

questionable pharmacy billing practices could thwart efforts that have been made to incentivize generics. HHS OIG, GAO, and others have identified important program controls in the Part D program that could be improved.

While the report deals only with those levers in the Part D program that can be adjusted to incentivize the less-costly drug option where appropriate, it is undeniable that recent reports indicate certain situations where the price of a selected generic drug dramatically increases. This trend—and the factors that contribute to this disturbing trend—must be better understood. Generics have been critical to overall fiscal sustainability of the health care system, and we must understand and address volatility that results in inexplicable price spikes for patients and taxpayers. I believe this is a hugely complex and recent phenomenon but one that must be studied further. That is why today, in addition to releasing this important and timely report, I intend to request an investigation by the GAO into those factors that underlie the recent price increases of certain generic drugs.

It is my hope that these actions, taken together, are efforts that both sides can agree to and will inform us on the best way to move forward to achieve the maximum drug savings possible and provide better, more affordable care for our seniors in coming years.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 15, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1353. An act to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes.

S. 1474. An act to amend the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 to repeal a special rule for the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8191. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's annual report on the performance evaluation of FDA-approved mammography quality standards accreditation bodies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8192. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Compliance Date

for Food Labeling Regulations" (Docket No. FDA-2000-N-0011, formerly Docket No. 2000N-1596) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8193. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8194. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-79; Introduction" (FAC 2005-79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8195. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors" ((RIN9000-AM82) (FAC 2005-79)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8196. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations" ((RIN9000-AM70) (FAC 2005-79)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8197. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-79; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8198. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral David H. Buss, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8199. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Response to the Government Accountability Office report relative to detainee transfers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8200. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; English Station Emergency Environmental Response; Mill River; New Haven, CT" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0917)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8201. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's tenth annual report on ethanol mar-

ket concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4120. Mr. WALSH (for Mr. JOHANNIS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2866, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4120. Mr. WALSH (for Mr. JOHANNIS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2866, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 7, strike lines 8 through 10, and insert the following: "shall be paid to the United States Treasury for the purposes of reducing the national debt."

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Jonathan Merkley, be granted privileges of the floor through Thursday.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 1084

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of Calendar No. 635, Rose, that there be 3 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 1084, Saldana; and further, that the time from 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WALSH. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered