

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

AMENDMENT NOS. 1694, 1881, 1883, 1753, 1803, 1808, 1891, 1987, 1907, 2018, 2391, 1968, 1977, 2077, 2058, 2178, 2186, 2215, 2251, 2231, 2255, 2238, 2256, 2241, 2269, 2243, 2270, 2248, 2275, 2277, 2204, 2417, 1797, 1825, 1878, 1966, 1971, 1991, 2053, 2138, 2168, 2217, 2220, 2235, 2257, 2287, 2298, 2317, 2319, 2326, 2327, 2331, 2341, 2370, 2378, 1693, 2418, 2419, 2084, 1849, 2103, 2422

Mr. INHOFE. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be adopted en bloc and that the Senate vote on adoption of the amendments en bloc with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. President, I will read the entire list so that each Member knows the status of his or her amendment: Moran No. 1694, Hyde-Smith No. 1881, Romney No. 1883, Peters No. 1753, Warner No. 1803, Coons No. 1808, Portman No. 1891, Kennedy No. 1987, Warner No. 1907, Romney No. 2018, Sullivan No. 2391, Tester No. 1968, Bennet No. 1977, Johnson No. 2077, Smith No. 2058, Wicker No. 2178, Cortez Masto No. 2186, King No. 2215, Merkley No. 2251, Fischer No. 2231, Cantwell No. 2255, Risch No. 2238, Cantwell No. 2256, Gardner No. 2241, Hirono No. 2269, Portman No. 2243, Menendez No. 2270, Inhofe-Reed No. 2248, Peters No. 2275, Toomey No. 2277, Inhofe No. 2204, Cantwell-Manchin No. 2417, Jones No. 1797, Lankford No. 1825, Loeffler No. 1878, Tester No. 1966, Tester No. 1971, Kennedy No. 1991, Markey No. 2053, Cruz No. 2138, Durbin No. 2168, Feinstein No. 2217, Heinrich No. 2220, Rounds No. 2235, Brown No. 2257, Sasse No. 2287, Boozman No. 2298, Harris No. 2317, Klobuchar No. 2319, Inhofe No. 2326, Young No. 2327, Shelby No. 2331, Wyden No. 2341, Blackburn No. 2370, Blackburn No. 2378, Moran No. 1693, Inhofe No. 2418, Sanders No. 2419, Lee No. 2084, Van Hollen No. 1849, Hassan No. 2103, and Rubio No. 2422.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I am reserving the right to object.

This amendment list does not include my amendment No. 1932, a bill that the Presiding Officer and I have worked on and a bill that the majority leader has voted for.

This amendment is so simple. It professionalizes how the military prosecutes serious crimes—serious crimes such as sexual assault, rape, and murder. It removes the systemic fear that survivors have in reporting these crimes.

According to the Pentagon's most recent survey, almost 21,000 servicemembers were sexually assaulted in 2018. This is a 30-percent increase from the year before. The current climate is not good for survivors. Currently, most survivors are retaliated against when they come forward and report these crimes. In fact, the rate of retaliation is two-thirds of all survivors, unchanged from past years. Worse than that, of the cases that the command

considers for action, of those unique few, only 10 percent of those went to trial.

Year after year, we have hearings. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member. We have hearings and the commanders and generals come forward and say: Ma'am, we have got this. Let us take care of this. We have got this. We know what we are doing. We understand. We are going to take this crime so seriously. We are going to prosecute these cases. Leave it to us. We know what we are doing.

It is infuriating. They should not say they know what they are doing or they are just lying to us—it is one or the other—but, either way, they are failing. The failure rate is so high—20,000 rapes last year; less than 10 percent going to trial of the small number that are even considered. The rate of conviction is going down.

There is no measurable in the entire system of military justice for these survivors that is getting better—not one aspect.

“We have got this, ma'am. Leave it to us.” It is just not true. They don't have it. They never have.

If they don't look themselves in the mirror and recognize their failures, they never will. Year after year, thousands of servicemembers are raped and sexually assaulted and assailants are not held accountable. It is not just a few bad apples. In many of those cases, the assailant is someone in the survivor's chain of command—the same chain of command that decides the case. They pick the judges, the juries, the prosecutors, and the defense counsel. That is the system. That system is so weighted that if a commander has a view before they go in, your chance of success is very little.

There is no other judicial system in America that would ever allow this to happen. That commander is not even trained. He is not a prosecutor. He is not a lawyer. This system is not delivering justice. People in the military do not have the benefit of civil liberties because of this. They don't get justice. They never had it, and they never will.

This amendment, this bipartisan and commonsense reform, leaves the majority of uniquely military crimes within the chain of command. It would only remove the decision making over whether to prosecute serious crimes to independent, trained, unbiased military impartial prosecutors.

It is the Senate's job to provide the oversight and accountability to the U.S. military. We owe our U.S. servicemembers everything. For every year that we don't address this fundamental scourge, it is another year we are failing them. I have asked for a vote, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, for 5 years in a row. This is the fifth year I am denied a vote. It is the fifth year that you are saying to our servicemembers that you don't care, and you don't want to fix the system.

We have tried every small-ball reform you can imagine—every study,

every panel, every recommendation. We have made sure those recommendations got in the underlying bill every year. They are just not working. So I would like for us to look ourselves in the mirror and say: Are we doing our job? Are we standing by our servicemembers when they need us? Sadly, the answer is no.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to modify your request to include amendment No. 1932 to just get a vote on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me just make a comment first.

