(5) thanks the United States Transportation Command for its assistance in securing flights for United States citizens and legal permanent residents;

(6) recognizes the efforts made by partners overseas to help United States embassies and consulates secure the flights and ground transportation need to allow these Americans to return home;

(7) expresses its condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of those Department of State personnel who died as a result of COVID–19; and

(8) urges the employees of the Department of State to continue the important work of bringing home United States citizens and legal permanent residents who remain stranded in foreign countries.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a resolution with Senator RISCH, as well as other colleagues, to thank countless State Department career officials for their extensive efforts to bring home over 78,000 United States citizens and legal permanent residents during the COVID–19 pandemic. This pandemic caused an unprecedented disruption in global travel, leaving tens of thousands of United States citizens and legal permanent residents stranded overseas with no direct way to return to the United States. While we will have ample opportunity in the future to examine and better understand the decisions made by senior leadership at the Department of State at the onset of the COVID–19 crisis that could have allowed the United States to more effectively respond to this pandemic, including to identify and mitigate repatriation challenges, I will note that once the Department recognized the enormity of the repatriation crisis, it's career professionals sprung into action and, characteristically, rose to meet the challenge and serve their nation with distinction.

Staying true to the Department's most fundamental mission, to protect U.S. citizens abroad, State Department officers, family members, and local employees faced great personal risk and long hours to assist U.S. citizens during a time of dire need and stress. For that, my colleagues and I are tremendously grateful. We commend the extraordinary work done by the Repatriation Task Force, embassy and consulate staff around the world, and the United States Transportation Command. Their efforts resulted in the repatriation of over 78,000 Americans on 833 flights originating from 128 countries and territories in just an 18–week period. I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Ian Brownlee and Deputy Assistant Secretary Hugo Yon for their exemplary leadership of and contribution to the Repatriation Task Force, as well as to Wendy Kennedy for her work with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. Furthermore, I would like to thank Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie Chung, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kevin O'Reilly, Consul General Dana Deree (Honduras), Consul General William Bent (El Salvador), Consul General John Barrett (Recife), Deputy Chief of Mission Denison Offutt (Lima), Director for Central America Affairs Marta Youth, and Country Consular Coordinator Alexander Delorey (Quito) for their leadership in facilitating the repatriation of thousands of Americans citizens from countries in the Western hemisphere. I recognize that in calling out these individuals who were especially helpful to me and to my office that I run the risk of not naming the tens, if not hundreds of others who worked just as hard and contributed just as much; they have my thanks as well.

I, along with my colleagues, are profoundly grateful to the Department of State personnel who have worked tirelessly these past few months, who have served the United States above and beyond the call of duty, and who have helped their fellow citizen in a time of dire need. I urge the Department to continue its good work and to remain ready to bring home American citizens and legal permanent residents as the COVID–19 pandemic persists.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1581. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3608, to amend the CARES Act to provide flexibility in use of funds by States, Indian Tribes, and municipalities; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1581. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3608, to amend the CARES Act to provide flexibility in use of funds by States, Indian Tribes, and municipalities; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Coronavirus Relief Fund Flexibility for State and Local Government Act''.

SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136), section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001(a) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, is amended to read as follows:

''(d) USE AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds paid to a State, Tribal government, or unit of local government under this section may be used for operating expenses not related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19), and shall remain available until expended.

''(2) LIMITATION.—No funds paid to a State, Tribal government, or unit of local government under this section may be used for any costs of, or payments from, a pension fund or plan of the State, Tribal government, or unit of local government in its capacity as an employer.''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 9:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing following nominations: Kenneth H. Braithwaite to be Secretary of Navy, James H. Anderson to be Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, and General Charles Q. Brown Jr. to be Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 565 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 565) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The resolution (S. Res. 565) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to