

S. RES. 165

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 165, a resolution calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling.

S. RES. 183

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 183, a resolution commemorating the relaunching of the 172-year-old Charles W. Morgan by Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 1296. A bill to amend the Wounded Warrior Act to establish a specific timeline for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to achieve interoperable electronic health records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, the men and women of our armed services sacrifice a great deal for this country and when their service ends they should not have to worry about retaking medical tests or jumping through bureaucratic hoops to make sure their health records are complete. We need a modern health record system, and it needs to happen without further delay.

Each year 150,000 servicemembers make the transition from military service to veteran status. When a servicemember makes that change their health records should go with them and transition seamlessly from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, as it stands today, the two Departments operate separate health record systems that do not communicate with each other. This can cause gaps in a servicemember's health record, meaning more medical tests that lead to greater costs and an increase in the backlog of cases at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For fifteen years we have tried to fix this problem, and in the past 5 years the Departments have spent around \$1 billion but we are not there yet. Recently, Secretary Hagel announced that the two Departments were abandoning the goal of creating a single health system. Instead, the Department of Defense will invest in a commercial system that will be able to communicate with the system being

used by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

These recent efforts are a positive sign, but we must make sure the Departments continue to make progress towards a cohesive health system. That is why I am filing legislation that will provide a timeline for the health record systems to be able to talk to one another. In addition, this legislation encourages innovation in the sharing of electronic records and will provide patients greater access to their health records.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 195—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED DISCIPLINE OF LAURA BLOCK LOWER

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 195

Whereas, in the Matter of the Proposed Discipline of Laura Block Lower, Case No. 2012-SWP-LIC-445, pending before the Montana Board of Social Work Examiners and Professional Counselors, the licensee has requested the deposition of Siobhan Gilmartin, an employee in the state office of Senator Jon Tester;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* that Siobhan Gilmartin is authorized to provide testimony in the Matter of the Proposed Discipline of Laura Block Lower, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Siobhan Gilmartin in connection with the production of testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider supplemental funding options to

support the National Park Service's efforts to address deferred maintenance and operational needs.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to John.Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks (202) 224-9863 or John Assini (202) 224-9313.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure in the United States.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC. 20510-6150, or by, e-mail to Lauren\_Goldschmidt@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224-6224 or Lauren Goldschmidt at (202) 224-5488.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2013, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Strategic Sourcing: Leveraging the Government's Buying Powers to Save Billions."

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Nate Converse, Max Ernst, and Trent Blomberg of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

#### AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 195.