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# **BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

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**UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS**

113<sup>TH</sup> Congress, First Session

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# BUSINESS MEETING

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:22 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol,  
2 Hon. Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Menendez [presiding], Boxer, Cardin, Coons, Durbin, Udall,  
4 Murphy, Kaine, Corker, Johnson, and McCain.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
6 will come to order. We still need another member to vote anything out, but I think we  
7 can begin to move the agenda along and have whatever discussions anybody wants to  
8 have.

9 Thanks for coming. I want to remind all members that after the business meeting  
10 concludes Secretary Kerry is going to be briefing the committee on the framework  
11 agreement with Syria in SVC-217, the intelligence briefing room.

12 Let me first say we'll start off with consideration of the committee's budget,  
13 which authorizes funding for committee expenses through February 2015. Our prior  
14 funding resolution was an interim measure which only provided funding for seven  
15 months through the end of September. I believe we have agreement in a bipartisan  
16 effort on the committee's budget resolution, and we are following the Senate Rules  
17 Committee's suggestion on what that figure should be.

18 So are there any questions or comments on that?

19 [No response.]

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay, we'll reserve that for a vote when we get another person.

21 **SENATOR BOXER.** Could I speak about my bill for 30 seconds?

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** We'll get there. We'll get there in a minute. We'll give you more  
2 than 30 seconds.

3           We have three nominees to consider today: Kenneth Weinstein to be a member  
4 of the Broadcasting Board of Governors; Evan Ryan to be Assistant Secretary of State  
5 for Education and Cultural Affairs; and Nisha Biswal to be the Assistant Secretary of  
6 State for South Asian Affairs.

7           While we're waiting for one more member to have a sufficient quorum to vote  
8 out these issues, is there any member wishing to speak on the nominations before us?

9           [No response.]

10          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Hearing none, I'll propose a vote en bloc when we get to that  
11 point.

12          Finally, we have one legislative item on the agenda today, S. 120, the Malala  
13 Yousafzai Scholarship Act authored by Senator Boxer. We will take up concurrently the  
14 amendment in the nature of a substitute authored by Senator Boxer and an amendment  
15 to the same also authored by Senator Boxer.

16          Before I recognize her, let me first ask for a voice vote on the budget resolution.  
17 All those in favor will say aye.

18          [Chorus of ayes.]

19          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Those opposed will say nay.

20          [No response.]

21          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the budget resolution is approved.

22          I'll move the three nominees that I mentioned before en bloc. All those in favor  
23 will say aye.

24          [Chorus of ayes.]

25          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Those opposed will say nay.

26          [No response.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the nominations are approved and ordered  
2 favorably reported by the committee.

3           **SENATOR CORKER.** I have three proxies that have been given to me. Okay, they  
4 don't want to be reported; it's a voice vote, so they are all in agreement.

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Which brings us — thank you, everybody, for those. Which brings  
6 us — so the nominations are agreed to and ordered favorably reported by the  
7 committee.

8           Which brings us to Senator Boxer. Before recognizing Senator Boxer, I  
9 understand there's been a request for a modification to the sense of Congress language  
10 to strike clause 2 and replace it with the following language, "every individual,  
11 regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education," so that the  
12 language would read: "It is the sense of the Congress that every individual, regardless  
13 of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of  
14 discrimination."

15           I ask unanimous consent to make that change. Is there any disagreement?

16           [No response.]

17           **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, then it is ordered with that language and the clause be  
18 changed.

19           Let me thank Senator Boxer, as I call upon her, for her tremendous leadership on  
20 behalf of women and girls across the world. I believe this legislation enhances our  
21 efforts to provide university scholarships particularly for disadvantaged young women  
22 in Pakistan. Malala is an example to us all, a tremendous story of courage, and I'll let  
23 Senator Boxer speak to that.

24           Senator Boxer.

25           **SENATOR BOXER.** I just ask unanimous consent my statement be placed in the  
26 record.

1

**THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection.

**[The prepared statement of Senator Boxer follows:]**

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR BARBARA BOXER OF CALIFORNIA

Chairman Menendez, Senator Corker – thank you for working with me to include the Malala Yousafzai (You-sof-zai) Scholarship Act on today’s business meeting agenda. I appreciate your leadership and support.

I introduced this legislation with Senator Landrieu in January after Taliban gunmen brutally shot 15-year old Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai in the head as she traveled to school.

