

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson  
Business Meeting, September 26, 2018**

*As prepared for delivery:*

Good morning. I believe we all share the goal of creating a more efficient, effective federal government for our constituents. Today we have an opportunity to pass a number of bills that do just that. There are a few I'd like to highlight.

The *Reforming Government Act of 2018*, a bill I introduced with Senator Lankford, requires the Administration to submit certain government reorganization proposals to this Committee for approval. This bill activates statutory reorganization authority that has been used many times in the past to allow presidents to think outside the box to improve and streamline the federal bureaucracy.

I'm also pleased today to be advancing an important piece of legislation that seeks to give policymakers better information about the unfunded mandates that Congress imposes on states and localities. Sponsored by Representatives Virginia Foxx and Henry Cuellar, this bipartisan bill has a simple goal: ensure that regulatory analyses of unfunded mandates are realistic, and do not make it harder for state, local and tribal governments to serve their constituents.

Today we will also consider an important bill that would address problems the Committee and the non-partisan Partnership for Public Service have identified with our presidential transition process. We need to pass this non-partisan bill before transition work for the 2020 presidential election gets underway next year.

I'd like to thank Senators McCaskill and Lankford for working with me and the Administration on legislation to secure the federal government's supply chain. Over the last several years, it has become clear that the executive branch does not have the authorities it needs to swiftly act to reduce the threat that some companies may pose to the federal supply chain, requiring Congress to step in and ban them on a case by case basis. The *Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act of 2018* establishes a fair inter-agency process to exclude companies from contracting with the federal government and improves information sharing from the intelligence community.

Finally, I look forward to discussing our continued efforts to address the crisis caused by the courts' reinterpretation of the *Flores* settlement agreement. Since our Committee meeting on August 1, our staffs have held 21 bipartisan briefings to hear from government agencies and outside stakeholders, and the Committee convened a hearing to hear from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and the Government Accountability Office. Today is another step toward finding agreement and working in good faith to advance a bill that is a non-partisan alternative to the unacceptable status quo.