA was required to approve chemicals using a burdensome and ineffective economic cost-benefit analysis, but this reform bill will require the EPA to make a decision based solely on health and safety concerns. Additionally, the Lautenberg act gives the EPA enhanced authority to require testing of both new and existing chemicals, requiring safety reviews for all chemicals in active commerce and a safety finding for new chemicals before they are allowed on the market.

The House bill originally included a provision preempting State authority to regulate specific chemicals. State preemption is a significant concern for Vermont, especially with the discovery of perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA, contaminated water in the communities of North Bennington and Pownal. Unfortunately, due to shortcomings in the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, PFOA was one of many chemicals that had been presumed safe without any requirement for testing or review. While