

Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2143, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment, to expand coverage under such Act, to provide a process for achieving initial collective bargaining agreements, and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to extend the full Federal medical assistance percentage to urban Indian organizations.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity Awareness Month.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 343—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY, DOCUMENT PRODUCTION, AND REPRESENTATION IN ARIZONA V. MARK LOUIS PRICHARD

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

S. RES. 343

Whereas, in the case of *Arizona v. Mark Louis Prichard*, Cr. No. 17-711443, pending in the Justice Court of Pima County, Arizona, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Julie Katsel, an employee in the Tucson, Arizona office of Senator Jeff Flake;

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 current or former 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; and

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 Julie Katsel, an employee in the Office of Senator Jeff Flake, and any other current or former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant evidence may be necessary, are authorized to testify and produce documents in the case of *Arizona v. Mark Louis Prichard*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent current and former Mem-

bers, officers, and employees of the Senate in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1587. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1587. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty; as follows:

On page 3, lines 6 through 8, strike "section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b)" and insert "section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284)".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LANKFORD. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 9:45 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, Robert Hunter Kurtz, of Virginia, and Suzanne Israel Tufts, of New York, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Christopher Ashley Ford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Security and Non-Proliferation), and Yleem D. S. Poblete, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Verification and Compliance), both of the Department of State.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Examining Proposals to Simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)".

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226, to conduct a hearing entitled "S. 1241: Modernizing AML Laws to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing".

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 to hold a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-406 to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Kenneth E. Allen, of Kentucky, A. D. Frazier, of Georgia, Jeffrey Smith, of Tennessee, and James R. Thompson III, of Alabama, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term: the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to the provisions of 2 USC Sec. 1151, as amended, reappoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. WICKER.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 115-77, appoints the following individuals to the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission: Kay Cole James of Virginia and Star Parker of California.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 115-77, appoints the following individuals to the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission: Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and Dr. David Anderson of New York.

HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged

from further consideration of H.R. 1892 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1892) to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 1587) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 3, lines 6 through 8, strike "section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b)" and insert "section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284)".

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1892), as amended, was passed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, November 29; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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 consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CASEY.

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

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to go back to a point I made earlier when I was describing—both in terms of the substance of the bill and the process

that has been undertaken to pass the bill—why, the week before Thanksgiving, I used the expression that the bill was, in fact, "a thief in the night" and what I meant by that. In the same bill, we have these inequities that I just described where the wealthiest are getting \$34 billion in a tax cut—a giveaway, really, just in the first year, and then that continues—and 90 million Americans get less than half of that. That is, in my judgment, robbing those families of an opportunity to get a bigger tax cut and to have the wealthiest among us sacrifice a little bit for the middle class and for those trying to get to the middle class. It gets worse from there because, in addition to that, repealing of the individual mandate has a healthcare consequence.

We know that the Congressional Budget Office told us that because of what would happen as a result of the repeal of the individual mandate, 4 million people would lose their healthcare in the first year and 13 million over the course of 10 years. So it is entirely possible—we don't know the exact number, but it is entirely possible—that lots of Americans would, in the same year or certainly over time, have two adverse consequences. One, they would either not get much of a tax cut or their tax cut or any tax change would turn into a tax increase, and they would lose their healthcare because of the effects of one part of the bill. So, at the same time, in the same bill, some will lose their healthcare because of the bill and others will see their taxes go up, or worse, maybe the same thing will happen to the same individual, the same family. All that is happening in a bill that is speeding through this Chamber.

Here is how defective the process has been. The Senate bill was introduced on a Thursday, and then voted out of the Finance Committee the following Thursday, and now the majority is trying to pass the bill this Thursday. So from Thursday to Thursday to Thursday is the entire consideration of a bill that has not had one hearing—not a single hearing. Oh, yes, we had time in the committee the week before Thanksgiving to pose questions to the Joint Committee on Taxation—tax experts—or to staff, and that is part of the process. But a tax bill like this, which comes around every three decades and will have an impact, by one estimate, of \$9 trillion to \$10 trillion, doesn't have a single hearing and doesn't have the kind of due consideration that would allow people to examine it and allow taxpayers to examine the detail of this bill and the consequences that would flow from that—the adverse consequences—and be able to say: Hey, wait a minute. Maybe I am one of those people. Maybe I am one of those individuals whose taxes will go up or I don't get much of a tax cut and, on top of that, I lose my healthcare. I think any American who would be so adversely affected should have the time and the opportunity to examine

this legislation, either themselves or through the debate that is undertaken by Senators or through reading news accounts.

The only good news here is that newspapers across the country, especially, and think tanks who are analyzing this bill are providing the American people information. But the debate is so limited that very little of the debate here in the Senate will land on the kitchen tables of Americans who will be affected.

So when I say that this is a thief in the night, I mean it by way of the substance of the bill where people are robbed of healthcare, potentially, and certainly robbed of an opportunity to either get a substantial middle-class tax cut or, in some cases, they get no tax cut at all because their taxes go up and, at the same time, they are losing healthcare.

This whole process has been cloaked in darkness and has been infused with secrecy. I got a letter the other day from a taxpayer who said to me: I am worried about the impact on—it was from a mom talking about her family—on my family and my children. She said: I don't know enough about this. I can sympathize with her because Democratic Senators were in a committee 2 weeks ago when this bill was presented to us, with not a single hearing on the bill.

My colleagues may recall what happened in 1985 and 1986. President Reagan came up with a proposal that was almost 500 pages in length. There was a lot of detail about his administration's priorities on tax reform. His proposal got 27 hearings in the Finance Committee. Later, when the House passed a bill in—I guess it was in the beginning of 1986—they passed a tax reform bill that went to the Senate, and that House bill in 1986 got six hearings in the Finance Committee. So if you add the review of the detailed Reagan proposal—almost 500 pages—to the actual hearings on a specific bill, we are talking about 33 hearings. That is the kind of review one would expect. I would settle for 10 or 15 hearings on something this substantial.

So we are basically saying that we are supposed to accept a bill that has gotten very little review and no hearing, and then wait for 20 years from now or 30 years from now to have another opportunity.

This is a joke. This is an insult to the American people, when we have a bill that will have such an impact on every American and is getting very little in the way of scrutiny.

I know the hour is late. I will just make a few more points, especially when it comes to our children. There has been a lot of talk about what this bill could do to help children. A lot of Americans know about the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. Those two provisions alone in our law have lifted more children out of poverty than almost anything we have ever done in the Congress in decades,