Their goal was to silence Malala and to send a chilling message to others like her, but their cowardly act has had the opposite effect.

As many of you know, Malala recovered from her wounds, wrote a book that will be released next month, and bravely spoke before the United Nations General Assembly about the importance of girls’ education.

In that speech, Malala said “One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution.”

I could not agree more.

This bill pays tribute to Malala’s vision for her country by reinforcing the U.S. commitment to girl’s education in Pakistan.

Specifically, the bill codifies a planned expansion of the USAID-facilitated Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program in Pakistan to ensure that it supports as many female students as it does male students.

Shortly after Malala was shot, I reached out to USAID and found – to my dismay – that this program providing significantly more scholarships to male students than to female students.

In fact, of the 369 Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships that were awarded in 2011, only 81 were for women.

USAID has since agreed to provide at least 50 percent of these scholarships to women—and my legislation codifies that commitment.

This is something that USAID has already budgeted and planned for, so the Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that it will not result in any additional costs.

According to the United Nations, “Pakistan has the second largest number of children out of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural females have never been to school.”

I hope you will join with me to help reverse this terrible trend and support young girls like Malala who are bravely working to build a better future for their country.

Thank you.

2 **SENATOR BOXER.** Just very quickly to really thank everybody here. Thank you for

3 your help on this, of course the chairman and all the co-sponsors, but Senator Corker.

4 He has been working with me to make sure that the timing if this is right. When I

5 wanted to offer it was not a good time for this committee. We were in some problem

6 areas and I didn't want to bring it up.

1           It's such a good, positive thing we're doing. I think we remember that the  
2 Taliban brutally shot Malala Yousafzai in the head in Pakistan. She was on the way to  
3 school; that was her crime. I think we all just were sick over this. What we found out  
4 was that we just continue to see women and girls be discriminated against in terms of  
5 their education.

6           So all this says is that half of the scholarships that the State Department gives  
7 under a special program we've all supported, half of them go to women, because when  
8 we looked at it we found out, I say to my colleagues, that only 25 percent were going to  
9 girls and 75 percent were going to boys. We said, please, as you ramp up this program  
10 let's just keep it fair.

11           So that's it, and I think it'll make a huge difference. I think it's a statement from  
12 this country. I'm excited about this bill, and I thank Senator Landrieu because she and I  
13 called each other in great distress after this and decided we could name this program  
14 after Malala, which is what we did.

15           So I hope we get a unanimous vote.

16           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone else who wishes to speak to the legislation?

17           **SENATOR CORKER.** Briefly, I want to —

18           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Corker.

19           **SENATOR CORKER.** — thank Senator Boxer for the way she's worked with us, in the  
20 way she just did on the amendment, but also understanding some of the timing issues  
21 that took place. I think that's the best of the United States Senate. I thank you for being  
22 that way and look forward to supporting your piece of legislation.

23           **SENATOR BOXER.** Mention that to Senator Vitter when you see him. Just kidding.

24           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All right. I ask unanimous consent to be added as a co-sponsor of  
25 the legislation, without objection.

26           [No response.]

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** I propose we vote on the amendment in the nature of a substitute  
2 and the amendment by voice vote en bloc. All those in favor will say aye.

3           [Chorus of ayes.]

4           **THE CHAIRMAN.** All those opposed will say nay.

5           [No response.]

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it.

7           Now on the underlying bill S. 120 as amended, all those in favor will say aye.

8           [Chorus of ayes.]

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Those opposed will say nay.

10          [No response.]

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the legislation is approved and sent to the full  
12 Senate.

13          That concludes our business for the day and I ask unanimous consent that the  
14 staff be allowed to make technical and conforming changes to the agreed-upon  
15 legislation.

16          **SENATOR KAINE.** Mr. Chair.

17          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

18          **SENATOR KAINE.** Will we roll right into our next meeting?

19          **THE CHAIRMAN.** We are going to go upstairs to 217, where we expect Secretary  
20 Kerry to give his briefing.

21          Senator Cardin, you want to be —

22          **SENATOR CARDIN.** Recorded as aye.

23          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

24          **SENATOR BOXER.** It's downstairs.

25          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The intelligence briefing room, SVC-217.

26          **SENATOR COONS.** Mr. Chairman, I'd love to be added as a co-sponsor.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection. All those who wish to be added as a co-  
2 sponsor, without objection, will be allowed to do so.

3           With that, the meeting is adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 2:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]**