This is a first step. We have a lot of things happening after this. We are going to be on the Senate floor for hours and hours. You will have ample time to entertain your amendment, and I would be very happy to assist you in that.

For that reason, I would not want to jeopardize those 60 names and amendments that I have already offered, to jeopardize their efforts by adding your language, and so I do object.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will withdraw my objection, and I look forward to working with you on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the order consented, the amendments are now pending, and the question is on agreeing to the amendments, en bloc.

The amendments were agreed to en bloc, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1694

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the unemployment rate of female veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001)

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____ STUDY ON UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF FEMALE VETERANS WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, shall conduct a study on why Post-9/11 Veterans who are female are at higher risk of unemployment than all other groups of female veterans and their non-veteran counterparts.

(2) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under paragraph (1) primarily through the Center for Women Veterans under section 318 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult with—

(i) other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Small Business Administration;

(ii) foundations; and

(iii) entities in the private sector.

(3) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to Post-9/11 Veterans who are

female, at a minimum, an analysis of the following:

(A) Rank at time of separation from the Armed Forces.

(B) Geographic location upon such separation.

(C) Educational level upon such separation.

(D) The percentage of such veterans who enrolled in an education or employment training program of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Labor after such separation.

(E) Industries that have employed such veterans.

(F) Military occupational specialties available to such veterans.

(G) Barriers to employment of such veterans.

(H) Causes to fluctuations in employment of such veterans.

(I) Current employment training programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Labor that are available to such veterans.

(J) Economic indicators that impact unemployment of such veterans.

(K) Health conditions of such veterans that could impact employment.

(L) Whether there are differences in the analyses conducted under subparagraphs (A) through (K) based on the race of such veteran.

(M) The difference between unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are female compared to unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are male, including an analysis of potential causes of such difference.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after completing the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such study.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The analyses conducted under subsection (a)(3).

(B) A description of the methods used to conduct the study under subsection (a).

(C) Such other matters relating to the unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are female as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) POST-9/11 VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Post-9/11 Veteran" means a veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001.

AMENDMENT NO. 1881

(Purpose: To designate the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week")

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. SENSE OF SENATE ON GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The last Sunday in September—

(A) is designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day" under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(B) was first designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day" under the Joint Resolution entitled "Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as 'Gold Star Mother's Day', and for other purposes", approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895).

(2) There is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States.

(3) A gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces.

(4) The members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear

the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States.

(5) The selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States.

(6) The sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week";

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

AMENDMENT NO. 1883

(Purpose: To state the policy of the United States on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1262. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to strengthen alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe and with like-minded countries around the globe to effectively compete with the People's Republic of China; and

(2) to work in collaboration with such allies and partners—

(A) to address significant diplomatic, economic, and military challenges posed by the People's Republic of China;

(B) to deter the People's Republic of China from pursuing military aggression;

(C) to promote the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes in accordance with international law;

(D) to promote private sector-led long-term economic development while countering efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to leverage predatory economic practices as a means of political and economic coercion in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(E) to promote the values of democracy and human rights, including through efforts to end the repression by the Chinese Communist Party of political dissidents and Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslim minorities, Tibetan Buddhists, Christians, and other minorities;

(F) to respond to the crackdown by the Chinese Communist Party, in contravention of the commitments made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law of Hong Kong, on the legitimate aspirations of the people of Hong Kong; and

(G) to counter the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to spread disinformation in the People's Republic of China and beyond with respect to the response of the Chinese Communist Party to COVID-19.

AMENDMENT NO. 1753

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the screening practices for Great Lakes and inland waterways seaports)

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10 ___. REPORT ON GREAT LAKES AND INLAND WATERWAYS SEAPORTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives containing the results of the review and an explanation of the methodology used for the review conducted pursuant to subsection (b) regarding the screening practices for foreign cargo arriving at seaports on the Great Lakes and inland waterways.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, to the maximum extent possible, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

(b) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—

(1) SEAPORT SELECTION.—In selecting seaports on inland waterways to include in the review under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the inland waterways seaports are—

(A) equal in number to the Great Lakes seaports included in the review;

(B) comparable to Great Lakes seaports included in the review, as measured by number of imported shipments arriving at the seaport each year; and

(C) covered by at least the same number of Field Operations offices as the Great Lakes seaports included in the review, but are not covered by the same Field Operations offices as such Great Lakes seaports.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a review of all Great Lakes and selected inland waterways seaports that receive international cargo—

(A) to determine, for each such seaport—

(i) the current screening capability, including the types and numbers of screening equipment and whether such equipment is physically located at a seaport or assigned and available in the area and made available to use;

(ii) the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel assigned from a Field Operations office, broken out by role;

(iii) the expenditures for procurement and overtime incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the most recent fiscal year;

(iv) the types of cargo received, such as containerized, break-bulk, and bulk;

(v) the legal entity that owns the seaport;

(vi) a description of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's use of space at the seaport, including—

(I) whether U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the General Services Administration owns or leases any facilities; and

(II) if U.S. Customs and Border Protection is provided space at the seaport, a description of such space, including the number of workstations; and

(vii) the current cost-sharing arrangement for screening technology or reimbursable services;

(B) to identify, for each Field Operations office—

(i) any ports of entry that are staffed remotely from service ports;

(ii) the distance of each such service port from the corresponding ports of entry; and

(iii) the number of officers and the types of equipment U.S. Customs and Border Protection utilizes to screen cargo entering or exiting through such ports; and