

United States requiring that the Federal budget be balanced; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution to elect Orrin G. Hatch, a Senator from the State of Utah, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 5. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. REID):

S. Res. 6. A resolution expressing the thanks of the Senate to the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY for his service as President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and to designate Senator LEAHY as President Pro Tempore Emeritus of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 7. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 8. A resolution electing Julie Adams as Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 9. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of the Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 10. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of the Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 11. A resolution electing Frank Larkin as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 12. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 13. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 14. A resolution electing Laura C. Dove, of Virginia, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. REID):

S. Res. 15. A resolution electing Gary B. Myrick, of Virginia, as Secretary for the Minority of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 16. A resolution to make effective appointment of Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 17. A resolution to make effective appointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 18. A resolution making majority party appointments for the 114th Congress; submitted and read.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 19. A resolution relative to the death of Edward W. Brooke, III, former United States Senator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 20. A resolution limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process; submitted and read.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 23. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "widow" and "widower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the past few years we have seen remarkable progress in one of the defining civil rights issues of our era—ensuring that all lawfully married couples are treated equally under the law. In 2011, when I chaired the first Congressional hearing to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, only 5 States, including Vermont, recognized same-sex marriage. With today's lifting of Florida's

unconstitutional same-sex marriage ban, couples in 36 States and the District of Columbia now have the freedom to marry. This is welcome progress, and I hope we will see similar advancements in even more States this year so that all Americans can marry the one they love.

Despite this tremendous progress, there is still more to be done to ensure that no person faces discrimination based on who they marry or wish to marry. As I said when the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, "All couples who are lawfully married under state law, including in Vermont, should be entitled to the same Federal protections afforded to all other married couples." Court challenges will continue this year in the remaining States that do not recognize marriage equality. But in Congress, there are several steps we can take immediately to help ensure our Federal laws treat all marriages equally.

Surprisingly, the Copyright Act, which protects our Nation's diverse creative voices, still bears vestiges of discrimination. A provision in the Act grants rights to the surviving spouse of a copyright owner only if the marriage is recognized in the owner's State of residence at the time he or she dies. This means that a writer who lawfully marries his or her partner in Vermont or California is not a "spouse" under the Copyright Act if they move to Michigan, Georgia, or one of the other States that do not currently recognize their marriage.

Congress should close this discriminatory loophole to ensure our Federal statutes live up to our Nation's promise of equality under the law. As the Supreme Court recognized in striking down key portions of the Defense of Marriage Act, it is wrong for the Federal Government to deny benefits or privileges to couples who have lawfully wed.

Today I am reintroducing the Copyright and Marriage Equality Act in the Senate to correct this problem. The bill, which I introduced in the Senate last Congress and which a bipartisan group of lawmakers including Representatives DEREK KILMER, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and JARED POLIS plans to reintroduce in the House of Representatives soon, amends the Copyright Act to look simply at whether a couple is lawfully married—not where a married couple happens to live when the copyright owner dies. It will ensure that the rights attached to the works of our Nation's gay and lesbian authors, musicians, painters, photographers, and other creators pass to their widows and widowers. Artists are part of the creative lifeblood of our Nation, and our laws should protect their families equally.

When I introduced this bill last year, it failed to get the support of a single Republican in the Senate. I hope that in this Congress, Republicans will consider joining this effort to correct