

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, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Appropriate Role of States and the Federal Government in Protecting Groundwater.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing “Treaties.”

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, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: David Williams, of Illinois, Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, and Calvin R. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The 30th Anniversary of Tribal Self-Governance: Successes in Self-Governance and an Outlook for the Next 30 Years”.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.”

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, during votes and off the Senate floor to conduct a hearing on the following nominations. Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits, and Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, “Exploitation of Older Americans by Guardians and Others they Trust.”

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOLVENCY OF MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

The Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, “The History of Structure of the Multiemployer Pension System.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, INSURANCE, AND DATA SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, “Olympic Abuse: The Role of National Governing Bodies in Protection our Athletes.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Strengthening and Reforming America’s Immigration Court System.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Fiona Steiwer, be given privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Mary Schultz and William Goldsmith, both fellows in my staff, for the remainder of this session.

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

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 361, S. Res. 426.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 426) supporting the goals of International Women’s Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

*Whereas, as of March 2018, there are more than 3,672,000,000 women in the world;*

*Whereas women and girls around the world—*

*(1) have fundamental rights;*

*(2) participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities;*

*(3) play a critical role in providing and caring for their families;*

*(4) contribute substantially to economic growth and the prevention and resolution of conflict; and*

*(5) as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in the advancement of food security for their communities;*

*Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;*

*Whereas 2018 marks—*

*(1) the 73rd anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations, which was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men;*

*(2) the 23rd anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, at which 189 countries committed to integrating gender equality into each dimension of society; and*

*(3) the 7th anniversary of the establishment of the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which includes a comprehensive set of commitments by the United States to advance the meaningful participation of women in decisionmaking relating to matters of war or peace;*

*Whereas the National Security Strategy of the United States, revised in December 2017—*

*(1) declares that “societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful”;*

*(2) supports “efforts to advance the equality of women, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs”;* and

*(3) recognizes that “governments of countries that fail to treat women equally do not allow the societies of those countries to reach full potential”;*

*Whereas the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, revised in June 2016, states that “[l]eadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their voices heard, and their perspectives taken into account.”;*

*Whereas there are 72 national action plans around the world, and there are several additional national action plans known to be in development;*

*Whereas the joint strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development entitled “Department of State & USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism” and dated May 2016—*

*(1) notes that women can play a critical role in identifying and addressing drivers of violent extremism in their families, communities, and broader society; and*

*(2) commits to supporting programs that engage women “as key stakeholders in preventing and countering violent extremism in their communities”;*

*Whereas, despite the historical underrepresentation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—*

*(1) moderating violent extremism;*

*(2) countering terrorism;*

*(3) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and*

*(4) stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security—*

*(A) services;*

*(B) institutions; and*

*(C) venues for decisionmaking;*

*Whereas, according to the United Nations, peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women’s groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;*

*Whereas, according to a study by the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;*

*Whereas, according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, the full and*