

widespread public corruption in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4300. An act to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 8, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1266. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### 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-3672. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3673. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3674. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation" (RIN1651-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-144. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts extending its support to the temporary protected status program and urging the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support immigrant and refugees escaping war, natural disasters, and crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, the Commonwealth has a long and proud history of being a state that supports, values and respects its immigrants and refugees escaping war and natural disasters; and

Whereas, Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is an immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries; and

Whereas, the Department of Homeland Security will consider whether to extend designations of TPS for all nationals that currently hold TPS including more than 300,000 Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan and Haitian immigrants; and

Whereas, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Homeland Security will consider whether to extend the designation for 12,526 residents living with TPS; and

Whereas, it is estimated that ending TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately \$3.1 billion dollars; and

Whereas, that the Commonwealth recognizes the overwhelmingly positive contributions of TPS holders and their families to the economy, social fabric, diversity and well-being of our community; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, The Massachusetts General Court hereby extends its support to the Temporary Protected Status program and memorializes the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support immigrant and refugees escaping war, natural disasters and crime; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 875. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs (Rept. No. 115-192).

S. 1322. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-193).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 139. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1118. A bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

\*Stephen Alexander Vaden, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed sub-

ject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2214. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2215. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to better assist producers desiring to voluntarily transition into organic production systems; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2216. A bill to waive and repay certain debts relating to assistance provided to individuals and households; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 356. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Members of Congress should substitute teach at least 1 day per year in a public school to gain firsthand knowledge on how to address the prevailing challenges facing educators and how to remove obstacles to learning for students; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to apply whistleblower protections available to certain executive branch employees to legislative branch employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to support educational entities in fully implementing title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education.

S. 1570

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed