

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