

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7949–S7978*

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2217–2222, and S. Res. 357–358. **Pages S7974–75**

#### Measures Passed:

*Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act:* Senate passed S. 447, to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7950**

*International education and exchange programs:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 357, expressing the sense of the Senate that international education and exchange programs further United States national security and foreign policy priorities, enhance United States economic competitiveness, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations. **Page S7978**

*National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 358, designating December 3, 2017, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”. **Page S7978**

**Willett Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Don R. Willett, of Texas, to be a Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, post-cloture. **Pages S7965–72**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 314), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7965**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, December 13, 2017; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S7978**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 313), Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Pages S7950–58, S7958–65, S7978**

Mary Kirtley Waters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs). **Pages S7972, S7978**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S7974**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S7974**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S7974**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S7975–76**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S7976–77**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S7977–78**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—314) **Page S7965**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S7978.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### MACHINE LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine digital decision-making, focusing on the building blocks of machine learning and artificial intelligence, after receiving testimony from Cindy L. Bethel, Mississippi State University, Starkville; Daniel Castro, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Victoria Espinel, BSA, The Software Alliance, and Dario Gil, AI and IBM Q, all of Washington, D.C.; and Edward W. Felten, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

**NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY**

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine national ocean policy, focusing on stakeholder perspectives, after receiving testimony from Bonnie Brady, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, Montauk, New York; Christopher Guith, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute, and Kathy Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America, both of Washington, D.C.; and Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Linda Capuano, of Texas, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, and Timothy R. Petty, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

**ENERGY AND RESOURCE  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the permitting processes at the Department of the Interior and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for energy and resource infrastructure projects and opportunities to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of federal decisions for such projects, after receiving testimony from James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Janet Pfleeger, Acting Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council; Terry L. Turpin, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Chad Brown, Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Unit Supervisor, Olympia; Roxane Perruso, The Anschutz Corporation, Denver, Colorado; and Luke Russell, Hecla Mining Company, Hayden, Idaho.

**EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine European energy security, focusing on United States interests and coercive Russian diplomacy, after receiving testimony from A. Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and John E. McCarrick, Deputy

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources, both of the Department of State.

**THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy concluded a hearing to examine the future of Zimbabwe, after receiving testimony from Stephanie Sullivan, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa; Tendai Biti, MDC Alliance, Harare, Zimbabwe; Dewa Mavhinga, Human Rights Watch, Johannesburg, South Africa; and Peter Godwin, New York, New York.

**THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the cost of prescription drugs, focusing on an examination of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report “Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative”, after receiving testimony from Norman R. Augustine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, both of Washington, D.C.; and David E. Mitchell, Patients For Affordable Drugs, Bethesda, Maryland.

**ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS AND  
EFFECTIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACT  
OVERSIGHT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, after receiving testimony from Demetra Ashley, Acting Assistant Administrator, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Brian E. Frosh, Attorney General of Maryland, Baltimore; Jan Favero Chambers, National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association, Logan, Utah; Carmen Catizone, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, Mount Prospect, Illinois; and John M. Gray, Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Arlington, Virginia.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.