

Awareness Day” and coinciding with American Diabetes Month, will raise public awareness about the specific risks of heart disease for people with diabetes and help to ensure people at risk receive a timely diagnosis and proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 9, 2017, as “National Diabetes Heart Health Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as well as the entire medical community, to educate people about the risks, symptoms, and treatment of diabetes to include comorbid cardiovascular diseases and risk factors;

(3) encourages the greater coordination of federally funded efforts that address diabetes or cardiovascular disease independently to incorporate the common comorbidity of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, including education and actions that address both; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4, 2017, AS “NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK”

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 325

Whereas the disease of obesity is a major source of concern across the United States, and more than ⅓ of adults in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people affected by severe obesity in the United States continuing to grow;

Whereas experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors;

Whereas studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by obesity can be significant barriers to effectively treating the disease;

Whereas research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of reducing chronic disease, improving health outcomes, and controlling healthcare costs;

Whereas comprehensive and individualized strategies for weight loss and weight management that consider all treatment options, such as reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery, have been identified as important components of treatment;

Whereas it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve partners in diverse fields taking active roles, to improve obesity care and treatment; and

Whereas the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, would be an appropriate week to designate as “National Obesity Care Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, as “National Obesity Care Week”; and

(2) encourages all people in the United States to create a foundation of open communication to eliminate the misunderstanding and stigma regarding obesity and to improve the lives of all individuals affected by obesity and their families.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 6 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Bruce Landsberg, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Raymond Martinez, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Transportation, and Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine protecting consumers in the era of major data breaches.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-106 to conduct a hearing entitled “Protecting Consumers in the Era of Major Data Breaches.”

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Kathleen Hartnett White, of Texas, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 to conduct a hearing entitled “The Impact of Lawsuits Abuse on American Small Businesses and Job Creators.”

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-628 to conduct a hearing on S. 465, “Independent Outside Audit of Indian Health Service Act of 2017” and S. 1400, “Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017”.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

The Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 3 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing on Ambassador Haley’s Recent Trip to Africa.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my energy policy fellow, Shuchi Talati, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Zach Foote be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tom Kourlis, a member of my staff, be given floor privileges for the rest of the day.

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

NATIONAL DIABETES HEART HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 324, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 324) designating November 9, 2017, as “National Diabetes Heart Health Awareness Day,” coinciding with American Diabetes Month.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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 resolution (S. Res. 324) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF "NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 325, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 325) expressing support for designation of the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, as "National Obesity Care Week."

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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 resolution (S. Res. 325) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

FITARA ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3243, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3243) to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the sunset of certain provisions relating to information technology, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to extend the sunset relating to the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3243) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FEDERAL AGENCY MAIL MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 250, H.R. 194.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 194) to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 194) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, there be 30 minutes of postcloture time remaining on the Wehrum nomination, equally divided between the leaders or their designees, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Wehrum nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Wehrum nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 1:45 p.m., and that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Kan nomination with no intervening action or debate.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, November 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Wehrum nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous con-

sent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Perdue and Merkley.

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

The Senator from Georgia.

TAX REFORM

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I say to the Presiding Officer, like you, I am a relative newcomer to this body. It is an enormous privilege and responsibility to be a Member. Like you, I come from the real world, spending a career where your word is your bond, and telling untruth is not rewarded. Unfortunately, in this body, sometimes that is not the case, and both sides are guilty. What Americans are demanding right now is a change in the status quo, not only in this body but in Washington and in its entirety.

Tonight I want to talk about some of the things that have happened in this body. I know both sides are guilty, but these are a couple of examples that I think rise above the norm and are so egregious that I could not let them stand.

Right now, Members of the minority party and their friends in the media are doing everything they can to stop us from changing the Tax Code this year. Their complaint about healthcare was that we weren't doing it in regular order. Now we are doing tax reform in regular order. The bill that we are working on in the Senate will go to committee as soon as next week. It will be marked up with amendments from both sides. At the right time, it will then go to this floor, and we will have amendments—again, from both sides—and we will vote that bill, up or down, into law or not. But Members on the other side are actively spreading numbers in studies that are based on false assumptions and have been proven to be untrue. I want to highlight a couple tonight, but there are many others.

On Monday, the Tax Policy Center released a study saying that the House plan, which was released last week, to change the Tax Code would raise taxes on 25 percent of American families. The minority leader said this on that day:

This analysis makes clear that over one quarter of taxpayers will see a tax increase under the Republican plan, all in the name of giveaways for the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations. Republicans want to take away middle class deductions for people with student loan interest and medical expenses so that the rich can exploit bigger loopholes and corporations can pay lower taxes.

That study by the Tax Policy Center didn't even survive a full day. It was retracted later that afternoon. It is not even publicly available online today to review any longer. Do you know what is, though? The statements that came out of that report that day—false statements, just like the one I just gave, and many others highlighting that this study was reality. Maybe even worse is that these are false stories that are still running through the